

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

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Time: 2:00 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, *Assist. Town Manager*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Exec. Assist/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting order at 10:00 a.m. By way of roll call, Mayor McCann confirmed the attendance of all members of Council.

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. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Agenda

Mayor McCann stated that he would be removing the agenda items related to regular Town business. He also said that for future meetings, the Open Town Hall portal would be opened and available for public comment a week prior to the consideration of any such business items.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve as amended by Mayor McCann. Mr. Stanford seconded. Mr. Ames asked to further amend the agenda to include a discussion on public recreation. Mrs. Becker seconded Mr. Ames motion. The motion to approve the agenda adding a discussion on public recreation was approved by way of roll call 7-0. The initial motion to approve the agenda as amended by the Mayor was approved by way of roll call 7-0.

Mr. Stanford made a new motion, to further amend the amended agenda adding the consideration of an ordinance concerning the suspension of short-term rentals on Hilton Head Island. Mr. Ames seconded. The motion to further amend the amended agenda was approved by way of roll call 7-0.

5. Hilton Head Hospital Update – Jeremy Clark, CEO

Jeremy Clark, CEO of Hilton Head Regional Health, gave an update to the members of Council on the current operations of the hospital. He provided the current regular bed and ICU bed count, as well as the hospital plans for increasing those numbers. He said that they are ready for any influx of patients, and currently have a good supply of PPE.

6. New Emergency Actions by Town Council

a. Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2020-08 – Revised Emergency Towing Procedures

Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2020-08 for the purposed of enacting revised emergency towing procedures in the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, enacted in Emergency Ordinance 2020-06 on March 21, 2020.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. Mr. Riley provided an explanation of the need for revision the current towing procedures, noting that the initial ordinance did not include the on-street parking on Burkes Beach Road. The members of Town Council had a brief discussion on this item. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

7. Discussion Items

a. Business License Enforcement

Mayor McCann opened the discussion asking Mr. Riley to lead the discussion. Mr. Riley noted to Council that they should have received a memo from the Town Attorney explaining the obstacles of using business license enforcement as a quick enforcement tool. Mr. Riley asked Curtis Coltrane, Town Attorney, to provide an overview on his memo sent to Council. Mr. Coltrane stated that the purpose of the memo was to outline the process involved in the Town revoking a business license. He explained the necessary attention required for due process, further explaining that the process can be very lengthy to revoke a business license. Mayor McCann opened the discussion to the members of Council, where they understood the current process, but asked that a more expeditious process be considered for future declared state of emergency matters.

b. Short-Term Rentals

Mayor McCann opened the discussion on this item, calling on each member of Council to comment. Mr. Stanford introduced and moved to approve an ordinance calling for the suspension of all short-term rentals on Hilton Head Island. Mr. Ames seconded. Mayor McCann opened the discussion to the members of Town Council. Council discussed this item collectively at length, seeking advice from Mr. Coltrane when deemed necessary. Ultimately, Council agreed that a strong statement from Council was necessary to help slow the spread of the virus. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

c. Public Recreation

Mayor McCann asked Mr. Ames to open the discussion on this item. Mr. Ames made a motion encouraging public recreation and exercise, by permitting parking at Crossings Park, Jarvis Creek Park, Chaplin Park, and Honey Horn with certain restrictions. Individual activities on field and parking at Chaplin Park restricted to the dog park lot only. Mr. Riley noted that Honey Horn is on a lease with the Town, and a conversation can be had with them about options to open, but the Town cannot order them to do so. Mr. Ames stated that he had a conversation with Rex, and he is in support of allowing Honey Horn to be available for the public. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion made by Mr. Ames.

c. Public Recreation Discussion (cont.)

Mayor McCann opened the discussion to the members of Town Council, who had a lengthy discussion about the matter. Some members being in favor of seeing some change allowing residents to access certain parks, and other members questioning if allowing this would be taking a step back. By way of roll call, the motion to permit parking at the parks referenced herein the discussion failed by a vote of 3-4, Mayor McCann, Mrs. Becker, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Lennox opposing.

8. Town Council Comments

Mayor McCann called on each member of Council who discussed items that were of importance to them and their constituents.

9. Executive Session

Mr. Riley stated that he had a need to enter into Executive Session for discussion on the following matters: (a) Land Acquisition: Discussion of negotiations incident to the proposed sale, lease, or purchase of property in the (i) Union Cemetery Road area; and (ii). US 278 Mid-Island area; and (b) Contractual Arrangements: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements related to the Designated Marketing Organization services.

At 3:08 p.m., Mr. Harkins moved to enter Executive Session for the reasons described by the Town Manager. Mr. Stanford seconded. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

10. Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session

At 3:20 p.m., Council returned from Executive Session.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island South Carolina, under the authority of S.C. Code Ann. § 28-2-10, *ET SEQ.* (Supp. 2019), authorizing condemnation of easement rights over parts of three parcels of real estate lying at the intersection of Yacht Cove Drive and U.S. Highway 278 for the public use of a project to install street lighting at the intersection. Mr. Stanford seconded. With no discussion from Council, the motion was approved by way of roll call 7-0.

11. Adjournment

With a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

Approved: April 28, 2020

John J. McCann, Mayor