



Community Services & Public Safety Committee

Monday, July 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present from Town Council: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*; David Ames, Tamara Becker, Tom Lennox, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Jenn McEwen, Director of Cultural Affairs; Diane Busch, Staff Attorney; Jeff Netzinger, Storm Water Manager; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Town Clerk*

Chairman Harkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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 Minutes**

- a. Regular Meeting – June 28, 2021

Mr. Ames moved to approve the minutes as noted on the agenda. Mr. Lennox seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

4. **Appearance by Citizens**

There were no requests from citizens to appear before the Committee.

5. **New Business**

- a. **Consideration of the Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan**

Jenn McEwen, Director of Cultural Affairs, appeared before the Committee elaborating on the three-year Strategic Plan for the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Arts Council of Hilton Head Island. The comprehensive Strategic Plan was created after several months with the volunteer arts Committee and a planning consultant expanding upon the Cultural Affairs mission, vision, goals, strategies, and tactics.

Councilman Ames noted that he would like to see a stronger connection between the marketing message and the strategic plan, recognizing that the surrounding land, environment, and natural resources are a fundamental part of our culture. This marketing message will encourage people in the community to celebrate and support its local artists and cultural organizations. Councilman Lennox said that the Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan does tie back to the Comprehensive Plan and the Our Plan and Vision.

Mr. Lennox requested that Ms. McEwen tighten up the format. He went on to explain how to rearrange the points in a more concise presentation. Councilwoman Becker spoke about the educational component along with education diversity, inclusion policies and training materials. Ms. Becker asked about the oversight and approval process to set this up. Ms. McEwen said the education goals are in partnership with other organizations and she is working to utilize those relationships to expand their reach and influence. These diversity and inclusion goals are overseen by Angie Stone, Assistant Town Manager. Ms. Becker requested more detail on the process of how workshops and facilitators will be presented to the community.

Mr. Lennox moved to approve the Strategic Plan for the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Arts Council of Hilton Head Island. Mr. Ames seconded. The Strategic Plan was approved by a vote of 4-0.

b. Consideration of an Ordinance Prohibiting the use of certain tents, cabanas, and other similar shading devices within prescribed distances of public beach access points during certain times of the year.

Diane Busch, Staff Attorney for the Town of Hilton Head Island, began the presentation by clarifying some of the redundancies in the posted full agenda packet. She then provided a PowerPoint presentation. Afterward, Chairman Harkin opened the discussion to the Committee. Councilwoman Becker discussed the beach tents and asked several rhetorical questions, such as: the public's need for shade, umbrellas versus canopies and overall concern if this ordinance accomplishes what was intended. She noted that further discussion will be needed.

Councilman Harkins opened this agenda item to the public. Amber Kuehn, of Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection, provided a candid view of what is left on the beach every evening. She continued to elaborate on the problems associated with the tent skeletons that are left for the Turtle Patrol volunteers and Shore Beach Services to dispose of at the end of the night. Mike Waggoner, Operations Manager for Shore Beach Service, spoke to the Committee about what he and his lifeguards see at the beach daily. The issue of refuse debris is important and a conversation about beach character should be discussed. It was noted that the taxpayers must bear the burden and cleanup of irresponsible and careless beach goers.

Mr. Lennox said he would like to see some more evolution of the ordinance. Councilman Ames concurred and noted that the ordinance in front of them only targets one of three areas (trash pickup, beach umbrellas and overall beach character.) Ms. Becker indicated that the Beach Manager will need to be heavily involved in these discussions. There should also be conversations about an enforceability and educational program. Mr. Ames asked Marc Orlando, Town Manager, if there is enough information for the Committee to be able to rely on another draft? Mr. Orlando said that he and Ms. Busch will be able to address any open elements, as well as speak with Ms. Kuehn, Shore Beach Services, Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager and the newly hired Beach Program Manager, Marc Robson. Mr. Orlando further elaborated that EMS, Code Enforcement, and Beaufort County Sheriff's Office need to have a clear path to utilize an ATV and any necessary equipment for emergency situations. Chairman Harkins reiterated that going forward, the points for consideration are safety, refuse, umbrellas

and/or tents, beach appearance, enforceability, education, capacity, uniformity, and impact on our branding.

Councilwoman Becker made a motion to send the ordinance back for further discussion, input, and deliberation before it is brought back to the Committee. Mr. Lennox second. All were in favor and the motion carried 4-0.

c. Consideration of resolutions authorizing the Town to execute a permanent storm drainage easement for the property located at 3901 Main Street, and standard drainage agreements and access, drainage, and maintenance easements with the Spanish Wells/Spanish Wells Club POA, Seagrass Landing POA, Yacht Cove POA, Wells East POA, Jarvis Creek Club POA, and Bermuda Pointe POA.

Jeff Netzinger, Storm Water Manager for the Town, provided a brief slide show. He expanded upon two different issues; the first being 3901 Main Street. The Town is recommending that they get that easement from the property owner in order to maintain proper drainage in the surrounding area. The second issue refers to the drainage agreements signed with some of the Planned Unit Developments on the island over the past few years. The Town is revisiting and standardizing the terms and conditions for those agreements. In the interim, the Town has had several other communities interested in having similar agreements.

Councilman Lennox asked if the goal is to take control and responsibility for the entire stormwater system on island. Mr. Netzinger said that would be very challenging and further elaborated on the specifics of the agreements with the private communities. There has been a misunderstanding in some private communities about what is the Town's responsibility regarding the storm water system in the community. Developing the standardized agreements will bring clarity to the Homeowners Associations. Mr. Netzinger said it's an ongoing education process and the Town is always in communication with the current agreement partners. There were follow up conversations related to specifics of the Town's responsibility. Mr. Harkins further questioned about specific communities in Ward 2. Mr. Netzinger and the Committee members further discussed the Town's costs related to additional services, how issues are prioritized and how costs are budgeted.

Councilwoman Becker made a motion to accept the recommendations before them and move this forward to Town Counsel. Mr. Ames seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

6. Adjournment

By way of unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM

Approved:

Phyllis Deiter, Assistant Town Clerk

William D. Harkins, Chairman