



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 17 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 having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick O'Neil, Mayor  
Ned Higgins, Councilmember  
Carl Hubbard, Councilmember  
Jody Latham, Councilmember  
Scott Millimet, Councilmember  
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Deputy Police Chief Monty Anders, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Greg Gress, Amanda Hawver, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Elias Shaffer, Town Lawyer Anthony Stith, Jr., Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. Multiple members of the Police Department were also present.

Mayor 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 twelve (12) 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. Presentation:** 2025 Carolina Day Celebration: Presentation by Christopher Reid of National Park Service and Cheri Yates of Friends of SC National Parks regarding the 2025 Carolina Day celebration schedule

Christopher Reid reviewed the events that will be taking place for this years Carolina Day, which will take place on Saturday, June 28, 2025 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Moultrie. There will be talks held throughout the day as well as activities and food trucks. The event is free and will end at 6:00 p.m. with a keynote speech from Norm Rickeman, author of "Unsung: William Moultrie and the Battle of Sullivan's Island."

Brett Spaulding from the National Park Service also spoke about the celebrations this year, stating it is a "dress rehearsal" for next year's bigger 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He mentioned that the superintendent will be reaching out to the Town soon to ask for assistance with coordinating with Carta and Mt. Pleasant to handle traffic for the event.

**II. 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

Mayor O’Neil stated the Proclamation is available to read in full in the Council packet.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve the 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, passed unanimously.**

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

- Hal Coste, 322 Station 19 – presented an 1863 Civil War-era map with a modern day overlay to the Town and a photo of a 1930s township of Sullivan’s Island to the Police Department.

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

#### **A. Approval of Minutes:**

- May 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve the May 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed 5-0, with Councilmember Latham abstaining.**

#### **B. A Resolution to recognize the LENS-SI Foundation**

Mayor O’Neil read the resolution in its entirety.

Ali Barney of the Law Enforcement Neighborhood (LENS) Foundation spoke about the objectives of the foundation. She also mentioned events they host and the next one will be at the Island Club.

Ted Kinghorn, director of the LENS program on Isle of Palms, presented Police Chief Meadows with a first aid kit, along with Art Rosen, from the Sullivan’s Island Elementary School Improvement Committee.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve a resolution to recognize the LENS-SI Foundation, passed unanimously.**

#### **C. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-01, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2025 through 2026**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Visser, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-01, An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, passed unanimously.**

#### **D. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-02, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026**



**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-02, An Ordinance to Adopt the Water and Sewer Fund Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, passed unanimously.**

- E. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the Capital Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-03, An Ordinance to Adopt the Capital Budget for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, passed unanimously.**

- F. Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-04, by Title Only, Ordinance 2025-04, To provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,4000,000.00) Town of Sullivan's 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 Hubbard, to approve Third Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2025-04, by Title Only, Ordinance 2025-04, To provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,4000,000.00) Town of Sullivan's 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.**

- G. Second Reading, Ordinance 2025-05, An Ordinance to Amend the Section of Special Ordinances Table III: Property, to Establish Lease Agreement of Real Property owned by the Town of Sullivan's Island with the Sullivan's Island Club (Henderson)

**Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve Second Reading, Ordinance 2025-05, An Ordinance to Amend the Section of Special Ordinances Table III: Property, to Establish Lease Agreement of Real Property owned by the Town of Sullivan's Island with Sullivan's Island Club and extend it to five years, passed unanimously.**

Mr. Henderson explained the current ordinance dealing with this Town lease allows for a one-year lease renewal and this text change would change that to up to five years.

- H. Consideration of draft design for the Jasper Boulevard welcome sign

Mr. Henderson presented the revised design for the proposed sign to be placed on Jasper Boulevard, near Breach Inlet, to commemorate the SC 250 anniversary that begins next year. There will also be an addition to the existing welcome sign on the causeway. There was discussion about the color and material of the sign.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Higgins, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve the Breach Inlet sign as discussed, passed unanimously.**

- I. Approval of the Zoning map amendment at 2663 Bayonne (Drayton)

Charles Drayton, Director of Planning and Zoning, reviewed the reason for the amendment, which will rezone this parcel. Because the ocean line has receded over 30 feet, the area in front of their plat needs to be extended, as per the original title deed for the lot.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to change the zoning for 2663 Bayonne to extend the residential zoning for the full half acre, passed unanimously.**

**J. A Resolution to increase Water and Sewer Fees for FY2026**

Greg Gress, director of the Water & Sewer department, stated this resolution is to approve the fees that have already been passed in the FY2026 Budget. He also explained how and why the fees and rates changed.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Councilmember Latham, to approve resolution to increase Water and Sewer fees for FY2026, passed unanimously.**

**V. Reports and Communication:**

**A. Mayor's Report:** Congratulations to Assistant Fire Chief Mandy Hawver for the Fire Safe South Carolina Award, which helps keep public relations going smoothly. Only 208 cities in the US received the award this year.

- A thank you letter was presented to Eagle Scout Dan Eller, who made benches for the Nature Trail.
- Mayor O'Neil mentioned the SiP magazine publication, which featured articles on Joe Henderson, Rebecca Fanning, and Glenn Meadows.

**B. Administrator's Report**

**June Correspondence:**

- Bill Swayne, 1725 Atlantic Ave – email regarding his disappointment in how the May 1<sup>st</sup> incident was handled
- Becky Davidson, 1850 Back St – In support of road realignment
- Caroline Muren, 1850 Back St - In support of road realignment
- Maureen Palmgren, 1850 Back St - In support of road realignment
- Rochelle Rutledge, 1764 Atlantic Ave – Thank you email to council and staff for supporting the Sullivan's Island Club
- Rob and Karen Byko, 2862 Middle St – Thank you email for support of renovations of the Stella Maris Catholic Church
  - a. Project Updates:
    - i. Historical marker signs have been installed at Post Theater, Cove Inlet Bridge, and two signs have been replaced as well.
    - ii. Staff has resubmitted an application amendment to receive the full \$10 million for the SCIIP Grant
    - iii. The Charleston County Stormwater Program has \$658,000 from utility fees in a savings account for the Town. The money must be requested and then used for infrastructure and stormwater projects. Staff would like to use these funds to pay for SCIIP Grant or improvements at Station 9 ½ and Osceola Avenue.
  - b. Personnel anniversaries:



- Christian Fischbach, 1 year – Fire Department
- Lawrence Dougherty, 1 year – Fire Department
- Tyler Mahon, 2 years – Police Department
- Lee Pearson, 5 years – Fire Department
- Pam Otto – 8 years, Administration Department
- Joe Henderson – 12 years, Administration Department
- Scott Sanders, 27 years – Maintenance Department

c. Special Events:

- i. Fourth of July Celebration 2025: Friday, July 4, 2025: golfcart parade at 9:00 a.m. starting at Sunrise Church, Shem Creek Boogie Band before fireworks, which are at 9:00 p.m. at Stith Park

C. Attorney's Report: Town Attorney John Dodds. - nothing to report

D. Boards and Commissions Report:

- a. Planning Commission – Nothing to Report
- b. Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Report
- c. Design Review Board – The new Historic Guidelines will be used for the first time at the Design Review Board meeting schedule for tomorrow, Wednesday, June 18, 2025.
- d. Tree Commission – Nothing to Report

E. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Nothing to Report
- B. Public Facilities Committee – Nothing to Report
- C. Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Nothing to Report
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – Nothing to Report
- F. Public Safety Committee – Police Chief Meadows stated Meridian Barricades will be here on July Fourth to employ the new safety system they recently purchased. No recent coyote sightings. Fire Chief Anthony Stith – Fish Fry is on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are still \$5.
- G. Recreation Committee – The Fourth of July golfcart parade starts at 9:00 a.m. (on Friday, July 4) at Sunrise Church (3222 Middle Street). Participants (for judging only) can register early at Town Hall and receive a number. Same day registration closes at 8:30 a.m. Awards will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, most patriotic, best ensemble, best bike, most spirited, most original, best beach theme, most Island spirit, and some honorable mentions. The fire truck will be at the end of the parade at Sullivan's Island Elementary School to hose down kids. Fireworks are schedule at dusk and Middle Street (in front of Stith Park and the Fire Station) will close at 4:00 p.m. There are no dogs or alcohol allowed.
  - a. The Poe Park tennis/pickleball courts are being resurfaced now.

F. Executive Session

**Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to go into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m., passed unanimously.**

- 1. **Legal** – Legal advice from Attorney Linton regarding Charles Stockdale settlement

- 2. Contractual** – Selection of engineering firm from recently advertised RFG for FEMA HMGP grant 4492-DR-SC (Phase 1 Outfall improvements at St 18 ½ and St 25)
- G.** Upon Returning to Open Session, Council may take action on items discussed during Executive Session.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Visser to come out of Executive Session at 7:21 p.m., passed unanimously.**

While in Executive Session, no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve selection of Seamon Whitesides as the engineering firm for the recently advertised RFQ for the FEMA HMGP grant 4492-DR-SC the Phase 1 Outfall improvements for Station 18 ½ and Station 25 , passed unanimously.**

#### **H. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Latham, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch