

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of the Monday, February 15, 2016  
Regular Meeting

*Members Present:* Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, Thomas W. Lennox, *Council Member*; and David Bennett, *Mayor and Committee Alternate*

*Members Absent:* John McCann

*Others Present:* Joe Croley, *Lowcountry Inside Track*; and Hannah Horne, *Hilton Head Island – Bluffton Chamber of Commerce*

*Staff Present:* Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Faidra Smith, *Administration Manager/Public Information Coordinator*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

*Media Present:* None

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Harkins.

**2. Freedom of Information Act 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 motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee was made by Mr. Lennox and seconded by Chairman Harkins. The motion was adopted by a vote of 2-0, with Mr. McCann absent.

**4. Chairman's Report**

None.

**5. Unfinished Business**

None.

**6. New Business**

**a. General Discussion with Invited Legislative Delegation Member, Senator Tom Davis**

Chairman Harkins introduced and welcomed Senator Tom Davis. Senator Davis briefly outlined the status of the roads compromise bill which is resulting from his filibuster during the last weeks of the 2015 legislative session. He explained in detail the reforms it might contain for the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB), and a discussion ensued concerning the need for such reforms on both the revenue and expenditure sides, whether a gas tax increase is needed, and the political obstacles and strategies to be considered. Senator Davis expressed optimism that a compromise bill would be passed during this legislative session.

Senator Davis reported that the Affordable Housing Bill has a good chance of moving before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for bills to cross over to the House.

Senator Davis reported he has begun talks with SCDOT concerning long-term planning for a replacement bridge or augmenting the bridge to Hilton Head Island, the community involvement needed for a general consensus of the concept, and the funding sources available.

The economic impact of the Jasper Port was briefly discussed, the infrastructure needed, the labor force created, and long-term regional planning required for affordable housing and mass transit. Alliances for economic development and common interests shared with other communities and the major Metropolitan Savannah area were also discussed and encouraged.

In response to questions from the public, Senator Davis stated his belief that the Local Government Fund (LGF) would probably see a substantial increase in this legislative session, but still not be fully funded. He explained that the business license bill was linked to the LGF, and business license fees would probably not be reduced if funding of the LGF is increased.

Chairman Harkins and Senator Davis discussed the good flow of information and communication that exists between the Town and its state legislators.

Chairman Harkins thanked Senator Davis for his excellent report.

## **6. Adjournment**

At 11:13 a.m. Chairman Harkins declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lynn W. Buchman  
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved on: May 16, 2016

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Bill Harkins, Chairman