



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the 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
Justin Novak, Mayor Pro-Tem
Ned Higgins, Councilmember
Carl Hubbard, Councilmember
Jody Latham, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

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

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 thirty-five (35) members of the public present and two (2) members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

I. Presentation: Sarah Harper, Update on the Bird Banding Results for Spring 2023 Season

Ms. Harper presented data from the past four years from the bird banding station on the Island. There are multiple permits required for wild bird banding, from both state and federal entities. All of the data collected is reported to the federal government. She then reviewed what the data are used for, the process for collection, and banding totals for the past few years. She also presented information on some of the birds that have been caught and banded. She mentioned the importance of the Island's habitat as an area for migratory birds to stop and feed. There are volunteer opportunities for anyone interested. Please email sullivansislandbirds@gmail.com for more information.

II. Format: Public Comments

- Shep Davis, 2867 Middle Street, presented the idea of turning the Sand Dunes Club into the “Ocean Club” that provides fitness, dining, social programming, youth sports, etc, and requested the Town’s assistance to do so.

The following citizens spoke in support of the Town trying to create the Ocean Club and make it accessible to all residents:

- David Seay, 1746 Atlantic Avenue
- William Rayburn, 1721 Atlantic Avenue
- Paul Vannatta, 1802 Back Street
- Julie Linhart, 414 Patriot Street
- Christa Heilig, 840 Middle Street
- Hunter Stunzi, 1734 Thompson Avenue
- Dane Derbyshire, 1751 Atlantic Avenue
- Steven Harth, 843 Middle Street
- Sammy Rhodes, 2002 I’On Avenue
- John Friedman, 2602 Atlantic Avenue
- Donna Friedman, 2602 Atlantic Avenue
- Eddie Fava, 2424 Myrtle Avenue
- John Derbyshire, 823 Middle Street
- Donivon Glassburn, 1738 Middle Street
- Ross Cowan, 923 Osceola Avenue
- Andy Horiwitz, 2871 I’On Avenue
- Brian Hellman, 2714 Atlantic Avenue
- Jim Wanless, Interlocken Florida
- Evan Berney, 852 Middle Street
- Steve Hart, 843 Middle Street

III. Correspondence:

1. Graham & Brooke Maiden – Requesting support from the Town to preserve the Ocean Club (Commonly known as Sand Dunes Club & Jasper Hall) 6-21-23
2. Glenn Meadows, Deputy Chief of Police – Letter of Appreciation to Chief Griffin for work over the Independence Holiday 7-5-23
3. Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S – Thank you letter for providing Act 141 Funds to our organization 7-11-23
4. Tim Scott, State Senator – Letter to Reflect on the Significance of Independence Day 7-4-23

5. Terminate Agreement and Contract between SCDOT and Municipality – Agreement for Streaming Video through Traffic Management Center for SC511-Town of Sullivan’s Island 7-12-23
6. Shep Davis, Sullivan’s Island Bathing Co. – Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment 7-12-23
7. Thank you letter to Glenn Meadows, Deputy Chief of Police 7-13-23

Councilmember Millimet requested the management of the Ocean Club present a detailed report on what they are proposing at the next Council Workshop on August 7. He would specifically like to know how much it will cost to join and the expected number of members from both on and off the Island. Councilmember Millimet supports a community center but is unsure whether a private club would be truly accessible to the majority of Island residents and would like to discuss it after this information is presented.

IV. Council Action Items:

- A. Approval of the June 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Latham to approve the June 20, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- B. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance, 2023-05, An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Town of Sullivan’s Island to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement relating to South Carolina Local Revenue Services; to Participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs; to Execute and Deliver one or more Participant Program Supplements; and Other Matter Relating Thereto.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, Seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-05, An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Town of Sullivan’s Island to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement relating to South Carolina Local Revenue Services; to Participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs; to Execute and Deliver one or more Participant Program Supplements; and Other Matter Relating Thereto, passed unanimously.

Mr. Blanton stated this will make revenue streams easier to collect for the State, putting them under one program. This change requires an ordinance change.

- C. Approval to transfer Funds from South State Investment to SC Local Government Investment Pool

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, Seconded by Councilmember Latham, to keep a balance of \$500,000, plus or minus, at the South State Bank and all balances and excess be swept in the State Investment Fund, passed unanimously.

Finance Chair Millimet suggested the Town keep roughly half a million dollars in the bank and sweep the balance into a state investment fund as standard operating procedure, which would create a substantial amount of interest. He also noted they can recall money from this account within 48 hours.

Mr. Blanton confirmed that this amount is enough for expenses, and this move would yield a higher interest. He also confirmed the money can be moved around fairly easily, from 24-48 hours. It was also confirmed this account would have comparable security to the current one.

V. Reports and Commissions:

A. Mayor's Report:

1. Recognition of Town staff and volunteers for critical assistance of Independence Day
2. Recognition by Municipal Association of South Carolina of Town efforts in promoting transparency through technology
3. TOSI v. Bluestein & Albenesius – Bluestein & Albenesius will be appealing to the Court of Appeals

B. Administrator's Report:

1. Still waiting on construction drawings on the Old Bridge Rehabilitation Project
2. Boardwalk Construction Project – Staff are reviewing boardwalks for FY 2024 construction and repairs and will report findings at the next Workshop
3. There will be a first look at conceptual drawings for the Stith Park Master Plan from Thomas and Hutton on July 19. The first charette may likely be in August
4. We are waiting on the United States Army Corps of Engineers research to finish and possibly move forward on the beneficial use project to move material from dredging of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to areas where it can help nourish areas of IOP and SI beaches near Breach Inlet.
5. Personnel Matters:
 - i. Employee anniversary dates
 - ii. Boards and Commissions - waiting on incumbent submissions to move forward
 - iii. Mr. Benke will be on vacation from 7-28-23 through 8-7-23
6. Monarch Butterflies – a five-year study from SCDNR shows the butterflies live here during the winter months on their way to South America
7. Stormwater Outfall Assessment – more information will be presented in August about outfall cleaning on Osceola Avenue, from Stations 9-12.

C. Attorney's Report: Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commissions Report

1. Planning and Commission – There are four seats open
2. Board of Zoning Appeals – There is one seat open
3. Design Review Board – Nothing to Report
4. Tree Commission – There is one seat open
5. Municipal Elections Commission – Nothing to Report

Open seats and applications are available on the Town website. Applications are due August 4, 2023, by 4:00 p.m.

VI. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – No additional items
- B. Public Facilities Committee – Nothing to Report; Mr. Novak gave an update on the Historical Marker Signs
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The Historic Survey is ongoing.
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 8:45 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – The next meeting will be Friday, July 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
- G. Recreation Committee – Nothing to Report

VII. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard, to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

- A. Legal Advice – Attorney Dodds to provide legal advice on the matter of 2022-CP-10-02740 Capone vs. Town of Sullivan’s Island
- B. Legal Advice – Attorney Dodds to provide legal advice on the matter of 2023-CP-10-01493 Pacaso Inc. and 2 SC LLC vs Town of Sullivan’s Island
*Councilmember Novak recused himself from this discussion
- C. Personnel – Legal representation by outside Council

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to come out of Executive Session, at 7:49 p.m., passed unanimously.

Mayor O’Neil stated that no votes or actions were taken while in Executive Session.

VIII. Upon Returning to Open Session, Council may take action on items discussed during Executive Session.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to approve the settlement offer suggested by our attorneys in the matter of 2022-CP-10-02740, passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch