

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND
THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL**

Hilton Head Island High School Visual and Performing Arts Center

Date: Monday, July 12, 2010

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Present from Town Council: Thomas D. Peeples, *Mayor*; Ken Heitzke, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; George Williams, John Safay, Bill Harkins, Drew Laughlin, Bill Ferguson, *Councilmen*.

Present from Town Staff: Stephen G. Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Teri Lewis, *LMO Official*; Sally Krebs, *Natural Resources Administrator*; Susan Blake, *Executive Assistant*

Present from Media: Laura Nahmias, *Island Packet*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Peeples at 4:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

3. FOIA Compliance – Public information of this joint session of Councils has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and Beaufort County and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

4. Opening Remarks – Mayor Peeples and Chairman Newton

a. Presiding Official

Mayor Peeples welcomed everyone and explained the purpose for this joint meeting. They would be hearing a report from the consultants on their recommendation for moving forward on the Airport Master Plan study. Following this report, a proposed Resolution would be moved and seconded in order to facilitate public comments and Councils' discussion.

b. Procedures

The Mayor said that right before the meeting had started, the Town and the County had come to an agreement to fund a noise study at a cost of \$50,000; the cost to be shared equally. He asked the public to please stay on topic during their comments and he also let them know that each person would be allowed three minutes to speak.

5. Administrative Report – Talbert & Bright

a. Presentation

A representative from the Talbert & Bright consulting firm gave a brief presentation to the joint councils. Their conclusion stated that "for the purposes of the 20-year Master Plan the recommended runway alternative is Alternative 2."

6. New Business

a. Resolution – A joint resolution of Beaufort County Council and The Town of Hilton Head Island to endorse one of the proposed alternatives presented by Talbert & Bright as part of the Hilton Head Airport Master Planning Process.

For the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island, Mr. Williams moved to approve and Mr. Harkins seconded. At this time, the Mayor invited members of the audience to make their comments.

7. Public Comments

There were approximately forty people who chose to address the councils to express their thoughts regarding the proposal before them. They were almost equally divided in their opposition or agreement to the proposed alternatives. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Mayor called for a brief recess at 5:58 p.m.

8. Discussion

The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 6:10 p.m. At this time, he turned the gavel over to County Council Chairman Weston Newton, who conducted the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Newton invited comments from all the Council Members. There was a lengthy discussion by everyone, stating their opinions about the proposals. Some of the County Council members presented brief slide shows outlining their ideas and suggestions. There was concern expressed about some of the language in the Resolution on the table and some Town and County members wanted to add exploration of a 4,600 ft. runway length to the 5,000 ft. and 5,400 ft. second phase extensions in Alternative 2. After additional discussion, Chairman Newton and Mayor Peoples suggested the following revisions to the Resolution:

In the seventh “whereas” clause, the sentence would end with “.....confirm or refute the assumptions regarding feasibility.” The remainder of the sentence, “and the ability to avoid direct physical impacts on, or require the relocation or displacement of, the St. James Baptist Church or existing private homes.” was deleted.

In the “Now, Therefore” clause, the following was added to the last sentence of the paragraph: “and further, that the sub-options discussed on July 12, 2010 be incorporated in the next steps of the planning process.”

For the Town, Mr. Williams, as the maker of the original motion, agreed to these amendments as did, Mr. Harkins, the seconder of the motion.

For the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-2. Mr. Heitzke and Mr. Ferguson were opposed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Susan Blake, Secretary

Approved:

Thomas D. Peoples, Mayor