



Community Services & Public Safety Committee

Monday, September 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes

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

Present for Town Council: Councilman Alex Brown

Present from Town Staff: Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Jeff Buckalew, *Interim Director of Infrastructure Services*; 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. **Roll Call** – See as noted above.
4. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Regular Meeting – July 26, 2021

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

5. Appearance by Citizens

There were three requests from citizens to appear before the Committee.

Ms. Heather Rath spoke before the committee regarding her approval to the Main Street Right of Way Acquisition. Ms. Rath articulated that the use of Main Street in the past decade has greatly increased in all aspects of traffic and pedestrian usage. She noted that the Town will be able to make a difference regarding safety and aesthetics.

Peter Kristian spoke before the committee regarding his approval to the Main Street Right of Way Acquisition. Mr. Kristian noted that there is a large number of Hilton Head Plantation residents who connect to the school campus through the Main Street's connection. Taking over this portion of Main Street would be creating a safer connection for bikers and motorists.

Ms. Pamela June spoke before the committee regarding her approval of the Main Street Right of Way Acquisition. Ms. June noted that the private commercial owners' associations can not continue to support this road infrastructure with additional. In the interest of overall

quality of life, safety of travelers and need for hospital access, she encourages the Town to take over the road.

6. New Business

a. Review and Presentation of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Crime Statistics

Major Angela Veins of the Beaufort County Sheriff's office began the presentation of the 2nd Quarter of 2021 Crime Statistics. The Major went through each slide in the presentation, noting specifically the crimes against property. She attributed the uptick in crimes due to car break-ins and unlocked motor vehicles.

Councilman Lennox asked for further clarity on the number of vehicle collisions on Main Street. Major Veins clarified that Main Street refers to the main street as well as intersections right off Main Street that intersect with US. 278. Further discussion ensued when Councilman Brown asked about the reporting system for traffic incidents regarding how they are coded and the most common contributing factors.

Further discussion occurred by Councilwoman Becker and Major Veins regarding drug activity and recidivism crime activity on the Island. Councilman Stanford followed up asking if there were patterns in the crimes noted. Major Veins described areas where citizens can help with crime prevention, including locking car doors and keeping valuables out of sight. Continual education of the Island residents and tourists is an integral part of the deterrence.

Chairman Harkins asked Major Veins about the number of warnings on the beach. Major Veins clarified that this includes alcohol and animals on the beach. Shore Beach Patrol works very well with the Sheriff's office and is constantly educating those on the beach for any potential violations.

b. Review and Discussion of the Main Street Right-of-Way Acquisition.

Councilman Lennox started the discussion of the Main Street right-of-way acquisition with Jeff Buckalew, Interim Director of Infrastructure Services. This would be the dedication of this private road right of way to the town for acceptance and perpetual maintenance of the road in the future. Mr. Buckalew shared a short presentation about Main Street and indicated the side streets that Major Veins discussed. The presentation also noted which roads in the surrounding area are currently owned and maintained privately, those roads owned and maintained by the Town, and those owned and maintained by the County. Mr. Buckalew further explained the importance of maintaining these roads including improvements to utility storm drainage, pathway side-walks and adjacent lighting.

Councilman Stanford spoke to Mr. Buckalew about the business owners' nominal financial contribution to the Town in response to the cost and burden in acquiring Main Street. Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager, explained some of the historical finance figures and the impact after Hurricane Matthew for unexpected repairs and maintenance. Ed Hughes, General Counsel of the Association, followed-up by answering Council's question on funding. The acquisition would bring the roads up to current road standards as part of the capital improvement project. Mr. Buckalew concurred that this would

include sidewalks or pathways to meet the Land Management Ordinances (LMO) and national standards. Councilman Brown followed up with questions related to the Capital Improvement Plan and layout with the school campus roads. Mr. Buckalew said that they will coordinate with the school district regarding maintenance and oversight of the roads.

Councilman Lennox made a motion to accept and move the item forward to Town Council. Councilman Stanford seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

c. Consideration of the Proposed Calendar Year 2022 Meeting Dates.

Chairman Harkins made a motion to approve the proposed calendar year meeting dates for 2022. Councilwoman Becker seconded. All members approved with a vote of 4-0.

7. Executive Session

a. Review and Discussion of the Boards and Commissions Talent Pool for a Vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission [pursuant to the SC Freedom of Information Act § 30-4-70(a)(1)]

Chairman Harkins made a motion to conclude the meeting with the public and enter Executive Session for the review and discussion of the Boards and Commissions talent pool for a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Councilman Lennox seconded the motion. All members approved.

At 10:01 the committee returned from Executive Session after their discussions. Chairman Harkins concluded that no action was taken.

8. Adjournment

By way of unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 AM

Approved:

Phyllis Deiter, Assistant Town Clerk

William D. Harkins, Chairman