



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Bachman Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Justin Novak, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Water & Sewer Manager Greg Gress, Police Chief Chris Griffin, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Administrative Town Staff Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann.

Mayor Patrick O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were approximately one (1) members of the public present and no members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation

I. Format: Public Comments

- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle Street, requesting an update about the response from Pacaso regarding the cease-and-desist letter sent

II. Correspondence:

1. Nancy Mace – Letter to Police Department for Annual Christmas Bike Drive, 10-31-22
2. Kevin Pennington – 1514 Middle Street – Cleaning up Battery Logan, 12-2-22

New Correspondence Since Workshop December 5, 2022

3. Jane Talbot – Letter of Thanks for support of Pancreatic Cancer Day, 12-5-22
4. Sydney Cook – Lowcountry Land Trust 2022 Annual Monitoring of Battery Logan, 12-6-22

III. Council Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes

- November 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Gary Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith to approve the November 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- September 23, 2022 Recreation Council Minutes (Committee Members Only)

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak to approve the September 23, 2022 Recreation Council Minutes, passed unanimously.

- B. Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-09, An Ordinance to Amend the Ordinances of the Town of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina, Chapter 14, By Amending Section 14-34 (SIC35) to Read as Follows: Section 14-34 (SIC 35) The Lease of Certain Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation.

This will add another portion of Battery Gadsden to lease to the Cultural Center.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-09, An Ordinance to Amend the Ordinances of the Town of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina, Chapter 14, By Amending Section 14-34 (SIC35) to Read as Follows: Section 14-34 (SIC 35) The Lease of Certain Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation, passed unanimously.

- C. Recognition of Sullivan’s Island Water and Sewer Department Award from South Carolina Rural Water Association as 2022 System of the Year.

Water and Sewer Department Manger Greg Gress, Chief Operator Andy Williams, and staff members John Myers, BJ Van Marel, and Matt Williamson were present for recognition of award. Staff member Tyler Potter was not in attendance.

IV. Reports and Commissions

A. Mayor's Report:

1. Thank you to everyone involved in the successful Stith Park and Fire Station lighting event, as well as everyone that put up the lights and decorated the Station and Town Hall.
2. Isle of Palms Town Council had a presentation from SCDOT at their last meeting that outlined options for reconfiguring the IOP Connector. The plans will be presented to Mt. Pleasant and will also be open for public comment. The mayor encouraged SI residents to participate in the planning process.
3. Former Councilmember Patrick Rutledge passed away last month after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.

B. Administrator's Report: (presented by Mayor O'Neil)

1. The Fire Station has a just a few tweaks left to finish.
2. The contract for the Old Bridge Rehabilitation project should be ready to present at January's Council Workshop.
3. Three of the boardwalk projects (St 18, 19, 27) have been completed and the one near SIES (21) is nearly finished.
4. Nehemiah Clarke has a 2-year employee anniversary in January.
5. Two of the three historic markers have been installed.
6. The SI Police Station collected 262 bikes for Toys for Tots. Special thanks to Timmy Hayes Moving, Rob Fowler and Russ Bradley at Count on 2 News, and Officer Meadows and Tom McClellan.
7. The Polar Bear Plunge will be held on January 1, 2023.
8. The Charlie Post 5k run will be held on January 28, 2023.
9. The 2023 Bird Banding Report from Sarah Harper Diaz is available.
10. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith stated the application for the Greenbelt Program closes on January 27, 2023.

C. Attorney's Report:

1. A letter has been sent to Pacaso stating they are in violation of our zoning ordinance and can appeal before the BZA. An appeal will be heard at the February BZA from the owners, 2 Lighthouse, LLC. After a decision is made, either party is able to file another appeal. Town Council is not allowed to interfere with the decision. The cease and desist is concerned with use of the property, not of property ownership, so they are able to continue to sell parts of the property at this time.

D. Boards and Commissions Report

1. Planning and Commission – Nothing to Report
2. Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Report
3. Design Review Board – Nothing to Report
4. Tree Commission – Nothing to Report
5. Municipal Elections Commission – Nothing to Report

V. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Mr. Blanton spoke about the Town’s investment in T-bills and there will be an updated in three months. He also reviewed the November Financial Report
- B. Public Facilities Committee - Nothing to Report
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee - Nothing to Report
- D. Administration Committee - Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Mr. Gress advised residents to leave their faucets dripping or cut of their water to prevent frozen pipes during the freezing weather. The next Water & Sewer meeting will be January 26, 2023 at 8:45.
- F. Public Safety Committee – The Polar Plunge will be held on January 1,2023 at 2:00 p.m. to benefit the Special Olympics.
- G. Recreation Committee - Nothing to Report

VI. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith to go into Executive Session at 6:27 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

- A. Contractual – Discussion and Review of Historic Resources Survey Proposals

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak to authorize Andy Benke and staff to enter negotiations with New South Associates for a contract to take on review of Historic Resources Survey, passed unanimously.

- B. Legal Advice – Attorney Dodds to provide Council with Legal Advice regarding Fractional Ownership
- C. Personnel – Year End unused Vacation hours

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to allow Town staff to cash out their unused vacation hours that would otherwise be lost at year end if not used, passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith to come out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch