



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 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
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Justin Novak, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

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

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.

I. Format: Public Comments

- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle Street, asked what the next step is for Pacaso after the cease-and-desist letter sent

II. Correspondence:

1. Vivian Scarborough, 2830 Atlantic Avenue-Opposed to fractional ownership 10-18-22
2. SCDOT – Approval to close section of Middle Street on December 2nd 10-31-22
3. Mary English, Island Club Interim President – Request Donation for Repairs 11-3-22

III. Presentation: Greene Finney Cauley, LLC FY2022 Financial Audit

Emily Sobczak of Greene Finney Cauley presented the results of the FY2022 financial audit of the Town. She reviewed the revenues and expenditures of FY2022, both of which are available to view in her presentation online. She stated there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and no major issues to report to management.

IV. Council Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

- October 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to approve all October 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously, with Councilmember Hammond abstaining.

B. Proclamation – A Proclamation for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser, to endorse the Proclamation for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day, passed unanimously.

C. Approval of the 2023 Dates for Council Meetings and Council Workshops

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to approve all 2023 dates for Council Meetings and Council Workshops, passed unanimously.

D. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2022-09, Battery Gadsden Lease

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2022-09, Battery Gadsden Lease, passed unanimously.

Mayor O’Neil stated this is to extend the area of Battery Gadsden that is covered by the current lease. Councilmember Novak clarified the area referred to is the center room that is currently idle.

E. Approval to Allow Town Staff to Invest an Amount Not to Exceed Ten Million Dollars in Investments as Allowed by Section Chapter 5 of Title 6 of the South Carolina Code of Laws for Periods up to Six Months.

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Novak for approval to allow Town Staff to Invest an Amount Not to Exceed Ten Million Dollars in U.S. Treasury Bills as Allowed by Section Chapter 5 of Title 6 of the South Carolina Code of Laws for Periods up to Six Months, passed unanimously.

F. Civility Pledge Oath for Council

Council recited the following: “I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my town.”

- G. Presented a Proclamation to Recognize the Valuable Contributions of Reverend Dr. Vance Polley and Sunrise Presbyterian Church to the Town of Sullivan’s Island, Its Residents and Community Efforts.

V. Reports and Communication

A. Mayor’s Report – Mayor O’Neil reminded everyone of the Police Department bike drive for Christmas. Bikes can be dropped off at the Police Station or Town Hall.

B. Administrator’s Report –

- Mr. Benke stated fire staff is now occupying the new station as of Wednesday, November 9. Pay application 16 is included for review.
- The boardwalks at Stations 27 and 19 are nearing completion
- The lights at Stith Park are also nearing completion. Pay application 3 is included for review.
- He announced two staff anniversaries.
- Two historical markers have been installed, with one more at Station 18 coming.
- Resident rearview mirror placards that will replace window stickers will be issued starting with the 2023 dog licenses in December. Mayor O’Neil reminded everyone these are not for parking.
- The Island Club is asking for \$4,500 for repairs to get back up and running. This topic will be discussed at the next Public Facilities committee meeting. The Club operates in a municipally leased building on Hennessy Street.

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, that the Town gift to the reconstituted Island Club the amount of \$4,500 for use in performing repairs to the building, as outlined in the letter provided by Mary English, passed unanimously.

- Veteran’s Day was observed on November 11. Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 24-25, with first responders and essential staff on duty.
- Everything is in place for the December 2 Station Lighting. The Wando Chorus will be performing and there will be fireworks afterwards.
- There was little damage from Tropical Storm Nicole, with no reports for damage on private property. However, there was significant sand loss on the beaches.

C. Attorney’s Report – Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commission's Reports

- a. Planning Commission – Nothing to Report
- b. Board of Zoning Appeals– Nothing to Report
- c. Design Review Board– Nothing to Report
- d. Tree Commission– Nothing to Report
- e. Municipal Elections Commission– Nothing to Report

VI. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Nothing to Report
- B. Public Facilities Committee – Nothing to Report
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – Chair Visser stated the process to select a firm to do a historic survey of the Island has begun.
- D. Administration Committee – Chair Novak stated the personnel handbook will continue to be discussed at the next Workshop. The Youth Advisory Council met earlier that same evening. Councilmember Kaye Smith stated there were 8 students there. Citibot, an interactive chat service for the Town website, will go live this week.
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Mr. Gress stated they are halfway through the new waterline replacement project for this fiscal year.
- F. Public Safety Committee – Chief Stith stated the Wando Chorus will begin around 5:30 with the lighting at 6:00.
- G. Recreation Committee – Chair Kaye Smith reported the findings from the interviews for Stith Park Master Plan RFP will be reported in Executive Session.

VII. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to go into Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

- A. Contractual – Review and Discussion RFP Design Service Proposals for Stith Park Master Plan
- B. Contractual – Discussion of Blanchard Street Construction and Contract

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith, to come out of Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, to accept the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee that reviewed the proposals for the park bids and proceed with negotiating the contract with Thomas and Hutton for conceptual design for Stith Park, passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, that the Town moves forward with the Blanchard Street construction, passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Novak, seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch