



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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: Bachman Smith, IV, Mayor Pro-Tem
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Amanda Hawver, Randy Robinson, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, Greg Gress, Police Captain Chris Wallace, and Jason Blanton.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith 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 eight (8) members of the public present and zero (0) members of the media present. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

I. Presentation – Citibot Communications Application – presentation by Bratton Riley regarding the advantages of improving resident communications using the Citibot Application

Mr. Riley, CEO of Citibot, presented on the benefits of the Citibot App for potential communication with residents of Sullivan's Island. The app allows for residents to interact and communicate with the Town via text or a chat feature on the website.

He spoke about other towns and cities that have implemented the app, as well as the uses and benefits of allowing direct communication with the community. There is also a way for residents to ask questions and be directed to the correct answer if it is available already on the website. If not, the message will be pushed through to staff to answer. There are different plans and options available within the app and can be used however the Town sees fit.

II. Presentation – Charleston Community Development program, updated by Dr. Anna Eskridge

Dr. Eskridge spoke about the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) funding that is currently taking applications. This program is to benefit low to moderate income citizens in Charleston County and gives assistance in various ways, including rent, food banks, down payment assistance, etc. More information and the application is available on charlestoncounty.org and they are due on January 6, 2022.

III. Format – Public Comments:

- Rick Graham, 2102 O'On Avenue:
Against the public facilities re-zoning of town properties, citing the parking lot at Battery Thompson as an example.
- Michael Bourland:
Thanked the Council and Staff for their service and wished a Merry Christmas to all.
- Carl Jacobson, 1509 Middle Street:
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Avenue
Objects to inclusion of Battery Logan parcel without preserving it with a conservation easement and presented a proposal to amend the motion to include one.

IV. Council Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes:

November 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve all November 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

B. Third Reading and Ratification, 2021-18, An Ordinance to Adopt a Revised Business License Ordinance in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176).

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve Second Reading, 2021-18, An Ordinance to Adopt a Revised Business License Ordinance in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act (2020 Act No. 176), passed unanimously.

C. Second Reading, Ordinance 2021-20, 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 (SIC35) The Lease of Certain Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2021-20, 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 (SIC35) The Lease of Certain

Real Property to the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Inc., An Eleemosynary Corporation, passed unanimously.

- D. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-21, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 21 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances by adding thereto a new Article 6 (PF-Public Facilities District) and to Rezone Nine Properties Governmentally owned and operated properties on the Official Zoning Map.

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve the First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-21, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 21 (Zoning Ordinance) of the Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances by adding thereto a new Article 6 (PF-Public Facilities District) and to Rezone Nine Properties Governmentally owned and operated properties on the Official Zoning Map, passed unanimously.

- E. Discussion and Consideration for Accommodations State Tax Advisory Committee

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve members of the State Tax Advisory Committee, passed unanimously.

V. Reports and Communication

- A. Mayor’s Report – Nothing to Report

- B. Administrator’s Report

- Mr. Benke gave an updated a report on communications received after the Council Workshop. He also mentioned correspondence from DHEC requesting a permit and more information on the stormwater before beginning work on the proposed work plan.
- He gave a positive update on the Town’s construction projects and all are on track with proposed timelines. He stated the Station 18 Street Stormwater private property easement was rejected and an alternate route is being looked at.
- For current RFQs, the request for pickle ball courts and stormwater solutions have been put on hold, with Town Council deciding instead to work on a Master Plan for Stith Park.
- He spoke on possible renovation of the Old Bridge near the Boat Landing, with the idea of turning it into a park or recreation space. A survey was done in 2017 by an engineering group that pointed out current issues and problem areas. There were some solutions proposed, as well as an estimate for cost of construction, which ranged from \$187,000-\$234,000. The numbers will be updated for 2022 and will possibly give a report in January
- Mr. Benke went over the holiday hours for Town Hall and noted there will be no change to the trash, yard, and household debris collections, but recycling will be a date late.

- He congratulated the Police Department on collection 220 bikes for the Toys for Tots program.
- The bird banding project results for fall migration have been completed.
- He mentioned a few bills that will be brought up among the 300 bills that will be presented in the second half of the South Carolina General Assembly

C. Attorney's Report – Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commission's Reports

1. Planning 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
6. Park Foundation– Nothing to Report

VI. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

A. Finance Committee – three items discussed at Workshop:

1. Comprehensive review of stormwater
2. Comprehensive plan of Stith Park
3. Reviewing plan for Old Bridge project

Jason Blanton stated the state A-tax received exceeded \$26,000 and will likely exceed \$50,000 for the 2022 Fiscal Year

B. Public Facilities Committee-Nothing to Report

C. LUNR Committee

Chairs have been appointed for the historic story group and construction has started on a sub-page for the group on the Town's website.

D. Administration Committee-Nothing to Report

E. Water & Sewer Committee-the next meeting will be held December 23rd at 8:30am

F. Public Safety Committee-Nothing to Report

G. Recreation Committee – the residents that founded Soldiers of Sullivan's would like to also expand and start a Youth Council for the Island. Lauren Simms from the Town of Mt. Pleasant will possibly give a presentation on the program at a future meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Welch