

# TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date: July 7, 2009

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: John Safay, George Williams, Drew Laughlin

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Susan Simmons, Charles Cousins, Jeff Buckalew

Others Present: Bill Ferguson, *Councilman*

Media Present: Daniel Brownstein, *The Island Packet*

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**1. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

**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. Committee Business:**

Councilman Laughlin moved to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2009. Councilman Williams seconded the Motion. Councilman Williams stated two corrections needed to be made: on page 4, first line the word “thee” should read “there.” On the second line, the word “group” should read “groups.” The amended Minutes of June 2, 2009 were unanimously approved.

**4. Unfinished Business:**

• **Stormwater Utility – Consideration for Fee Adjustment**

Scott Liggett stated it was his intention to step back and let the Committee make the recommendation they believe appropriate. The Staff recommendation remains in tact from the first meeting in May. The budget that Council approved a couple of weeks ago is predicated on the Stormwater Utility Fee being increased to \$83.23.

Councilman Laughlin stated that from previous discussions that although one could theoretically justify the \$83.23, it is not a real number in the sense that the \$100.43 is the number that staff felt was necessary to carry out the work that we budgeted for. Otherwise there is nothing in it for contingencies and unforeseen circumstances, etc. Chairman Safay asked if they go with the \$83.23 figure would that mean that they are cutting something out that would have been done in the next fiscal year? Mr. Liggett said that having the higher fee, and this is one of the key points to the staff recommendation, is that it allows us to be more responsive, flexible and to better address those sorts of things in that manner. We are fully prepared to execute the Stormwater Management Program at the \$83.23 level as is reflected in the CIP and as is reflected in the budget that

Council approved. Staff continues to believe that the higher fee lets us be more responsive, more reactive and lets us pursue work better over a slightly longer term, i.e., we won't have to be in this same situation necessarily to talk about what the fee for the following year might be which would be in our future with the lower fee.

Chairman Safay asked whether there was any other source of funds that can be drawn upon during the course of a year that can be utilized for unforeseen emergencies which could then be replenished at the next cycle. Mr. Liggett stated there is an interfund borrowing strategy that could be employed if we find we need to do the work. I do not want to leave you with the impression that if a need comes up that they would not address it.

Councilman Williams asked what the urgency is and whether it can be slowed down and keep the costs under control until they find out exactly where we are going to be in the next year or two. Mr. Liggett said part of the sense of urgency is related to the agreements that already have been executed. We have level of service expectations, expectations with the entirety of Hilton Head Plantation and Port Royal Plantation.

Chairman Safay stated he has no problem with the \$83.23, and suggested that each year staff come to Council during the budget season after having reviewed what the projects for the year will be and at that point decide on the how much the fee should be.

After further discussion, Councilman Williams moved the Public Facilities Committee recommend to Town Council the Stormwater Utility Fee be increased to \$83.23. Councilman Laughlin seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with a vote of 2-1. Councilman Williams was opposed

**5. New Business**  
**None**

**6. Adjournment:**  
Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Laughlin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Karen D. Knox**  
**Senior Administrative Assistant**