



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 16, 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
Justin Novak, Mayor Pro-Tem
Ned Higgins, Councilmember
Carl Hubbard, Councilmember
Scott Millimet, Councilmember
Gary Visser, Councilmember

Staff members present were Deputy Police Chief Monty Anders, Jason Blanton, Nehemiah Clarke Charles Drayton, Rebecca Fanning, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Town Administrator Joe Henderson, Town Lawyer John Linton, Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, 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 ten (10) 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

- Ralph Byers, 3025 Middle Street – asked about the stormwater project. Would like to know if people will have access to their property from the street if a trench is being dug, what they will replace driveways with if those are impacted, and what happens if other lines (cable, internet, etc) are cut when digging.

II. Council Action Items:

- A. Approval of Minutes:
- August 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Millimet, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, to approve the August 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, passed unanimously.

- July 28, 2025, LUNR Committee Meeting Minutes (Committee Members Only)

Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Visser, to approve the July 28, 2025 LUNR Committee Meeting Minutes, passed 3-0.

B. Approval of Funding for Tree Replacement List Update (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning stated staff has been working with the Tree Commission on updating the list of acceptable tree replacements on the Island. A funding source has emerged to pay for the publication of the list, as well as creation of interpretive graphics to supplement the list. The Tree Commission has approved their contribution and is requesting that the Town match it. She took questions from the Commission.

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to match the funds for tree replacements, passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Beneath the Oaks Symposium Sponsorship (R. Fanning)

Ms. Fanning stated the Tree Commission is requesting that the Town sponsor this year's event at the Palmetto Sponsorship level, which is \$1,000, since this year's topic of landscaping professionals and their environmental impacts is particularly relevant to Sullivan's Island. There is also a lower option of \$850 if the Town forgoes the reception.

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to approve a sponsorship of \$850 for the Beneath the Oaks Symposium, passed 5-1, with Councilmember Millimet opposing.

III. Reports and Communication:

- A. Mayor's Report: Clarified that by accepting delivery of the Resilience Plan does not mean Council will be taking action on any of the suggestions made in it. Voting would be to accept delivery of the plan as completed work that the company was hired to do by the Town. The report is a set of recommended options for how to proceed. The consultants have had charrettes open to the public where they gathered input that they incorporated into the plan. Council does not vote to begin any of the projects until further details are discussed and decided upon, with more public input. This has been the process for at least 20 years with major Town projects. There was some discussion from Council members.
- Coffee with the Chiefs will be held on September 25, 2025 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at the Co-op, hosted by the Battery Gadsden Cultural Center.
 - There were five participants from the Sullivan's Island Fire Department at a 9/11 Remembrance Walk across the Ravenel Bridge, in full firefighter gear. Assistant Chief Hawver also participated in a 9/11 memorial run on Daniel Island.

B. August Correspondence:

- Todd Abedon, 1658 Thompson Ave – Support of Cove Creek dredging

- Rochelle Rutledge, 1764 Atlantic Ave – Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Barbara Claypoole, 2102 Pettigrew St - Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Mark Reinhardt, 2201 Atlantic Ave - Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Tuffy Atkins, 2656 Goldbug Ave - Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Dorinda & Benton Burroughs, 2708 Atlantic Ave - Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Kaki Guckenberger, 2105 Pettigrew St - Questions and concerns regarding the Sea level rise, adaptation and resilience plan
- Tommy Silver, 2830 Atlantic Ave – Email requesting straight pipe drainage options at Station 28 ½
- Dale Poulnot, 2820 Atlantic Ave – Email requesting straight pipe drainage options at Station 28 ½
- Ben & Kelly Navarro, 801 Star of the West – Email with concerns of Pocket Parks
- Kathy Heller, 2320 I'On Ave - Email with concerns of Pocket Parks
- Vivian Scarbourough, 2830 Atlantic Ave - Email with concerns of Pocket Parks
- Dane & Kendal Derbyshire, 1751 Atlantic Ave - Email with concerns of Pocket Parks
- Ali Berney, 852 Middle St - Email with concerns of Pocket Parks

C. Administrator's Report:

Updates: There will be four presentations in October about various Town projects. One will be from Just For Fun Playgrounds regarding playground equipment replacement in the Tot Lot. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Stormwater project funded by the SCIIP grant will be held on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Jasper Boulevard and Station 28 ½. This is open to the public. Battery Thomson is currently being worked on and a pervious surface will be installed next week. The BS&A conversion from module-based software to cloud based software. No permits or building licensing, as well as credit card transactions, can be done during this conversion, which will be September 18-19. The system will be live and running on Monday, September 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Personnel anniversaries:

- Don Harbaugh, 11 years – Fire Department
- Mark McGougan, 2 years – Police Department

D. Attorney's Report: Town Attorney John Dodds – nothing to report

E. Boards and Commissions Report:

- a) Planning Commission – Nothing to Report
- b) Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Report
- c) Design Review Board – During the next DRB meeting, the Board will be discussing forming a sub-committee for the historic survey update.
- d) Tree Commission – Nothing to Report

IV. Committee Reports – Discussion Items:

- A. Finance Committee – Jason Blanton presented the budget report for August, reviewing the revenue and expenditures for the month. Chair Millimet spoke about interest earned over the last two fiscal years, as well as debts paid over the past five. He also stated the cash reserve has increased about 20% to \$11 million over the past few years.
- B. Public Facilities Committee – The meeting on Friday, September 12, 2026 discussed the welcome sign and a lot of suggestions were given for alternate wording. Citizens will also be able to give their own suggestions via the Town website.
 - They are still working on possible locations for the Palmetto Log Fort.
 - Mr. Drayton stated DOT accepted their plat for Old Town Hall and will hopefully finalize their quick-claim survey soon.
 - Battery Gadsden Cultural Center has requested funds to replace the concrete near the center. This will be discussed further at the next Council Workshop.
- C. Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Ms. Fanning discussed the invasive Asian Longhorn Beetles recent infestation in Charleston but confirmed with experts that it is unlikely they would migrate over to Sullivan’s Island. The Island does grow its main food source, but she will continue to monitor the plant for any activity.
 - The Clemson Extension has identified a location at Sullivan’s Island Elementary for the rain project and she will begin education at the school next Monday.
- D. Administration Committee – Nothing to Report
- E. Water & Sewer Committee – The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 2026 at 9:15 a.m.
- F. Public Safety Committee – Ms. Fanning stated test results from yesterday’s sampling efforts will be available tomorrow (Wednesday, September 13) and they have asked the companies doing the water quality testing and the one doing the beach monitoring coordinate efforts to discuss long term plans for the pond at Station 28 ½.
 - Police Chief Glenn Meadows recognized Officer Lisa Lawson for her quick response to a smoking car on the highway, getting the driver to safety and attempting to put out a fire until local responders arrived. There has been no new coyote activity reported.
 - A meeting on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. will be held to discuss the results from the gas-powered leaf blower survey.
- G. Recreation Committee – We can expect the final engineering plans for park drainage soon, which will then be discussed by Council before any decisions are made or projects are started. There will be a presentation about Tot Lot plans on October 6, 2025.
 - They received multiple negative responses regarding the possibility of a pocket park at Middle Street and Star of the West, so unless there is an upswell of positive feedback to make one, they will not be moving forward with any more plans for that specific area. Pocket parks were in the Comprehensive Plan as something to consider, which is why they were discussed in the first place.

V. Executive Session

Motion was made by Councilmember Visser, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to go into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m., passed unanimously.

Items Discussed:

1. **Personnel** – Boards and Commission Seats and Terms: Review of applications submitted for seats and amend terms on various Boards and Commissions (Henderson)
2. **Contractual** – Considering of resuming stormwater cleaning work from Station 18 to Station 19 using Charleston County Stormwater fees as funding source

Motion was made by Councilmember Hubbard, seconded by Councilmember Visser to return from Executive Session at 7:20 p.m., passed unanimously.

There were no votes taken or motions made during Executive Session

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Higgins, to appoint Tal Askins, Hal Clarke, Ron Coish, Bunky Wichmann, and Heather Wilson to the expiring three-year terms on the Design Review Board, passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Novak, seconded by Councilmember Hubbard, to approve town staff to enter into negotiations with Sanders Brothers Construction Company to perform stormwater maintenance as described in the Station 18, 18 ½, and 19 stormwater plan using up to \$200,000 of the Charleston County Stormwater fund taken from county stormwater fees collected from Sullivan's Island residents since 2007, passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch