



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 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 having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Justin Novak, Mayor Pro-Tem
Carl Hubbard, Councilmember
Jody Latham, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Ned Higgins, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Jason Blanton, Town Attorney Larry Dodds, Charles Drayton, Greg Gress, Amanda Hawver, Deputy Administrator Joe Henderson, Deputy Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Pam Otto, and Max Wurthmann.

Mayor Patrick M. O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were thirty-nine (39) 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.

I. Format: Public Comments

- Pat Marr, 3210 Marshall Blvd – requesting permission to put up a construction fence during construction project at 3210 Marshall Blvd. The beach path to Breach Inlet would still be accessible.
- Friends of Battery Logan, Tim Harrell, 1601 Middle St – provided a status and update on the improvements they plan on making to Battery Logan. There is a website: www.friendsofbatterylogan.org
- Jerry Callahan, 1655 Middle St – would like the Town to set up an educational meeting to inform interested parties in coyote management.
- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle St – would like his driveway replaced with original brick after the stormwater repairs are completed.
- Dave Peterseim, 1707 Atlantic Ave – agrees with the above comments about coyotes and would like more to be done.

II. Presentation: Seamon Whiteside & Associates – Island Wide Stormwater Master Plan

Deputy Administrator Joe Henderson introduced to the Stormwater Engineering Team, Ryan Philips, and Aaron Aiken, from Seamon Whiteside & Associates. He stated the Open House and the presentation given tonight are to provide information about how the team plans on working on various stormwater issues around the Island.

Mr. Philips and Mr. Aiken presented their findings and projections for stormwater master plan and infrastructure improvement strategy. Mr. Aiken encouraged residents to provide feedback about where flooding is occurring, with photos, if possible, on the Town’s website. The link is available on the Town’s homepage. They also stated there will continue to be crews on the Island cleaning and gathering data. There was also information given about the funding the Town has already procured and other options available. There will be a future meeting once they have final design plans. They stated their next steps and then took questions from the following:

- Pat Votava, 2214 Jasper Ave – asked about timeline for funding estimate completion.
- Ben Hagood, 2424 Raven Dr – how far back do they want residents to go in terms of flood damage?
- Barbara Spell, 1702 Atlantic Ave – when will work get started?
- Amy, Station 18.5 – is it helpful to suggest short-term projects?
- Scott Parker, 1909 Thee St – is the plan addressing water quality and resiliency?
- Brian Berg, 2902 Marshall Blvd – can the Town fund pumping some of the water out in the short-term if there are safety issues where water doesn’t drain?

III. Correspondence:

1. CD Hintmann, 413 Station 22 ½ - Emails stating concerns with speed and electric bikes.
2. Sallie Pritchard, 2830 Middle Street – Dismayed with handling of former Chief of Police Chris Griffin.
3. Karen & Brian Burker, 2902 Marshall Blvd – Inquiring if the Town would reconsider the purchase of the Sand Dunes Club.
4. Charleston Votes – Letter to terminate the IGA agreement with the Town.
5. Battery Gadsden Cultural Center Board – Letter requesting the hire of a historic preservation consultant for the Island.

IV. Council Action Items:

- A. Approval of the February 20,2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve the February 20, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- B. Approval of the February 8, 2024, Public Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes (Committee Members Only)

Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Higgins to approve the February 8, 2024, Public Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes (Committee Members Only), passed unanimously.

- C. Approval of the March 4, 2024, Special Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve the March 4, 2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- D. Proclamation – 2024 Arbor Day

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to support the 2024 Arbor Day Proclamation, passed unanimously.

- E. First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 33: Elections of the Town of Sullivan’s Island to Transfer the Authority for Conducting Municipal elections to the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County and to be held in November Odd Numbered Years.

Motion was made Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2024-01, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 33: Elections of the Town of Sullivan’s Island to Transfer the Authority for Conducting Municipal elections to the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County and to be held in November Odd Numbered Years, passed unanimously.

Mayor O’Neil reviewed the presentation given at the last meeting by Isaac Cramer, Executive Director of the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, which outlined potential changes in management and scheduling of municipal elections.

V. Reports and Communication:

- A) Mayor’s Report: Noted there are two Thank You cards in the packet from two students that turned on the Christmas lights at the 2023 Station Lighting.
- B) Administrator’s Report:
 - i) Reviewed construction projects
 - (1) Old Bridge Rehabilitation Project – engineer will be preparing bid documents for the enviro-loc wall and deck work for review and release.
 - (2) Station 18 – waiting on review of expenses by SCEMD
 - (3) Boardwalk – progress is being made at Station 21, 22.5, 26.5
 - (4) Stith Park Master Plan – engineer will present preliminary final report to Council at the April 16, 2024 Regular Council meeting.

- ii) Personnel: Monty Anders has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Police, effective April 1, 2024.
- iii) The United States Coast Guard will host a 5k Fun Run on March 30, 2024 starting and ending at the Lighthouse
- iv) Ahtna Marine has been awarded the bid for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Beneficial Sand Reuse Project.
- v) Public Safety and staff are reviewing the St. Patrick's Day Celebration hosted by Dunleavy's Pub on March 16, 2024. The Town spent around \$12,000, mainly for manpower expense. There were a few police incidents as well as one medical emergency. Comments were made by Council members regarding this event as well as suggestions for next year.
- vi) Review of DOT right of way improvements made by residents.
 - (1) 3209 Marshall Blvd – Owner is requesting permission to put up a construction fence, limiting public beach access to Breach Inlet. Council would like staff to discuss options with homeowner.
 - (2) 1918 I'On Ave – Owner would like to bury powerlines on property, which would require the relocation or removal of a few palmetto trees on public property to install a new pole. Council would prefer the trees to be relocated or replaced, pending staff recommendation.
 - (3) 1718 & 1722 Otis Pickett Court is requesting to either pave or put down gravel on Otis Pickett Court and Inlet Drive due to flooding issues. Both are currently unpaved, dirt roads. Council approved putting in gravel.

C) Attorney's Report: Nothing to Report

D) Boards and Commissions Report

- a) Planning and 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

Mr. Drayton reviewed the ordinance changes that were approved at the last meeting.

VI. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Jason Blanton reviewed the past month's expenses. He also addressed the budget that would be required for the various projects and expenditures that were discussed at this meeting. He also discussed the current state of the Project Fund and took questions from Council. Council requested a more detailed breakdown of budget options for the next Workshop meeting.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – A contractor has been chosen to complete the interior demolition of Old Town Hall but cannot begin until the building is cleared with DHEC to be safe from asbestos. This will require another bidding process and more funding to find a company to abate the asbestos.

- a. They will discuss the Town's involvement with the maintenance of Battery Logan at the next meeting.
- b. The historic sign verbiage for the Cove Inlet Bridge is being reviewed and will be finalized soon.
 - i. Mayor O'Neil stated the Town of Mount Pleasant expressed interest in also participating in this project but has not given final confirmation.
- c. Mr. Henderson reviewed the progress of Phase Two of the nature trail project.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – Nothing to Report.
 - a. The next meeting will be March 27, 2024 at 8:45 a.m.
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Nothing to Report
 - a. The next Water & Sewer Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 8:45 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – Chief of Police Meadows also commented on the St. Patrick's Day celebration and commended the efforts of all departments involved.
 - a. Chief Meadows attended a beach safety meeting with other beach municipalities. SCDOT has installed another traffic camera on the Mount Pleasant side of the Ben Sawyer Bridge.
 - b. No more coyotes have been caught but traps are still out.
 - c. Monty Anders will be promoted to Deputy Chief and will likely be sworn in at an April meeting.
 - d. Chief Meadows stated the sheriff's office will again be helping with beach traffic during the summer season. He will also be hiring more Beach Service officers.
 - e. Chief Meadows reviewed the Mission Statement and the five core values he presented at Workshop.

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to support the Mission Statement and Core Values presented by Police Chief Glenn Meadows, passed unanimously.

- G. Recreation Committee – They are waiting for the final proposal from Thomas & Hutton.

VII. Executive Session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard to go into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m., passed unanimously.

- A. Legal – Attorneys Dodds and Sheedy to update Council on contract discussion with Charleston Water Service
- B. Contract – Republic Services Household and Yard Debris Contract
- C. Personnel – Report, Discussion, and Update on Administrator Search
- D. Personnel - Report, Discussion, and Update on Director of Resiliency and Natural Resources

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard to come out of Executive Session at 10:12 p.m., passed unanimously.

VIII. 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 Millimet, to authorize the Mayor, Chair of the Administration Committee and the Mayor Pro-Tem to enter into negotiations to offer Joesph Henderson to be the next Town Administrator of the Town of Sullivan’s Island to be effective at the Town Council meeting on June 18, 2024, passed unanimously.

Mr. Millimet thanked the Council for engaging in open and honest discussions to reach this decision.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 p.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch