



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 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 Town Administrator Andy Benke, Police Chief Chris Griffin, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Greg Gress, 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 three (3) 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

- Rick Graham, 2102 I'On Ave, stated his opposition about the 21-9 C. Zoning Ordinance
- Susan Middaugh, 2420 Raven Dr, suggested hiring a natural resource professional to help restore the accreted land and create a plan for its future

II. Correspondence:

1. Rick Graham – 2102 I'On Ave, Concerns with Zoning Ordinance 21-19C, Email 2-17-2023
2. Sue and Bob Prenner – 2068 Pettigrew St, Supports the Town opposing timeshares, Email 2-17-2023

III. Council Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes

- January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- February 6, 2023 Special Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Justin Novak to approve the January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and the February 6, 2023 Special Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

B. Resolution to authorize staff to transfer operating funds to and from the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool in such a way as will allow the Town to maximize interest income while maintaining a balance in the Town's Operating checking account sufficient enough to meet daily obligations

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Scott Millimet, to approve a resolution to authorize staff to transfer operating funds to and from the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool in such a way as will allow the Town to maximize interest income while maintaining a balance in the Town's Operating checking account sufficient enough to meet daily obligations, passed unanimously.

Mr. Millimet stated the Town should maintain a minimum in the checking account given the four-plus percentage yield advantage in the State deposit fund. Maximizing investment in the state fund will significantly increase revenues for the Town. Mr. Visser voiced his support.

C. Resolution to Increase all General Fund Reserve Balances by a Percentage Equal to the Increase of the 2022 Consumer Price Index of 6.5 Percent

Motion was made by Councilmember Scott Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith to approve a resolution to increase all general fund reserve balances by a percentage equal to the increase of the 2022 consumer price index of 6.5 percent, passed unanimously.

Mr. Millimet made a statement regarding the different CPIs and explained why the Town chose the higher one. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith clarified what the reserves will be set aside for, such as large capital projects, as discussed in previous meetings.

D. Approval of the October 6, 2022 Administration Committee Minutes (Committee Members Only)

Motion was made by Committee Chair Justin Novak, seconded by Committee Member Scott Millimet to approve the October 6, 2022 Administration Committee Minutes, passed unanimously.

IV. Reports and Commissions

A. Mayor's Report:

1. A reminder that there will be more frequent Ben Sawyer bridge closures now with spring return north of "snowbirds". Mr. Benke stated most one boat transits are around eight (8) minutes long.
2. The Mayor stated this year's SC Beach Advocates meeting was informative and encouraged others to attend next year if possible.
3. Dr. Nicole Elko, along with the Army Corp of Engineers, has suggested possibly depositing dredged material from the ICW to locations near or on the beach near Stations 31 and 32, to help offset erosion. This would be done in the next year or so.
4. A reminder of two bills of interest:
 - a. S. 282 Beach Preservation Trust Fund, sponsored by Senator Campsen, to establish a more regular source of funding to help combat erosion.
 - b. House Bill 3253, introduced by Representative Hewitt, to prohibit municipalities from prohibiting short-term rentals.

B. Administrator's Report:

1. Fire Station – is 99.31% completed with just a few punch list items to be finished. Pay application 18 for \$27, 262.48 has been approved and available to view.
2. Old Bridge Rehabilitation Project – There was a project kick-off meeting on Friday, February 17, 2023 with Kimley Horn. They are working on the conceptual plan and will likely present it at the March council meeting.
3. Station 18 Street Stormwater Project – Thomas & Hutton has submitted Phase I deliverables to the SC Emergency Management Dept.
4. Boardwalk Construction Project at Stations 18, 19, 27, and SIES – The boardwalk at SIES and Stations 27 and 19 are 95% complete. Station 18 is 85% complete. Pay application 5 has been processed and is available to view.
5. Stith Park Tennis/Basketball Court Lighting – Is operational other than an issue with the northwest light pole but a replacement has been ordered.
6. Stith Park Master Plan – Engineer contract with terms and conditions is under legal review
7. Special Events for January/February 2023:
 - a. Hunley – Housatonic Memorial 2-17-23
 - b. Dunleavy's Pub – St. Patrick's Day 3-11-23

Councilmember Millimet stated the owner of Dunleavy's requested the event be on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day (Friday, March 17) rather than the day of and the Saturday after. He also suggested that going forward owners should attend Council meetings to present their request for any street closures. Mr. Benke stated extra law

enforcement would need to be hired for 3-11 and on an as-needed basis for the 17th and 18th. Further discussion was had about future planning protocols for large events that require street closures, as well as reviewing the financial aspects before approving events.

c. Banannie Foundation – Beach Run 4-22-23

Supports traumatic head injuries and will not cause any inconvenience to residents and does not require any road closures.

d. Friends of Sullivan’s Island Elementary School- Beach Run 4-29-23

Will not cause any inconvenience to residents.

e. Independence Day – Fireworks 7-4-23

f. Christmas – Park Lighting Fireworks Show 12-1-23

8. Toler’s Cove Dredge Project – The final application to the Army Corps has been submitted to dredge and then a contract will be provided to the Town regarding relocating it.

9. Employee Anniversaries:

a. Drew Levay, Fire Department: 3-4-23, 21 years of service

b. Matt Williamson, W&S: 3-30-23, 3 years of service

C. Attorney’s Report: Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commissions Report

1. Planning and Commission – Nothing to Report

2. Board of Zoning Appeals –The BZA voted unanimously to uphold the Zoning Administrator’s decision regarding Pacaso’s appeal.

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 reviewed the latest financial statements, covering revenue and expenditures. These are available for review in the packet. Staff will present the first draft of the General Fund FY 2024 budget at the March Council Workshop. During February 2023 the Town will pay off the short-term General Obligation Bonds, which totals approximately \$1,800,000.

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 –Nothing to Report

F. Public Safety Committee – No reports from the police or fire chief. Mayor O’Neil mentioned a resident that was concerned about speeding on the causeway. A temporary radar was set up to track data, which showed most vehicles going over the posted speed limit. Mr. Benke reached out to SC-DOT for possible solutions and requested tracking the speed there with pressure strips. He also possibly suggested moving the speed limit sign closer to the Ben Sawyer Bridge so an officer can monitor the area safely, which is something the DOT would have to approve and execute. Another concern from the same resident was over electric bikes on the sidewalk. South Carolina State statute says, “electric bikes shall be on the sidewalk.”

G. Recreation Committee – All vendors for the Fourth of July have been secured by staff member Pam Otto.

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch