

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: September 29, 2015 **Time:** 2:00 p.m.
Members Present: John McCann, *Chairman*; Bill Harkins, Tom Lennox, *Council Members*
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects and Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief - Support Services*
Cindaia Ervin, *Finance Assistant*
Others Present: Charles Brown, *Marriott*; Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track* and other members of the community.
Media: None

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. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Mr. Harkins moved to approve the minutes from the Finance and Administrative Committee Meeting on September 14, 2015 at 3:00pm. Mr. Lennox seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business:

None

5. Executive Session:

- a. At 3:30 p.m. Mr. Harkins moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with the HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Convention Bureau. Mr. Lennox seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. McCann called the meeting back to order at 4:45 p.m., and announced there was no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

6. New Business:

- a. **Beach issues related to use of tents/canopies, and discussion related to Shore Beach Services, Inc. Lifeguard duty.**

John McCann, Chairman, opened this portion of the meeting and stated that our beaches are our number one asset next to our people, the residents. Mr. McCann explained that the Committee decided to have the meeting based on the phone calls, letters to the editor, and emails received on the topic of beaches. Mr. McCann stated that he thought it would be appropriate to sit down with the citizens on behalf of Town Council, listen to their concerns and take them back to the other

Council Members in order to make decisions on what improvements should be made with the beaches as needed by the citizens of our community. He made mention of the excellent job Shore Beach Services does to assist over 2.5 million visitors to Hilton Heads beaches a year, which include vacationers, day travelers and residents. Mr. McCann also explained that all lifeguards on the beaches are trained and certified to assist in the times of need, however, the main focus of the lifeguards in the higher chairs is 100% lifeguarding and the lifeguards in the lower chairs are mainly assisting with sales during the day but do serve as back up when needed.

There were about 35-40 citizens in attendance at this meeting. There were many opinions on both sides of the canopies/tents issue. Other citizens discussed issues regarding trash on the beach, large holes left in the sand that are dangerous to humans and nesting turtles, and fishing in swimming areas. Mr. McCann stated that beach parking would be the subject at other meetings. The Committee members heard all citizens concerns in attendance to take back to their fellow Council members.

Ralph Wagner, Shore Beach Services (SBS), spoke regarding his thoughts on the tents and canopies topic. He stated that SBS spends extra time dealing with the tents and canopies abandoned due to damage or those left up by beach goers overnight. Those that are damaged have to be cut up and properly disposed in off-sight dumpsters and the ones left up by beach goers overnight receive a notice that they are in violation of Town ordinance. Mr. Wagner stated that trends have shown that there are not as many tents and canopies being left overnight as there used to be but it is still happening. Mr. Wagner gave a report that only 150 tents/canopies have been tagged for violations and they see approximately 40 broken canopies per week during peak summer months. He concluded that because current Town ordinance already prevents littering and subjects violators to fines, no change needs to be made to address those who abandon tents or canopies. Also the littering issue does not merit imposing any bans or restrictions. On occasion, some canopies are set up in front of the lifeguard stations; however, the visitor is asked to move to allow full visual of the water and all have complied. He stated that umbrellas are more likely to be dangerous than tents as they are not as secure in the sand and can be uprooted easier. In his opinion, tents are more secure and less likely to blow, and having the tents with the current umbrella line could work for Hilton Heads beaches. Mr. Lennox asked is if the trend of canopies were increasing or decreasing and Mr. Wagner stated that it is definitely increasing.

Mr. Harkins thanked everyone for coming and he feels this is the way Town governments should work by listening to the people and their concerns. Deliberating these matters with the other members of Town Council will be their next step.

7. **Adjournment:**

Mr. Harkins made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Lennox seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Approved: October 13, 2015

Respectfully submitted:

John McCann, Chairman

Cindaia Ervin, Secretary