



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Immediately Following Public Hearing

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
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Justin Novak, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Mayor Patrick M. O'Neil was absent

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, Bridget Welch, Greg Gress, Jason Blanton, Max Wurthmann, Police Chief Chris Griffin and Charles Drayton.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were approximately five (5) members of the public present and no 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. Format: Public Comments

- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle Street – gave some background information about the group Picasso that has bought 3115 I'On Avenue. It is currently advertising on time share options for sale on Zillow for the property. He would like Council to look into this as well as let the community know what is happening.
- Bennett Gilhuly, 2118 Pettigrew Street – would like to create a youth council to discuss issues on Sullivan's Island.

II. Oath of Office – Charles Drayton

The swearing in of Zoning Administrator Charles Drayton

III. Council Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes:

- March 10, 2022 Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes (Committee Members Only)

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve all March 10, 2022 Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- April 18, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve all April 18, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously, with Councilmember Hammond abstaining.

- April 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve all April 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously, with Councilmember Novak abstaining.

- May 2, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve all May 2, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously, with Councilmember Hammond abstaining.

B. Proclamation – National Safe Boating Week

Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith read the Proclamation of National Safe Boating Week.

- #### C. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2022-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter Sixteen, Personnel and Personal Policies, Section 16-15 A, Holidays to Designate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an Observed Holiday

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2022-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter Sixteen, Personnel and Personal Policies, Section 16-15 A, Holidays to Designate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an Observed Holiday, passed unanimously.

- #### D. Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-02, An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for the Town of Sullivan’s Island, SC, Revising, Amending, Restating, Recodifying and Compiling certain existing general Ordinances of the Town dealing with subjects embraced in such code of Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-02, An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for the Town of Sullivan’s Island, SC, Revising, Amending, Restating,

Recodifying and Compiling certain existing general Ordinances of the Town dealing with subjects embraced in such code of Ordinances, passed unanimously.

- E. Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-03, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,800,000) Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds, in One or More Series; to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall be Expended; to Provide for the Payment Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-03, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,800,000) Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, General Obligation Bonds, in One or More Series; to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall be Expended; to Provide for the Payment Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto, passed unanimously.

- F. Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-04, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-04, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, passed unanimously.

Councilmember Millimet mentioned this budget reading has been going smoothly, but Council will need to start brainstorming additional revenue sources for the next budget year as there were multiple increases in payments. Mr. Blanton confirmed there have been no changes to the budget since First Reading.

- G. Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-05, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2022-05, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, passed unanimously.

Mr. Gress confirmed no numbers have changed budget-wise and confirmed a 2.1% increase in water and sewer rate for customers.

- H. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2022-06, An Ordinance to amend Chapter Sixteen, Personnel and Personnel Policies, Section 16-15 A, Holidays to Designate President's Day as an Observed Holiday

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2022-06, An Ordinance to amend Chapter Sixteen, Personnel and Personnel Policies, Section 16-15 A, Holidays to Designate President's Day as an Observed Holiday, passed unanimously.

Councilmember Novak stated George Washington's Birthday/President's Day will be recognized, as it is observed by both the state of South Carolina and the federal government. Councilmember Hammond inquired about Confederate Memorial Day, and it was confirmed that the Town does not recognize it. It is only observed by the State and not the federal government.

IV. Reports and Communication

A. Mayor's Report –

1. The Town has won “Best Island” from the Charleston City Paper
2. The Municipal Association of South Carolina annual meeting will be held in Charleston July 13-17.

B. Administrator's Report –

1. Council Correspondence – several letters were sent in by students from Sullivan's Island Elementary School regarding contacting elected officials
2. The RFP has been opened for submittal for the Master Plan for Stith Park
3. The RFP has been issued and is under negotiations to improve the lighting at the tennis courts
4. Charles Drayton has been hired as the Zoning Administrator and Joe Henderson has been promoted to Deputy Administrator
5. Staff has begun the process of appointments for the seats expiring on any Boards and/or Commissions in September 2022
6. A new pumper truck has been ordered and paid for (at a locked in price) and will be ready in 18-24 months
7. Dominion is waiting on a response from the Town regarding the Dominion Energy LED Light Conversion Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith stated he has not heard of any issues with turtles regarding the lights from Folly or Edisto Beach, both of which have them currently installed. Councilmember Hammond stated he would like to move forward with a vote regarding this project and feels it should be up to Council or anyone else concerned to check out the areas that would affect turtles. He also stated these lights would be more turtle-friendly than the current lights. It was decided to be put to a vote at the next Council meeting. Mr. Benke mentioned there are lights at every corner along beach adjacent streets.

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

V. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Mr. Blanton stated Business License revenue has surpassed the 2022 FY projection by \$136,000 due to the change in due date for renewal. Dog license revenue has surpassed projection by \$16,000 while other revenues are mostly as expected. Chair Millimet stated they will look at categories for reserving at the next Workshop. Councilmember Hammond stated he feels Council should be earmarking any unspent recreational, equipment, and maintenance purchase funds specifically for recreation on the Island so it is available when needed, rather than consumed by larger capital items. He also feels a historical and natural asset maintenance fund should be created to help care for and preserve various items on the Island. These would include the shallow well structures, landscaping, the old trolley bridge, etc. Chair Millimet confirmed this will be discussed at Workshop, while Mayor Pro-Tem agreed with Councilmember Hammond.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – Mr. Wurthmann confirmed the Shallow Well project has begun. Mr. Benke confirmed we are waiting on DHEC for information on using non-natural materials on the seaward side of beach boardwalks. Councilmember Hammond would like the boardwalk near Sullivan’s Island Elementary School be completed prior to the beginning of the 2023 school year.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – Chair Visser encouraged residents to attend the subcommittee Historic Preservation study group, as well as praised the staff for providing easy access to information online.
- D. Administration Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, June 2 at 8:30 a.m. Chair Novak requested Bennett Gilhuly attend to discuss his youth council idea
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Mr. Gress mentioned a leak in the harbor that CPW (Charleston Water System) is currently trying to fix, which means the Town is on the Mount Pleasant water feed. It is projected to be fixed by Friday and we will change back to CPW. The next Water & Sewer Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 26 at 8:45 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – Nothing to Report
- G. Recreation Committee – Chair Kaye Smith stated Andy did a great job with park RFPs. Mr. Gress stated that CPW has not hydro seeded their side of the soccer field and will reach out again.

VI. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to go into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

- A. Legal Advice – Attorney John Linton to provide advice concerning request for Water and Sewer connection at 1702 Blanchard Street.

- B. Legal Advice – Attorney Larry Dodds to provide Council with legal advice regarding South Carolina Statute 27-31-10 et seq. Horizontal Property Act and 27-32-10 et seq. Vacation Time Sharing Plans.
- C. Legal Advice – Attorney Larry Dodds to provide legal advice concerning request for commercial activities in Town parks.
- D. Personnel – Budget and staffing review.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Visser, to come out of Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

VII. Upon Returning to Open Session, Council may take action on items discussed during Executive Session.
Mayor Pro-Tem stated that no votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch