

August 17, 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: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Bachman Smith, IV, Mayor Tem-Pro
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Justin Novak, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Mayor 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 six (6) members of the public present and no members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation.

I. Presentation: Proposed FY2022 Operating Budget by CARTA staff

Mayor O'Neil introduced Representative Daniel Brock from BCDCOG. Mr. Brock presented the FY2022 proposed budget for consideration. The proposed budget is based on actual and projected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. The biggest change in the budget is the additional two million dollars which has already been approved by Charleston County. This has allowed CARTA to take three battery electric busses and turn into twenty-four battery electric busses. Expect to have the entire fleet replaced by next year. An additional update is the Lowcounty Rapid Transit Project. This Project connects the Fairgrounds in Ladson to the West Edge development in Downtown Charleston, about 21.5 miles. They are making some final preparations to submit the project to engineering phase for final approval later this year. The BCDCOG staff will continue to monitor the budget to ensure revenues and expenditure remain aligned and will make recommended revisions as necessary.

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, to approve the FY2022 Operating Budget by CARTA.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

II. Presentation: 2021 Beach Monitoring Survey- Review of the 2021 Beach Condition Survey by Dr. Nicole Elko of Elko Coastal Consulting Inc.

Mayor O'Neil introduced Dr. Nicole Elko of Elko Coastal Consulting Inc. Dr. Elko presented the 2021 Beach Monitoring Survey. This report provides an annual condition survey to monitor the Sullivan's Island beach. Beach profile data collected during August

2016, June 2017, June 2019, June 2020, and June 2021 were compared to beach profile data collected by SCDHEC-OCRM in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

Analyses of the mean high water (MHW) position relative to the SCDHEC-OCRM Baseline and unit volume by monument were conducted. These analyses documented that in general, the island gained sand volume in the center and eroded slightly on both ends between 2020 and 2021. The beach gained about 280,000 cy of sand since 2016. Between 2020 and 2021, a volume gain of about 55,000 cy was measured.

The northeast end of the island, between Monuments 3083 and 3095, has little protective beach and dune system in place. Despite armoring with erosion control structures, erosion continues along this stretch of Sullivan's Island. Here, beachfront homes are located either on or seaward of the primary dune in vulnerable positions. Fortunately, sand volume gain was measured at Monuments 3085 and 3090 (Sta. 30-31) during this monitoring interval.

The data documented a sandbar attachment event in 2014 and another in 2019. Most of the sediment from the 2014 attachment event has been transported downdrift, toward southwestern Sullivan's Island and the Charleston Harbor jetty. Data from 2021 confirm that sand bar attachment events result in a pattern of accretion and erosion along the central portion of the island.

The beach at Station 19 is extraordinarily wide with a unit volume of over 1,000 cy/ft and growing due to sand trapping by the Charleston Harbor jetty. The shoreline has advanced over 340 ft seaward since 2014. Sand volume continues to increase as the primary dune and back-beach prograde and increase in elevation.

If the present management strategy is maintained, additional dune, beachfront marsh, and maritime forest progradation (seaward movement) may continue in the central portion of the island. It seems that the more frequent occurrence of king tides (specifically the higher than predicted high tides) may be controlling additional dune progradation somewhat. Continued annual monitoring is recommended. By better understanding the beach performance following sandbar attachment events, improved management strategies may become obvious.

In addition to the wide, accreting beaches in the central portion of the island, Sullivan's Island also has beach management challenges on the northeast end related to narrow beach widths and minimal storm protection. Several hot spots are being closely scrutinized.

III. **Presentation: BIS Digital Hybrid Meeting Solutions**

Mayor O'Neil introduced Candice Huskey, Account Manager and Marty Ybarra, Regional Manager from Business Information Systems (BIS). Mr. Ybarra presented some hybrid options to add to the BIS Digital system that the Town currently has. Mayor O'Neil would like solutions to blend meetings for in person and remotely when needed. Councilmember Greg Hammond requested a list of other Municipalities that are currently using hybrid with BIS to review the recordings. Councilmember Justin Novak agreed with requests and would also like some options to improve the quality of video and audio when reviewing recorded meetings.

IV. **Public Comments:** Susan Middaugh, 2420 Raven Drive, expressing concern regarding maintenance to the center building of Battery Gadsden. Some main concerns are vines growing from the top, graffiti and unsecured gates.

V. **Council Action Items:**

1. Approval of July 20, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes:
Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Scott Millimet, to approve the July 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
Motions passed 6-0-1, with Greg Hammond abstaining.
2. First Reading by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-13, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 of the Ordinances for the Town of Sullivan's Island by Adding Section 3-10, Offenses for the ill treatment of dogs and other animals and penalties:
Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond, to approve First Reading by Title Only, Ordinance 2021-13, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 of the Ordinances for the Town of Sullivan's Island by Adding Section 3-10.
Motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of the June 28, 2021 Land Use and Natural Resources Committee Minutes (Committee Members Only):
Motion was made by Councilmember Scott Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Gary Visser, to approve the Land Use and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes from June 28, 2021.
Motion passed unanimously.
4. Fencing Estimate for the J. Marshall Stith Park: Move to the Recreation Committee Meeting on August 19, 2021.

VI. Reports and Communication:

1. Mayor's Report-

Mayor O'Neil announced that a Sullivan's Island Elementary School Resource Officer has been assigned for this coming school year.

Paperwork for the American Rescue Plan has been filled out and submitted to the State.

Expecting to receive funds soon.

2. Administrator's Report-

General Correspondence

- August 16, 2021 Jeanne Smith, PO Box 37 Sullivans's Island: Water and Sewer high bill.
- August 9, 2021 Sandra and Robert Nettles, 1412 Madison Court, Mt. Pleasant: Note of appreciation to Police Department for proper handling of a parking violation and Fire Department for response to potential ocean rescue.
- August 5, 2021 Brian Regan DIRECTV, El Segundo, CA: Notification that DIRECTV, LLC notifies the Town it has completed franchise authority from BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina for its multichannel video distribution business.
- July 23, 2021 Richard Graham, 2102 I'On Avenue, email: Further comments regarding parking for commercial District; (previously forwarded to Council electronically).
- June 22, 2021 Greene Finney, LLP; Larry Finney – Correspondence which outlines the forthcoming financial audit for the period ending June 30, 2021.

Construction

Fire Station- Underway and Necessary permits from regulatory agencies in hand. Project is currently on schedule. Plans are available at Town Hall for viewing.

Construction project schedule update:

- Trident Construction has commenced interior demolition: completed demolition of the boat shed and installed helical test piles for review
- Submittals are being provided to ABS as per schedule
- Construction drawings and construction specifications available in Town Hall
- Site is now considered a construction area under the control of Trident Construction; entry should be scheduled and hardhats/high visibility vests are required

Station 18 Street Stormwater Project- Temporary construction easement and permanent force main easement has been rejected by property owners at 1807 I'On Avenue. Staff has provided input to Thomas and Hutton for the alternate route.

Accreted Land Mediated Settlement Work Plan- Staff has completed plan language and submitted the same to the regulatory agencies. US Army Corps of Engineers has indicated no permit is required for work under the plan. The Town awaits comment from DEHC/OCRM.

Charleston Water System and Mount Pleasant Waterworks AIWW Waterline Project – The contractor completed the pipe pull toward Sullivan’s Island on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Original lane configuration between Toler’s Cove north to Center Street has been restored. Speed limit signs are restored to 45 mph. Contractor anticipates final completion at the end of August / early September.

Tennis and Basketball Court Lights at Stith Park- Staff is preparing necessary documents to receive bids and award contract for light replacement for the tennis and basketball courts in Stith Park.

General

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021- The Department of Treasury interim Final Rule for the Act indicate the revised disbursement for the Town is now \$957,851.78. Columbia has delayed the receipt and disbursement of funds to non-entitlement municipalities.

Battery Thompson and Logan Maintenance – Two bids were received for the proposed scope of work to paint Battery Thompson and install safety fencing on both locations. Painting at Battery Thompson was completed in mid-June. Installation of fencing began Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Gary Alexander has submitted a proposal for volunteer clean-up at Battery Logan.

The Coastal Defense Study Group has offered to assist with clearing vegetation around the base of Battery Logan.

Thomson Park Memorial- Douglas Bostick, Executive Director of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and Doug Macintyre would like to present a plan to Town Council at the July meeting that would add the Breach Inlet site to the South Carolina Liberty Trail. The presentation and discussion are pending further developments of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Golf Cart Parking in or near the Commercial District- At the request of the Public Safety Committee, the staff has identified present and additional golf cart parking areas in or near the Commercial District.

Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority FY 2022 Budget – CARTA staff will present the FY 2022 budget to Council at the August 17, 2021 meeting.

Accommodations Tax Committee- Under state statute 6-4-25 when a municipality or county exceeds 50,000.00 in revenue from accommodations tax it will become necessary to appoint an advisory committee.

Ordinance 2021-13 Amending Section 3-10 to Add Section for Ill Treatment of Animals. Ordinance language which amends Section 3-10 of the Town Code of Ordinances to allow entry by Town staff through whatever means necessary in order to rescue animals locked in a vehicle.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Issues Revised COVID-19 Guidelines- With Delta Variant increasing in South Carolina and Charleston County identified as a Substantial transmission area, CDC has recommended that (1) fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings; and, (2) fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until a negative test result is received.

MUSC COVID-19 Epidemiology Intelligence Project report from the week of August 9, 2021.

To date, no employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Two unvaccinated employees have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive patient.

LED Street Lighting – Dominion Energy has offered to construct a conversion program to LED street lights. The utility is prepared to present to Council at the September 21, 2021 meeting.

2021 Beach Monitoring Survey- Elko Coastal Consulting, Inc. has submitted the 2021 Beach Monitoring Survey indicating that the Island has gained sand in the central reach and eroded slightly on each end. Overall, the Island has gained 280,000 cy since 2016 and between 2020 and 2021 gained approximately 55,000 cy.

Coast is Clean Initiative- in 2019 the Town together with City of Isle of Palms, City of Folly Beach and Explore Charleston began an outreach initiative to educate tourists and commuters to the beach communities about what is and is not permitted on the respective beaches. The weekend, Explore Charleston launched its URL and new landing page www.coastiscleansc.com. At the site, there are links to each beach community explaining the ordinances with regard to matters such as smoking and plastics.

Boards and Commission- Several terms will expire in September 2021

- Planning Commission- 1 seat to be filled due to resignation
- Board of Zoning Appeals- 5 seats with expiring terms
- Design Review Board- 2 seats with expiring terms
- Tree Commission- 2 seats with expiring terms
- Election Commission- 1 seat to be filled due to resignation

3. Attorney's Report- No items to report.

4. Boards and Commissions Reports- No items to report.

V. Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Councilmember Scott Millimet, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Committee Meeting- The next Finance Committee meeting will be September 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilmember Greg Hammond, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Councilmember Gary Visser, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Justin Novak, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Community Outreach and Communication Technology- Mobile Application to Enhance Citizen Engagement.

Hybrid Meetings- Discussion of improving participation in public meetings and including consideration of remote /live Hybrid meeting platforms.

Personal Handbook- A draft has been circulated to Council for review.

Water and Sewer Committee – Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Project Updates- Greg Gress gave project updates for the CWS project, Lift Station project and the WWTP project.

Committee Meeting – The next Water & Sewer Committee Meeting will be August 26, 2021 at 8:45 a.m. at Town Hall.

Public Safety Committee –Mayor O’Neil, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember Kaye Smith, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Committee Meeting- The next Recreation Committee Meeting will be August 19, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

VI. Executive Session

Personnel- Discussion on staffing consideration.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Gary Visser, to go into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss personnel staffing consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Gary Visser, to come out of Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Greg Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to adjourn the Meeting at 7:39 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Bridget Welch