

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Present from Town Council: John J. McCann, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tempore*; David Ames, Tamara Becker, Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, Glenn Stanford, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*, Josh Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Assistant to the Town Manager*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*.

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- 2. FOIA Compliance** - Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Ames made a motion, asking to amend the agenda adding “public discussion” as item “d”. Mayor McCann stated at the end of the agenda, he will allow each member of Council an opportunity to discuss items and information they feel is important to the community. He went on to say that under the current agenda format, there is no public discussion both in general or on the agenda items. Mr. Harkins stated that given the magnitude of the issue the community is facing, that he would respectfully request that members of the public be allowed to address Council. Mrs. Becker said that she agrees with both Mr. Ames and Mr. Harkins and would like to have the public address Council. Mayor McCann said he would allow Mr. Ames motion, and if there was a second, he would take a vote. Mrs. Becker seconded the motion. The motion to add public discussion to the agenda failed by a vote of 3-4, Mayor McCann, Mr. Grant, Mr. Lennox, and Mr. Stanford opposed.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Stanford seconded. The motion to approve the agenda as written was approved by a vote of 5-2, Mr. Ames and Mrs. Becker opposed.

4. New Business

- a. Emergency Ordinance 2020-05 - Council Authorization of Video or Teleconference Town Council Meetings**

Mr. Stanford moved to approve. Mr. Harkins seconded. With no discussion from the members of Council, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

4. New Business (cont.)

- b. Emergency Ordinance of 2020-06 – Authorization of the Towing of Vehicles Parked on Public Roads and Right-of-Ways**

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. Mrs. Becker stated that she circled through some the town's public parks noticing that some of the parking areas had not been closed off. She also reported that she saw the meters were bagged. Mr. Riley stated that the Town has closed the public access to the beach parks only, not any of the other Town-owned parks. He said that regarding the meters, they had been bagged for a couple of reasons; one being, that staff is stretched in response to enhanced cleaning procedures at all Town buildings and second he doesn't want staff touching the money. With no further discussion from Council, the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

- c. Emergency Ordinance 2020-07 – Delaying of the Collections of Business License Fees, Local ATAX, and Local Hospitality Tax until June 20, 2020.**

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. With no discussion from the members of Council the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

5. Comments of Town Council

Mr. Stanford stated that he was pleased with the actions taken by Council but suspected that these would not be the last actions they take. Mrs. Becker said that she wanted Town Council take action to keep its residents safe and wanted to see Council act during this meeting and not wait another week for further decisions. Mr. Harkins said that would respectfully request the convening of Council for a special meeting of Town Council as early as Monday, March 23, 2020, to discuss what additional actions the Town might consider addressing in response to the COVID-19 threat to the community. Mr. Grant said that he would like Council to keep in mind those residents who are not able to work during this time, and what the Town could possibly do to help in response to this matter. He said that he understood information from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry was being provided, but that he would like to have further conversations about what can or could be done. Mr. Lennox said that he understood the circumstances were changing rapidly and that Council needed to be prepared to respond as changes occur. He said that he felt Mr. Harkins was right in what additional actions could be taken. Mr. Ames said that he felt Council needed to discuss actions related to short-term rentals as well as discussing the development of a cross-disciplined group to ask the "what if" questions. Mr. Ames said that he recommends that the Town meet the amount of seed funding from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Mayor McCann said, without committing to a date and time, there would be another meeting next week to consider the items Council has brought forward.

6. Adjournment

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

Approved: April 28, 2020

John J. McCann, Mayor