

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Date: March 1, 2011

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Kim Likins, George Williams, Bill Harkins

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scott Liggett, Charles Cousins, Jill Foster, Brian Hulbert, Susan Simmons, Cary Gaffney

Others Present: Bill Ferguson, Ken Heitzke, Councilmen, Cary Kelly, *Community Services Associates, Inc.*

Media Present: Tom Barton, *The Island Packet*

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:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Williams moved to approve the Minutes of January 4, 2011. Councilman Harkins seconded. The Minutes of January 4, 2011 were unanimously approved.

4. Unfinished Business: None

5. New Business

• Request for Funding Assistance from CSA for Dredging Related Study

Councilman Williams moved for approval. Councilman Harkins seconded for discussion purposes. Councilman Williams stated that the group, through CSA leadership, has been working diligently for the last year to try to find a way to expedite the dredging. The existing permit that is held is unworkable due to environmental constraints. Therefore, the Committee has been working through a Community Task Force to try and come up with a different type of methodology, one of them being using the Calibogue Cay Spoil site. There are difficulties with that as it is my understanding that each individual property owner on Calibogue Cay has an undivided interest in that particular site and such requires a 100% okay to use it for any other thing than Calibogue Cay. At this point the agreement for use of that particular site has not been forthcoming.

It is my understanding that subsequent from this request from CSA, the community has come forward through various methods to partially fund these particular studies.

It comes to mind that the Town, as one of our goals, has committed to developing a particular step in helping make this particular project, i.e., the dredging of the Sea Pines waterways happen. It is my suggestion, therefore, that we take the \$25,000.00 with the concept of reviewing all of the data from the previous dredges through the existing permit plus what the community has worked on in the last year. The Town needs to get an independent review to see from our perspective if anything is missing or if more action needs to be taken by whomever in order for the Town to be comfortable with the concept of going forward once we have the material to review. It is obvious to me that the Town is going to have to take some kind of leadership role on an ongoing basis for dredging our waterways within the Town and I think this is a good first step to use this money and take a look at what's there, what isn't there in order for us to try and address any and all environmental concerns.

Chairman Likins asked Councilman Williams if his recommendation is really that we hire an independent consultant rather than using the Sea Pine Waterways Task Force and that we also use the independent consultant to basically compile and validate all the information that has been gathered to this point to make a recommendation to move forward rather than take on these specific studies that we have listed in here. Councilman Williams stated that is correct.

Councilman Harkins asked who would be the client. Councilman Williams advised that the Town would be the client.

Chairman Likins stated that at the Strategic Planning Session one of the things we discussed was that this needed to be a long term solution and that we don't need to keep coming back every five years to refigure out what the game plan is. It sounds like that your recommendation, Councilman Williams, is going to allow us to look holistically at all of the options including the open water disposal vs. if we fund this we are primarily looking at land disposal at two particular sites. At the end of the day if that doesn't work out then we spent a lot of money on two options that maybe won't work out.

Councilman Harkins stated he supports this and would move in the direction that Councilman Williams had advanced. Chairman Likins asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to comment. Councilman Ferguson asked if this was the \$25,000 that Town Council ear marked for all of the marinas, both private and public on the Island about a year or so ago. Councilman Williams said that was correct. Councilman Ferguson asked if this included the other marinas on Island or is it exclusively for Sea Pines. Councilman Ferguson stated that Council had agreed that we would take that \$25,000 and put it toward all of the marinas, both public and private across the Island. I don't know how we can go back on something that Council had already ear marked these funds for and use it for something else. Councilman Harkins said he would recommend that our authority level here is of course a recommendation and we may choose to recommend to Council that if this were directed to the entire Island we might consider channeling funds for this project since it is a priority and if anything is left over, continue with the main thought that this be available throughout the Island. Councilman Ferguson asked what we do with the intent that Council had in mind then for the rest of the marinas on the Island.

Councilman Williams amended his previous motion and moved that the Public Facilities Committee recommend to Town Council that we deny the funding request of CSA for the dredging related studies and then go forward with the recommendation to fund the independent study for the Town's future participation in the dredging. (This motion was not voted on and was replaced with a motion from Councilman Harkins below.)

Councilman Harkins moved that we consider denying the funding assistance to CSA for the dredging related study. Councilman Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects and Facilities advised the Committee that when discussion ensued during the budget hearings last year, the monies that were allocated were not necessarily restricted only to the south end, but rather as the need presented itself. Theoretically the funds could be used to examine other areas. I am not aware of any areas that are in need or at least have moved far enough along such that any of our work is required. My recollection would be that the monies were not restricted and I don't view us as having an obligation to necessarily spend those monies island wide uniformly or not.

Chairman Likins moved the Public Facilities Committee recommend to Town Council the funds that have been allocated be used to hire an independent consultant that will help gather all of the information and validate it concerning the current situation and directions available for the dredging in the Sea Pines waterways. Councilman Harkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment:

Councilman Williams moved to adjourn. Councilman Harkins seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen D. Knox
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved: 5/3/2011