



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 20, 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  
Former Mayor Pro-Tem Bachman Smith, IV

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Police Chief Chris Griffin, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Larry Dodds, Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, Glenn Meadows, Bridget Welch, 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 twelve (12) members of the public present, and one (1) member of the media was present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

**I. Oath of Office:** Council Members: Ned Higgins, Carl Hubbard, and Jody Latham

Mayor O'Neil administered the Oath of Office to the above new Councilmembers for four-year terms, ending in 2027.

**II. Format:** Public Comments

- Norman Khoury, 1728 I'On Avenue, stated his support for the Town to hire a naturalist and believes the community can offer helpful input for the hiring process.

### III. Correspondence:

1. Rick Graham, 2102 I'On Ave – Email with Concerns about the Right Turn on Middle Street 5-20-23
2. Letter of Commendation – Life Saving Action from Police Department 5-22-23
3. Chris and Megan Burgoyne – Email thanking Adam Ivan and the Fire Department for Educational Session at the Fire Station for Students 5-25-23
4. Letter from My Sister's House – Thanking Town of Sullivan's Island for the Contribution 6-7-23
5. Glenn Garritano – Email Disagreeing with Dog License Fee for those with Disabilities 6-12-23
6. Letter from Charleston County Sheriff Kristin Graziano – Regarding Concerns from the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Insinuating the SRO being pulled from SIES 6-13-23

### IV. Resolutions:

1. Resolution of Appreciation for Bachman Smith, IV

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve Resolution of Appreciation for Bachman Smith, IV, passed unanimously.**

Mayor O'Neil read Resolution aloud. Bachman Smith, IV received a standing ovation and made remarks.

2. Resolution of Appreciation for Kaye Smith

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve Resolution of Appreciation for Kaye Smith, passed unanimously.**

3. Resolution of Appreciation for Greg Hammond

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham to approve Resolution of Appreciation for Greg Hammond, passed unanimously.**

4. Resolution of Appreciation for Nelson Gerena

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham to approve Resolution of Appreciation for Nelson Gerena, passed unanimously.**

5. Resolution of Appreciation for John Myers

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham to approve Resolution of Appreciation for John Myers, passed unanimously.**

V. Discussion and Assignment of Mayor Pro-Tempore

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to appoint Justin Novak to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem, passed 6-0, with Mayor Pro-Tem Novak abstaining.**

VI. Discussion and Assignment of Council Committee Positions

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Latham to staff or establish the following Committees with Chairs and memberships as noted, passed unanimously.**

**Finance – Scott Millimet (Chair), Patrick M. O’Neil (Vice-Chair), Council as a Whole  
Administration – Jody Latham (Chair), Scott Millimet, Justin Novak  
Land Use and Natural Resources – Gary Visser (Chair), Carl Hubbard, Patrick M. O’Neil  
Public Facilities – Carl Hubbard (Chair), Ned Higgins, Gary Visser  
Public Safety – Patrick M. O’Neil (Chair), Carl Hubbard, Scott Millimet  
Recreation – Ned Higgins (Chair), Jody Latham, Justin Novak  
Water and Sewer – Justin Novak (Chair), Jody Latham, Gary Visser**

VII. Council Action Items:

- A. Approval of the May 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve the May 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.**

- B. Approval of the May 16, 2023, Town Council Public Hearing FY 2024 Budget Minutes

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve the May 16, 2023 Town Council Public Hearing Regarding FY 2024 Budget Minutes, passed unanimously.**

- C. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Personnel and Personnel Policies

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Personnel and Personnel Policies, passed unanimously.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Novak stated this has been a long process to change the codified personnel handbook in the municipal code into an actual handbook. He also thanked everyone for their work on the process. Mayor O’Neil thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Novak for his leadership.

- D. Third Reading and Ratification, 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 Visser, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, 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 an annual occurrence to make payments on the installment purchase revenue bonds.

- E. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, which is balanced as mandated by law, passed unanimously.**

Mayor O'Neil stated the budgets have been discussed at length in previous meetings.

- F. Third Reading and Ratification, 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 Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2023-04, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with significant improvement in the budget process and significant amount of support from staff, passed unanimously.**

- G. Second Reading, 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 Councilmember Millimet, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve Second Reading, 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.**

Town Comptroller Jason Blanton stated this is housekeeping for the Municipal Association, who have been collecting different revenue streams for the Town for several years. This is done for multiple municipalities to simplify their process; the municipalities must pass this Ordinance.

H. A Resolution to Increase Water and Sewer Rates for FY 2024

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to Increase Water and Sewer Rates Fees for FY 2024, passed unanimously.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Novak stated the increase for the average user will be around 3%, which is lower than most nearby towns. Councilmember Millimet stated it is also substantially lower than the rate of inflation.

- I. Proclamation – A Proclamation recognizing the victory by South Carolina patriots commanded by Colonel William Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island over the invading British naval forces on June 28, 1776.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to support the Proclamation, passed unanimously.**

There will be a Carolina Day event on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at the flagpole between Town Hall and the Fire Station. The Proclamation will be read in full on Saturday.

**VIII. Reports and Commissions:**

A. Mayor’s Report:

1. Carolina Day, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
2. The Fish Fry will return after a three-year absence from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
3. The annual Fourth of July golfcart and bike parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. starting at Sunrise Presbyterian Church. The Party at the Park will begin at 5:30 p.m., with fireworks at 9:00 p.m., weather permitting.

B. Administrator’s Report:

1. No updates since Workshop
2. Tropical Storm Bret has developed in the Atlantic, with Invest 93 likely to develop into a Tropical Storm right behind it. TS Bret has no expected impact on the US. Mr. Benke reminded everyone to review their evacuation plan and be ready for any future threats.

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

#### **IX. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:**

- A. Finance Committee – Chair Millimet stated both budgets have now been passed. Mr. Blanton reviewed the May Finance Report, noting overages in revenue projections. He also noted overages in expenditures, all of which are available in the Meeting Packet. He also reviewed the specific funds for accrual.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – Mayor Pro-Tem Novak stated the historical signage project is progressing and the next one to be installed will be the Bandstand and then Battery Logan.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – There was a LUNR Meeting on May 17, 2023. Chair Visser stated the historical survey is ongoing. He mentioned episode 258 from the podcast “Charleston Time Machine” is worth a listen as it involves subjects relating to historical property and ownership, hosted by Dr. Nic Butler.
- D. Administration Committee – Mayor Pro-Tem Novak congratulated the new Chair Latham and reminded everyone of vacancies on Boards and Commissions. These include 4 seats on the Planning Commission, 2 seats on the Tree Commission and 1 seat on the BZA. Applications are available online and at Town Hall and are due by August 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Nothing to Report
- F. Public Safety Committee – Fire Chief Stith stated there will be no beach fires allowed from June 29-July 10. There will be a sign on the causeway reminding the public of the No Fireworks law. There will also be an EMS Supervisor on call for both Sullivan’s Island and Isle of Palms. Police Chief Griffin stated the sheriff’s office will be on the Island to assist with traffic June 29-July 4. He also confirmed traffic will still be right turn only at 22 ½ and Ben Sawyer Blvd.
- G. Recreation Committee – Chair Novak stated there has been a kickoff meeting for the Master Plan at Stith Park and is looking forward to this project’s progress.

#### **X. Executive Session:**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to go into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.**

- A. Legal Advice – Sullivan’s Island vs Murray Sand Company 2016-CP-10-5578: South Carolina State Supreme Court Denies Request for Rehearing
- B. Legal Advice – Bluestein et al. vs. Town of Sullivan’s Island et a. 201-CP-10-5449
- C. Legal Advice – Capone vs. Sullivan’s Island 2022-CP-02740
- D. Legal Advice – Section 21-150 et seq. of the Zoning Ordinance (Nonconformities)

E. Personnel – Employee Retirement (Nelson Gerena – Police; John Meyers – Water and Sewer; Larry Duffy – Municipal Court)

**Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to come out of Executive Session, at 7:51 p.m. to discuss the following items, passed unanimously.**

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

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

**XII. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch