



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 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 have 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

Staff members present were Monty Anders, Jason Blanton, Nehemiah Clarke, Judge Frank Cornely, Larry Dodds, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Greg Gress, Amanda Hawver, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Bridget Welch, Associate Judge David Wolfe, and Max Wurthmann.

Mayor Patrick M. 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 over four (4) members of the public present and no (0) members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for prayer or reflection.

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to amend the order of the agenda, Items I and II, to do Item II, the Resolution, first, passed unanimously.

I. Format: Public Comments

- Stephen Kerr, 1424 Thompson Ave – concerned about the recent discussions about the 26 “stub-out” parcels; his property is adjacent to one of these and urges Council to consider the width of the adjacent parcels and how close the homes in the area are to one another.
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Ave – has concerns about the proposed plans for Stith Park, took issue with comments by a councilmember during the Recreation meeting, and reviewed statistics from the survey conducted regarding the park.

II. Resolution: Larry Dodds for his Dedication and Service to the Town of Sullivan's Island for 44 years.

Resolution was read by Mayor O'Neil and Mr. Dodds received a standing ovation.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve Resolution for Larry Dodds for his Dedication and Service to the Town of Sullivan’s Island for 44 years, passed unanimously.

III. Council Action Items:

A. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the November 17, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins to table the approval of the minutes for now to review the wording of a motion, passed unanimously.

B. Approval of the 2025 Community Sponsor of the South Carolina Beach Advocates

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve the sponsorship of the South Carolina Beach Advocates.

Town Administrator Joe Henderson reviewed the goals of the group and mentioned that the Town has been a sponsor for many years. Mayor O’Neil added that it serves to foster and promote the issues of beach communities in South Carolina.

IV. Reports and Communication:

A. Mayor’s Report: Mayor O’Neil told the Councilmembers to expect an email with an invitation to the meeting of the South Carolina Beach Advocates, which he suggested they attend if possible.

B. December Council Correspondence:

- Melanie Burkhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave - Proposed ideas for Stith Park

C. Administrator’s Report

- a. Army Corps of Engineers Beneficial Reuse Sand Project: The dune project at Breach Inlet has been completed and the contractors have moved on to the project at Stations 32-28 ½. He provided visuals to explain the project goals. He also stated the projects should be concluded by mid to late January of 2025. He then took questions from Council.
- b. Cove Inlet Bridge Rehabilitation Project: Contractors will begin work this week by removing invasive vegetation and preparing to start working on the wall.
- c. Final Draft for the Stormwater Master Plan: Is available for the public to view on the Town’s website. There will be a presentation with Plans at the January 21, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.
- d. Nature Trail Phase 2: Contractors have begun building benches and will move on to installing the boardwalk sections and ADA access ramps. The project will hopefully be completed by early Spring.

- e. Personnel anniversaries:
 - Joe McMullen, 4 years – Police Department
 - Monty Anders, 2 years – Police Department
 - Curt Gibbons, 22 years – Fire Department

D. Attorney's Report: Nothing to Report

E. Boards and Commissions Report:

- a. Planning and Commission – Charles Drayton stated the final reading for the Comprehensive Plan will be at the January 21, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.
- b. Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Report
- c. Design Review Board – Nothing to Report
- d. Tree Commission – Nothing to Report

V. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Jason Blanton reviewed the monthly financial report.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – The survey has not been completed on the old Town Hall but should be completed soon.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – The January meeting will be scheduled soon.
- D. Administration Committee – Citizens can sign up for the Town newsletter by going to the Town website and clicking the link in the top banner.
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Chair Novak mentioned a letter from Charleston Water System regarding new EPA regulations that will impact service rates. Greg Gress updated Council on the tests for lead and copper. The revised lead copper rule caused every utility in the nation to identify all their lead service lines on the Town side and on private property and there are no lead service lines on the Island. The next Water & Sewer Committee meeting will be Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – Police Chief Glenn Meadows stated the department collected 300 bikes and 57 helmets for this year's bike drive. He thanked Beach Service Officers Collin and Gracynn for their help assembling the bikes.
Mayor O'Neil stated the Station Lighting was successful and thanked the fire and maintenance departments for doing a great job.
The Police Department has three employees currently out and they are asking to get temporary support from neighboring departments, who would use their own vehicles and uniforms. Chief Meadows mentioned there has been no reported coyote activity recently.
- G. Recreation Committee – Chair Higgins stated the Committee has directed the Town staff to move forward seeking an RFP regarding drainage, parking, and hardscape for Stith Park that will be approved by Council.

VI. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Higgins, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to go into Executive Council at 6:51 p.m., passed unanimously.

- 1. Personnel** – Boards and Commission Seats: Review of Applications submitted for seats on various Board and Commissions
- 2. Personnel** – Staff to provide update on Council attorney search
- 3. Legal** – Attorney Dodds to provide legal advice regarding American Tower contract
- 4. Legal** – Attorney Dodds to provide legal advice regarding Station 32 and Marshall Boulevard Extension regarding landscaping and other hardscape improvements in the ROW

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

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to come out of Executive Session at 7:37 p.m., passed unanimously.

No decisions were made, and no motions were taken during Executive Session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to appoint Author Hanlon to the Board of Zoning Commission seat and term will expire in 2027, passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch