



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 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
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

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

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 or reflection.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silent Prayer and Reflection

I. Format: Public Comments

- Youth Council Representatives, Bennett Gilhuly, Delacy Poletti and Logan Poletti, various resident addresses, would like to organize a beach sweep to promote Youth Council and encourage community service. The Town will consider assisting and/or funding.
- Jeff Parrish, 3034 I'On Avenue, would like to extend dog hours until noon during the summer weekdays. Would also like to see more enforcement for single-use plastic, especially from The Co-Op. He also suggested having BSO officers patrol on foot sometimes.
- Sallie Pritchard, 2830 Middle Street, stated she often sees services beginning before the designated construction hours and suggested changing the ordinance, so the permit holder is responsible for violations.
- Pat Votava, 2214 Jasper Boulevard, thanked the Town Council and Staff for their services. Would like to see more frequent communication with the residents from

the Town regarding current issues and projects. Suggested utilizing email and Nixle more often.

II. Oath of Office: Police Officer Monty Anders

III. Discussion: Coyotes on Sullivan's Island by Jay Butfiloski-SC Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Butfiloski gave some background on the presence of coyotes in South Carolina, as well as an overall description of the animal and their habits. He also discussed attempts at control in the past and why there are not very efficient or effective programs to get rid of them completely. He stated one option that can help alleviate is habitat modification and/or brush cleaning. However, people are often the cause of a rise in population in developed areas, mainly due to trash being left out. Bird feeders, leaving out pet food, and having pets unleashed also contributes. Another prevention measure is behavior modification for people, especially with securing trash. There are also precautions individual home and pet owners can take to prevent interactions. He also provided statistics on attacks and compared them to attacks and issues with domestic dogs in the US for perspective and consideration. He then answered questions from the public and Council.

IV. Presentation: Andrew Todd-Burke with Kimley Horn: Conceptual Design of Old Bridge Renovation

Mr. Todd-Burke from the local office of Kimley Horn presented a conceptual plan for restoration of the Old Pitt Street Bridge on the Town side. He also presented the survey findings of the current condition of the bridge, which has multiple erosion issues. There will be a simple demolition project to remove the broken asphalt that currently exists. Some of the goals of the project are to make the path ADA accessible, stop soil erosion, restore the trail path, and improve the condition of the lookout area. The suggested railing will not prevent people from fishing from the end of the path. They will also install a retaining wall system using Envirolok, which will provide a wall of vegetation rather than concrete. Their next steps will be to create construction drawings that will be reviewed with Town staff and move on to bidding. He answered a few questions from Council and the public. They will check in again once construction plans are firmed up.

V. Correspondence:

1. Follow up from MASC regarding H3734, Subsection 5-15-50 (D)
Email 4-10-2023

This discusses the possibility of requiring all municipalities to have all consistent election dates across the state.

VI. Council Action Items:

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve the March 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

B. Proclamation of Arbor Day 2023

The Town will officially recognize Arbor Day on Friday, April 28, 2023 this year. There will be an Arbor Day celebration that day in Stith Park offering free trees and t-shirts, as well as tours through the maritime forest.

C. Proclamation of Holocaust Days of Remembrance

Representatives from the Charleston Jewish Federation were in attendance to light a candle in memory of victims of the Holocaust. Natanya Miller, director of Educational Initiatives and granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, spoke about their mission and invited everyone to an event at the Gaillard Auditorium commemorating *Yom HaShoah*, the Holocaust Memorial Day on Sunday, April 23. She also spoke about what lighting the candles provided symbolize. Mayor O'Neil read a portion of the proclamation and there was also a moment of silence.

D. Approval of Composting Food Waste Program

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to proceed with the composting food waste program, passed unanimously.

Mr. Visser asked where the collection bins will be placed, but that has not been decided yet. He mentioned a number of factors that should be considered before a decision is made.

E. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Personnel and Personnel Policies.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Visser, to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Personnel and Personnel Policies, passed unanimously.

F. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-02, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Eight Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,840,000) Town of Sullivan' 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 Kaye Smith, to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-02, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding One Million Eight Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,840,000) Town of Sullivan' 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.

Mayor O'Neil stated this is done annually.

G. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Motion was made by Councilmember Kaye Smith, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, passed unanimously.

H. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-04, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Neil stated there was a Finance Committee on Friday, April 14, where these budgets were discussed in detail.

VII. Reports and Commissions:

A. Mayor's Report: Nothing to Report

B. Administrator's Report:

1. The contract was executed for construction for Stith Park Master Plan
2. Special Events: Earth Day, Banannie Beach Run, Poe's Tavern 20th Celebration, SIES Fun Run
3. Employee Anniversaries

C. Attorney's Report: Nothing to Report

D. Boards and Commissions Report

1. Planning and Commission – The Planning Commission will have a public hearing in May for the Zoning Ordinance changes recommended by the Historic Study Group
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

VIII. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

A. Finance Committee – Jason Blanton reviewed accounts for March. All are as projected, with a small exception with a higher budget for the Fire Station due to

supplies for the new building. He also stated any amount of over \$25,000 from the Town's Victim's Rights fund is typically donated to organizations providing services to local crime victims. Staff recommends donating \$10,000 to three local charities, My Sister's House, Tri-County SPEAKS (formerly People Against Rape), and the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at MUSC. This is what has been done in the past, so the money stays local rather than sending it to the State fund.

- B. Public Facilities Committee – Nothing to Report
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – Nothing to Report
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee –
 - a. The next Water & Sewer Committee will be April 27, 2023, at 8:45 a.m.
 - b. Greg Gress stated the Raftelis Presentation that was scheduled will possibly be delayed, date to be determined for now. It will not affect the budget but may affect the rates. Mr. Millimet suggested having the April 27 meeting and calling a special meeting if necessary.
 - c. There is a new Water Distribution Lead Operator, Marty Baker, with six years of experience.
 - d. John Myers will be retiring in July.
 - e. There was a main break on Easter Sunday that was resolved quickly.
- F. Public Safety Committee –
 - a. There was a meeting April 3, 2023, to discuss the impact on the budget.
- G. Recreation Committee –
 - a. The contract for the Master Plan for Stith Park has been confirmed. There will be a public charrette scheduled later.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch