

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Time: 6:00 P.M.

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

Present from Town Staff: Stephen G. Riley, *Town Manager*; Curtis Coltrane, *Assistant Town Manager*; Lavarn Lucas, *Fire Chief, Fire Rescue*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; Nancy Gasen, *Human Resources Director*; Scott Liggett, *Public Projects and Facilities Director*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Julian Walls, *Facilities Management Director*; Steven Markiw, *Deputy Director of Finance*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Mike Roan, *Urban Design Administrator*; Susan Blake, *Executive Assistant*

Present from Media: Josh McCann, *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. Consideration of a recommendation that the Town Council for the Town of Hilton Head Island approve an additional \$169,294 to complete the Coligny Beach park redevelopment. It is further recommended that these additional funds be allocated to the project from the Town's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Taxes, TIF bond proceeds and a donation.

Mr. Heitzke moved to approve. Mr. Williams seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0. (Mr. Ferguson arrived later in the meeting.)

4. Budget Workshop

a. 10 Year CIP

Steve Riley addressed Mr. Williams' previous inquiry about the procedure to eliminate a project from the CIP. He said that Scott Liggett had mentioned to him that there was a document the Town maintained entitled the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Plan (CNAP). One of staff's concerns about deleting projects from the CIP was that they would be permanently lost. But to avoid that fate, projects could be transferred to the CNAP. Steve Riley said he was less averse to removing projects from the CIP that were not scheduled to be acted upon for many years, if at all and moving them to the CNAP. With that in mind, he listed six roadway improvements, eleven park developments and the Community Warning System that could potentially be relegated to the CNAP.

Mr. Williams expressed his interest in adding two pathway projects that he would suggest be remanded to the CNAP.

Mr. Safay suggested he would like Council to conduct an annual review of the projects dropped from the CIP so they don't lose sight of them.

Mr. Heitzke moved to remove the following projects from the CIP and remand them to the CNAP:

- Arrow Road and Greenwood to Target Road Pathways
- Stoney Secondary Road (north) road improvement
- Widen Folly Field Road, Squire Pope Road, Gum Tree Road, Pembroke Road, and Leg O'Mutton Road
- Park Developments: Shelter Cove Park, Driessen Tract Neighborhood Park, Marshland Road Neighborhood Park, Old School House Park, Aranda Tract Park, Marshland & Spanish Wells Road Neighborhood Park, Indigo Run/hotel site tract Park, Town Hall Park, Central Church Neighborhood Park, South Forest Beach Neighborhood Park, North Forest Beach Neighborhood Park and Jenkins Island Special Purpose Park
- Community Warning System.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Mayor Peeples suggested that the next phase of Shelter Cove Community Park be added to the list of projects to be sent to the CNAP. Mr. Heitzke and Mr. Williams agreed to amend the motion to include Mayor Peeples' request. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-1. Mr. Ferguson abstained from this vote as he had only recently arrived at the meeting and had not participated in the entire discussion.

Mr. Williams moved that the Mathews Dr. connectivity road improvements be postponed one year and the Arrow Road/Dunnagan's Alley roundabout be accelerated one year; basically swapping the schedule for these two projects. Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Williams then moved that funding be approved for an engineering study and cost estimate to create a right turn entrance into Honey Horn from US278 and to construct a bike path from Honey Horn to connect with the Spanish Wells bike path. He suggested that \$50,000 be budgeted for this study. Mr. Laughlin seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Mayor proposed to add funding for mast arm signage at major intersections and to begin implementation of the replacement of all the Town's street signs to mirror the Town's Center Court sign prototype. Mr. Ferguson so moved and Mr. Heitzke seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

b. Remaining issues

Steve Riley talked through his June 5 memo in response to issues that had not been fully resolved at prior budget workshops.

Mr. Williams indicated that due to the fact that Beaufort County has received substantial funding from the Federal Stimulus Program, it was his opinion that the Town should slow down the amount of money they send to the County for their mainland road improvement commitment. He was not suggesting that the Town renege on their funding commitments, but rather that the payment schedule be elongated so that funds were provided to the County on more of an 'as needed' basis rather than an arbitrary timetable. In the coming fiscal year, the

Town was committed to send \$500,000 to the County. Mr. Williams moved that the Town send only \$300,000 to the County at this time and use the remaining \$200,000 to fund Storm Water Utilities (SWU) in order to reduce the amount of increase needed for the SWU fees. Mr. Ferguson seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Instead, the Town Manager was directed to engage the Beaufort County Administrator in a discussion about the ramifications of an extended payment schedule by the Town to the County's mainland road improvement program.

Next up was the Sheriff's request to look at funding the proposed new investigator position. The requested amount was \$54,301 for salary and benefits; the Town has taken the position in the past they would not pay the cost of vehicles. Mr. Williams moved to fund the new investigator position in the amount of \$54,301.00. Mr. Ferguson seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-1. Mayor Peeples was opposed.

Reinstating paid parking at Coligny Beach Park was suggested as a possible funding source. But if there was a discussion about paying for parking at Coligny, then there needed to be a global discussion about parking fees at all the beach parks. The Town charged parking at some of the parks but not others. There needed to be consistency applied to the policy. It was decided to bring this subject back to the Town Council for review in the fall.

In the discussion that followed, Steve Riley sought direction from Council on how they wished to fund the items that were added to the budget. What was added was a study for a pathway to Honey Horn and new entrance to Honey Horn from US278; replacing street signs, adding overhead street signs, new Beaufort County investigator and \$25,000 for the 2009 dirt road program. Mr. Riley thought all of this would cost approximately \$200,000.00. Suggestions were made regarding various CIP projects that could be postponed one year to make up the deficit. The Mayor suggested that the Town dip into its reserves to balance the budget. Once the fire trucks were sold, the revenue generated from that sale would more than make up for this budget increase. The members of Council were in agreement with this proposal.

5. Appearance by Citizens

Ms. Arlene Williams from the People for Parks thanked Town Council for their continued support for the enhancement of the Island Recreation Center.

6. Adjournment

At 7:43 p.m., Mr. Heitzke moved to adjourn. Mr. Laughlin seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Susan Blake, Secretary

Approved:

Thomas D. Peeples, Mayor