

THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Present from Town Council: David Bennett, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro Tem*; David Ames, Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, Kim Likins, 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*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief – Support Services*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; John Troyer, *Deputy Director of Finance*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Shawn Colin, *Deputy Director of Community Development*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Alice Derian, *Contracts and Services Administrator*; Melissa Cope, *Systems Analyst*; Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Present from Media: Teresa Moss, *Island Packet*; Steve King, *WJCL-TV*; Georgiaree Godfrey, *WTOC-TV*

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2) PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

3) INVOCATION

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

5) Proclamations and Commendations

a. End Childhood Hunger Week

Judy Aronson and Joe Kerr, Chairman of The Hunger Coalition of the Lowcountry were present to accept the proclamation.

b. Honored Islanders Awards

- (1) Ezra Callahan
- (2) Mike Overton

Mayor Bennett made remarks concerning each of the Honored Islanders and their contributions to Hilton Head Island and the surrounding communities. All recipients were present to accept their awards.

6) Approval of Minutes - none

7) Report of the Town Manager

a. 2017 Gullah Celebration Feature Image Unveiling – Courtney Young

Ms. Young explained the 2017 Gullah Celebration marks 21 years and unveiled the feature picture and introduced the artist, Sonja Griffin Evans. Ms. Evans said the name of the piece is *Gullah Dream Weaver*, and explained the inspiration and meaning that contributed to the production of the art.

b. Hurricane Matthew Update

Tom Dunn, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented an overview of the plan and actions leading up to and after the hurricane. Mr. Riley stated that a rain gauge on the Island recorded almost 18.3 inches of rain in a 24 hour period noting that is beyond a 1000 year storm event and the system is designed for a 25 year storm event. He said the Town is now in a recovery mode and it could go on for months. He introduced the Recovery Manager, Charles Cousins and asked him to speak.

Mr. Cousins explained that the first thing the team started doing was damage assessment with approximately 19,688 structures on the Island that need inspected. To date, the teams have inspected 5,300 and will continue until all are done. He explained the process and noted they also completed aerials of the Island which will assist in the expedition of building permits for repairs. Mr. Cousins introduced Scott Liggett to discuss the debris management portion of the recovery effort.

Mr. Liggett explained that five task forces returned to the Island on Saturday and were each accompanied with a push crew to escort them to points certain that they were trying to reclaim for access and operation. The number of crews were doubled on Sunday and they continued with the work primarily on public owned rights-of-way within the Town. He said they added ten additional crews on Monday in anticipation of citizens returning on Tuesday. He said they then worked to lay out, establish and permit the debris management locations that had been pre-identified and then began to remove the debris on public owned rights-of-way on Thursday. He added that three citizen drop-off centers were established and are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily. He updated Council on the beach status and stated they hope to replace the sand along with an update on Town properties and parks and the status of such.

Mr. Cousins asked Mr. Dunn to explain the process they are using to assist residents in need. Mr. Dunn explained the options are to call 211 for the United Way and they are coordinating with multiple organizations to get people to the right resources. He said the County is working to set up a location for disaster recovery assistance either through FEMA or a non-profit group. Mr. Riley added that the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry is available to assist and also take donations to help with the assistance.

Mr. Cousins updated Council on the issues with Business Licenses and Building Permits noting they want to be sensitive to the needs of the local businesses and citizens. He explained hours have been extended to 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cousins said Faidra Smith, Public Information Officer and Rene Phillips, Website Administrator have been working diligently to get all the information out to the public.

Mr. Riley added that staff has done amazing work and the contract help has been outstanding. He said the cooperation with the County, utilities and non-profit community has been outstanding stating this has truly been a team and community effort. Mr. Riley explained that on Sunday, Mr. Dunn and he hosted the Director of the National Hurricane Center here on the Island. The Director was looking at assessing impacts of the storm and how that matched with their models with the idea of trying to make their models better. The Director has been around the world to hurricane and cyclone sites and he expressed his admiration and surprise at just how far this community has come in such a short period of time. Mr. Riley stated everyone should be proud of what has been accomplished to date.

Mr. McCann noted this has been something the staff has been working on for years and years before this catastrophe hit and everything paid off and the staff and Mr. Riley deserve a great deal of credit.

Mr. Ames expressed his appreciation for the collaboration between Mr. Riley and the Mayor and the communication that was being fed to the world through social media.

c. Town Manager's Items of Interest

Mr. Riley stated the Concours d'Elegance will be held on November 5 and 6 on the Island and it is an amazing statement of what this community can accomplish.

8) Reports from Members of Council

a. General Reports from Council

Mr. McCann proposed a new format for Town Council meetings with holding Executive Sessions from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the general meeting at 5:00 p.m. and to last no longer than 8:00 p.m. and to have consent agendas for multiple items. He said he would like the Town Manager to review the possibilities and bring it back to Council for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Harkins and Mr. Grant concurred. After discussion Mr. Riley said he would work on it and if he needs additional time to prepare items for discussion he will ask for it.

Mr. McCann asked that Council postpone or put on hold the Visioning Process, the Venue, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Audit and other similar initiatives until after January 1. He stated all efforts should be aimed towards recovery. Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Riley for his input. Mr. Riley explained he's not ready to sign any contracts or take on any added initiatives and the existing ones will have to be reviewed. He explained he has finance examining projected costs related to recovery and reminded Council even when FEMA does come through that it is done through reimbursement so funds will have to be available and dispersed throughout the process. Mr. Harkins stated every non-essential effort should be shut down and they should focus on recovery and emphasized his agreement with Mr. McCann's proposal. Mayor Bennett said Mr. Harkins comments were duly noted.

Mr. Harkins stated he traveled the Island with Senator Scott on Tuesday and the Senator stated the Town could be assured of the full delegation support moving forward.

Mr. Grant thanked staff for providing effective communication throughout Hurricane Matthew. He asked that the cemeteries be inspected and see if there is any way the Town can assist with the debris and trees. He added that some residents have approached him regarding assistance to get debris to the public drop off points. Mr. Grant also requested to be updated regarding visits from various elected officials and what they are doing to assist.

Mr. Lennox remarked that the cooperation between the Town, CSA and Sea Pines was remarkable. He complimented Mr. Martin, his staff and crews for the work done in Sea Pines to date.

b. Report of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman

No report.

c. Report of the Community Services Committee – Kim Likins, Chairman

No report.

d. Report of the Public Planning Committee – Tom Lennox, Chairman

Mr. Lennox said that until there is a more detailed evaluation of the storm recovery's demand on Town staff and resources, they are delaying bringing in the vision consultants and the November 3 meeting has been cancelled.

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – David Ames, Chairman

No report.

f. Report of the Public Safety Committee - Marc Grant, Chairman

No report.

g. Report of the Finance and Administrative Committee - John McCann, Chairman

Mr. McCann stated the Committee met at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina earlier in the day to discuss the lighting system request from the Arts Center with the consultant. The meeting was designed to be informative rather than decision making. He said the Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. at which time the consultant will be available by phone for any questions the Committee may have and to give members of the public an opportunity for input.

9) Unfinished Business

a. Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2016-31

Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2016-31 to amend Chapter 3 (Municipal Council) of Title 2 (General Government And Administration) of the Municipal Code Of The Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina by amending Section 2-3-60, Compensation and Expenses; and provide for severability and an effective date.

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. McCann seconded. Mr. Ames voiced concern that given the fact that there are residents who lost their homes or are unable to live in their home at this time, and given the fact that there have been tremendous expenses and costs from the hurricane, he would like to postpone the item in recognition and consideration of their suffering. Mary Amonitti stated with the expenses coming forward and the increased number of committees that the item be discussed further and not be moved forward at this time. Mr. Ames moved to amend the motion to postpone the item for one month. Mrs. Likins seconded. Mr. Riley explained that if this item is voted on before the upcoming election it will take effect with the swearing in of the Council in December but if it is voted on after the election it will take effect the following election which is two years from now. Mr. Ames changed his motion to postpone the item for two weeks. Mrs. Likins, as the seconder, agreed to the change. The amended motion was approved by a vote of 6-1. (Mr. McCann was opposed.)

10) New Business

None.

11) Appearance by Citizens

Mr. Joe Bradley addressed Council regarding Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Peter Ovens addressed Council regarding the harvesting of the downed trees.

12) Executive Session

At 5:04 p.m. Mr. Harkins moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the current status of the Town Manager's contract. Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

13) Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session

Mayor Bennett called the meeting back to order at 5:54 p.m. and stated no action was taken during Executive Session.

14) Adjournment

Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 11/01/2016

David Bennett, Mayor