



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 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  
Scott Millimet, Councilmember  
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Councilmember Jody Latham previously notified Council that she would not be available for this meeting.

Staff members present were Monty Anders, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Greg Gress, Amanda Hawver, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Town Attorney John Linton, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, 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 five (5) 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.

Mayor Pat O'Neil stated that this meeting is rescheduled from Tuesday, January 21, 2024, which was canceled due to weather conditions.

### **Remembrance of the Deceased Islanders 2024**

Mayor O'Neil read the names of Islanders that passed away in 2024.

### **Television News Story about First Responders and Vehicle Accident**

A news station video was shown that featured a citizen thanking local first responders for saving his life after a motorcycle accident, which included the Town's Fire and Police Departments. Deputy Police Chief, Monty Anders spoke about the teamwork between Town departments.

**I. Resolution:** Naming the Maritime Forest Nature Trail in Honor of Lawrence D. Middaugh and Susan J. Middaugh

Mayor O'Neil read the resolution, and Mrs. Middaugh received a standing ovation.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve the resolution to name the Maritime Forest Nature Trail in the Honor of Lawrence D. Middaugh and Susan J. Middaugh, passed unanimously.**

## **II. Presentation:** Stormwater Master Plan: Seamon Whiteside & Associates

Aaron Akin from Seamon Whiteside & Associate quickly reviewed the goals of the Stormwater Master Plan, which has been discussed publicly multiple times. He presented a slideshow featuring a list of eighteen locations with recommendations for beginning stormwater improvements. These recommendations came from months of collecting data as well studying a fifty-year timescale. He provided a general overview of, as well as some detailed information and a possible timeline, of the study and its projections. Mr. Akin provided an estimated cost of \$68 million, some of which he said can be paid for by state and federal grants, if awarded. He also stated the top three of the priority projects would be around \$19 million. He then presented the list of recommendations, which has Osceola Avenue, Station 26 ½, and the Station 30 extension. The Station 30 extensions cover the entirety of the area south of Middle Street to the beach, between Stations 28 ½ and Station 30. He provided further background information and potential solutions, both short and long-term, for these three projects. He then took questions from Council and provided a list of potential grant funding opportunities.

## **III. Format:** Public Comments

- Melanie Burkhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave – stated concerns and suggestions for the Stith Park Renovation Plan

## **IV. Council Action Items:**

### A. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the November 19, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve the November 19, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.**

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

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak to approve the December 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.**

### B. Clarification of Prior Amendment to the Beach Fire Locations

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to approve clarification of prior amendment to the beach fire locations to include available locations of Station 22, 23, and Station 25 with a rotation amongst those possibilities for a limit of two fires per night on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, passed unanimously.**

This motion is to clarify the motion passed in December which had been confusing due to some technical issues. The seasonality of the fire permit availability does not change, with them being allowed from October 1 – April 30.

- C. Sullivan’s Island Stormwater Master Plan: Consideration of preliminary approval of Master Plan by Seamon Whiteside & Associates

These motions would allow Seamon Whiteside & Associates to move forward with making a final draft to present at a future Council meeting. This draft will be the draft presented at the December meeting updated to include all of the new information and proposals made in tonight’s presentation.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Millimet to give approval to the Seamon Whitesides Sullivan’s Island Stormwater Master Plan with preliminary approval provided to the ranking system, maintenance strategies, and increased cost estimate first presented to Council tonight so that when Council is presented with the final report we can take a look at and confirm that those three items in the final report comport with what was presented tonight, passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins to amend the previous motion to include the fourth item of the short-term solutions also first presented tonight, passed unanimously.**

- D. Discussion and Approval of final application to Charleston County Greenbelt funding for Improvements to Station 24 Walkover

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Higgins to approve the Station 24 boardwalk project and adopt a Resolution with Findings of Fact concerning the Station 24 Boardwalk Project. This project includes designing and replacing the boardwalk at Station 24 to be elevated over floodwater and that will extend to the primary dune. The draft resolution is included in the Council packet and includes the following findings:**

- 1. The Project will provide public walkways and emergency access to the Atlantic Ocean by replacing and extending the boardwalk at Station 24;**
- 2. The Project will ensure continued access to the beach and Atlantic Ocean in that location, including access that can be utilized for education programs;**
- 3. The Project will enhance public safety and public health by providing a safe boardwalk that will not be as susceptible to flooding and will extend to the primary dune;**
- 4. The Project will also provide scenic enhancement by ensuring a safe and reliable boardwalk through the maritime forest and extending out to the primary dune, passed unanimously.**

Mr. Henderson stated this motion would allow staff to move forward with the next Greenbelt application for the Station 24 boardwalk.

## **V. Reports and Communication:**

- E. Mayor’s Report: Nothing to Report

### **January Council Correspondence:**

- Charles Stockdale, 1719 Atlantic Ave – Thanking the Fire Department for their support and professionalism
- Melanie Burkhold, 1660 Atlantic Ave – Stith Park Renovation Concerns

### **F. Administrator's Report**

- a. Update on the USACE Beneficial Reuse Project: The completion date has been moved to the end of February rather than the end of January due to issues with equipment.
- b. Update on the Dune Restoration Project: Work has been completed from Breech Inlet down to Station 28 ½. They are now working on Station 12.
- c. Improvements have been made by the Charleston County Public Works to the beach access path at Station 18 ½, and Town owned dirt roads on Raven Drive and Back Street. Pictures were included in the packet.
  - i. Personnel anniversaries:
    1. Tommy Rabey, 1 year – Water & Sewer Department
    2. Nehemiah Clarke, 4 years – Building & Code Enforcement Department
- d. The Cove Inlet Bridge Project was stalled due to the weather but is now back and running.
- e. The Nature Trail Phase II project is almost complete, with signage and ADA matting installation being left.

G. Attorney's Report: Mayor introduced attorney, John Linton in this new position

### **H. Boards and Commissions Report:**

- a. Planning Commission – Charles Drayton stated there will be a Historic Survey Presentation at the February meeting. The final approval of the Comprehensive Plan has been moved to the March meeting due to weather.
- b. Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Report
- c. Design Review Board – Nothing to Report
- d. Tree Commission – Nothing to Report

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

- A. Finance Committee – Mr. Millimet asked Mr. Henderson to provide an overview of the budgeting process that would incorporate the capital budget to the overall Town budget, focusing on prioritizing projects and matching those projects with available funding. Jason Blanton reviewed the monthly financial report. He then took questions from Council.  
Mr. Henderson reported on work has begun on a five-year Capital Plan with recommendations from the auditors. Review will be done at a Finance Committee meeting and then recommended to Council.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 30, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- C. Land Use & Natural Resources Committee – The Committee will present a review of the last meeting at the next Council Workshop. Chair Visser mentioned the discussion on the concept of pocket parks and that the discussion will continue with Planning Commission and the Recreation Committee.
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Chair Novak stated there are no project updates. There have been a few waterline breaks recently due to backflow issues. There has been a new letter sent from Charleston

Water System concerning the water rate increase. The next Water & Sewer Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.

- F. Public Safety Committee – Fire Chief Anthony Stith reported that this years Charlie Post Race went smoothly. Police Chief Glenn Meadows explained the increase in the number of patrol requests in this month’s report.
- G. Recreation Committee – Nothing to Report

**VII. Executive Session:**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Higgins, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard, to go into Executive Council at 7:34 p.m., passed unanimously.**

- 1. **Personnel** – Discussion of Police Department Classification and Compensation Plan
- 2. **Legal** – Advice from Attorney John Linton with Consideration of ongoing Memorandums of understating for the Police Department

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

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to come out of Executive Council at 8:12 p.m., passed unanimously.**

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

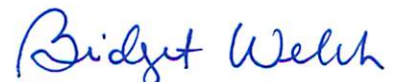
**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to approve, adopt, and ratify as in the date and time of execution of the following: Law Enforcement Assistance and support Agreements with the North Charleston Police Department, Charleston Police Department, Folly Beach Department of Public Safety, Mount Pleasant Police Department, Berkley County Sheriff’s Office, and Isle of Palms Police Department, passed unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, approve fiscal year 2025 Police Department classification and compensation plan, passed unanimously.**

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Millimet, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch