



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 21, 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  
Bachman Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Greg Hammond, Councilmember  
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, Larry Dodds, Greg Gress, Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, 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 eleven (11) 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 and reflection.

**I. Oath of Office:** Catherine Murphy Curtis, Municipal Election Commission

**II. Format:** Public Comments

- Sherry Coish, 2808 I'On Avenue, would like Council to approve the food waste compost program offered to Sullivan's Island from the City of Charleston. Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith will provide more information to Council.
- Jeff Parrish, 3034 I'On Avenue, stated there have been multiple coyote attacks on the Island and requested to extend winter dog hours into June or allow them until noon the entire year.
- Bill Dunleavy, 2314 Jasper Boulevard, thanked the Town for Dunleavy's St. Patrick's Day event, as well as Chief Stith and Chief Griffin.

### III. Correspondence:

1. Susan Middaugh, 2420 Raven Drive – Consideration for a Town Naturalist Position, Letter 3-1-2023

#### **New Correspondence Since Workshop March 6, 2023**

2. Susan Batla, Lowcountry Paddlers Member – Requesting boat landing improvements at Station 26, Email 3-15-2023

### IV. Council Action Items:

- A. Approval of the February 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve the February 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously with Councilmember Hammond abstaining.**

- B. Approval of the October 28, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Committee Members Only)

**Motion was made by Committee member Kaye Smith, seconded by Committee member Bachman Smith to approve the October 28, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.**

- C. Approval of the October 3, 2022 AD HOC Committee Minutes (Committee Members Only)

**Motion was made by Committee member Kaye Smith, seconded by Committee member Novak to approve the October 3, 2022 AD HOC Committee Minutes, passed unanimously.**

### V. Reports and Commissions

- A. Mayor's Report:

1. Zoning and Planning Director Charles Drayton requested the Town resume their Arbor Day celebration on National Arbor Day, April 28<sup>th</sup> in Stith Park. The Tree Commission will have a booth to provide information and hand out trees.
2. On March 17<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting with SCDOT, Channel 4, Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, and Sullivan's Island for planning beach traffic management. Trooper Bob was also there to discuss how to best provide information to the public about beach policies and managing traffic.
3. Correspondence from Comcast

4. Discussion with Isaac Cramer, the Executive Director of the County Election Board about a pending bill that would require municipalities to have their elections on specific days during the year. The mayor has requested Mr. Cramer to speak with Council at the next Workshop.

B. Administrator's Report:

1. Many of the Island construction projects are winding down, except for the Old Bridge Renovation. Kimley-Horn is working on a design and has submitted their invoice for April and will present it at the April Workshop.
2. Boardwalk construction is mostly complete on Stations 18, 19, 27, and SIES. Pay application six is available to view and final walk through is schedule for Friday, March 24, 2023.
3. Discussion about the Terms and Conditions in the Engineer Contract for the Master Plan of Stith Park is still under review by legal.
4. Economic Interest reports are due by the end of March.
5. The St. Patrick's Day event went well with no issues or problems.
6. Once the Army Corp gives their consent approval for the dredge project at Toler's Cove, pumping can begin.
7. Mike Zambito of Lexington, SC has identified an area of the Old Bridge where he believes the Priess treasure may be buried (from *The Secret* by Byron Preiss). He has requested permission for limited exploration and light digging near the Old Bridge. He will need to provide insurance and be mindful of the rehabilitation project.

C. Attorney's Report: Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commissions Report

1. Planning and 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

## VI. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

A. Finance Committee –

- a. 2023 Finance Report – as of Feb 23 the Town has received \$3,000,000 of ad valorem taxes for operating purposes. All other revenue accounts are as expected
- b. Reserve balances after adjusting for CPI – provided in report
- c. Balances in bank accounts vs T-bills
- d. State Investment Fund
- e. Guarantees behind deposits at bank
- f. Update on FY2024 budget – first reading will be in the April Council meeting and can be discussed at Workshop; possibly further at a committee meeting.
- g. Limits to collaterals with bank accounts

- B. Public Facilities Committee – Chair Hammond stated the Committee decided Station 26 ½ should be the first to be repaired and should be moved forward to bid. Mr. Benke said they can likely award the project to Blutide Marine Construction if Council is satisfied with their past work and when the plans are set. The report contains other boardwalks that are in need of repair.
  - a. Committee member Novak stated they would like to add more historical signs in addition to the three that have been done, including Battery Gadsden, Battery Logan, Battery Thompson, and the Bandstand. These will be discussed further at Workshop.
  - b. Boat Trailer storage-will be discussed at Workshop whether trailers and other storage units should be allowed on Town Property.
  - c. Old Town Hall-options will be discussed at Workshop.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – Chair Visser stated they will bring forward the recommendation that the Town hire a full time Director of Natural Resources once the job description and budget are set. Marsh resiliency will also be discussed as a possibility for job responsibilities.
  - a. The Historic and Design Study Group had their first meeting last week with the contractor hired to do the recommended updated survey of historical sites on the Island. Mr. Benke stated they met with New South to discuss the scope of work, timeline, and GIS interfacing. The first public meeting will tentatively be held mid-May with an update. Any buildings over 40 years will be considered for historical status. This will be covered in part by a grant.
- D. Administration Committee – The employee handbook update is nearing completion and a proposed ordinance to change to the new one will be discussed at the Workshop.
- E. Water & Sewer Committee –Greg Gress stated the lift station rip-rap is in permitting and the Waste Water Treatment Plant project has been closed out and the final operating packet and invoice have been given. He also stated the department is short-staffed, so the waterline project has been delayed until next week. The department has hired a new employee who will begin training soon.
  - a. The next Water & Sewer Committee meeting will be March 30, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – The next meeting is pending a date.
- G. Recreation Committee – Chair Kaye Smith stated they are still waiting for the Master Plan for Stith Park.

## VII. Executive Session:

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Hammond, to go into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m., passed unanimously.**

- A. Legal Advice – Attorney Dodds to review state statute regarding destruction of trees in the accreted land.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Novak, to come out of Executive Session at 7:01 p.m., passed unanimously.**

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

### **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch