

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2013

Present from Town Council: Drew A. Laughlin, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tem*; George Williams, Kim Likins, Lee Edwards, Marc Grant, John McCann, *Council Members*.

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects and Facilities*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; Jill Foster, *Deputy Director of Community Development*; Nicole Dixon, *Senior Planner*; Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

Present from Media: Tom Barton, *The Island Packet*

1) CALL TO ORDER

2) FOIA COMPLIANCE – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3) Recreation Organization, Management and Performance Audit

The workshop convened at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Laughlin opened the meeting and noted the workshop would be devoted to recreation. Steve Riley reminded Council that this Workshop was requested by representatives from the Rec Center to provide an opportunity to discuss various matters that came out of the Mid-Year Workshop.

Frank Soule, Alan Perry and Bubba Gillis were present from the Island Recreation Association and discussed with Council Members the various programs offered by the Island Rec Center, the usage numbers for specific programs, and the revenues generated. Mr. Riley referenced a memo developed by Town Staff outlining the services provided by the Town, including financial oversight. A discussion followed concerning measurement outcomes for the various programs with both participants and parents as it relates to management and decisions for future direction. The maintenance provided by Beaufort County Public Works and PALS, the quality of the work, and scheduling responsibilities were discussed. The possibility of creating a citizens ad hoc Committee to oversee the Recreation Plan, dissolving the Parks & Recreation Commission, and allowing the Island Recreation Association to report directly to Town Council or Public Facilities was briefly discussed.

4) Recreation Center Expansion: Direction on Future Phases

Tom Parker with Lee & Parker and Barry Taylor with FWA Group reviewed in detail the Island Recreation Center Proposed Expansion – Site/Phasing Plan that was included in the agenda packet. They pointed out the existing components, new gymnasium and other areas to be added, and renovations and refurbishing suggested in 6 phases. Projected figures for each phase were provided. A lengthy discussion ensued among the Council Members, Mr. Parker, Mr. Taylor, and the Island Recreation Association representatives concerning the proposal, including projected revenue and expenses, with further discussion about priorities to take place at the year end Workshop with additional information provided at that time by Town Staff.

Mayor Laughlin asked for public comments. Jocelyn Staigar asked for clarification of certain improvements and the types of surveys being conducted, and explanations were provided.

5) Discussion of Aquatic Center/Splash Pad Direction

Mr. Parker and Mr. Taylor presented a proposal for a Chaplin Park Expanded Water Feature with a community splash pad. They reviewed in detail a conceptual site plan, the reasons for locating the water feature at Chaplin Park, the attractions for consideration, and the estimated community investment. Attendance figures were projected that would generate needed revenues to offset operational expenses. A discussion ensued among the Council Members, Mr. Parker, Mr. Taylor, and the Island Recreation Association representatives, which included debt service funding, the economic impact, and the revenues generated that could possibly subsidize a future aquatic center. Further review would be conducted at the year end Workshop.

Mayor Laughlin asked for public comments. Heather Rath complimented the Rec Center Staff on the pre-school and other programs currently offered at the Rec Center and stated her support of the proposed expansion of the Rec Center and the need for the proposed water park.

6) Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Lynn Buchman
Administrative Assistant

Approved: 11/19/2013

Drew A. Laughlin, Mayor