



Town of Hilton Head Island
Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present from the Committee: Jim Fluker, *Chairman*; Stephen Arnold, *Vice-Chairman*; Cecile Eck, John Farrell, Margaret Johnson, Martin Lesch, Keith Schlegel

Present from Town Council: David Ames, (*Mayor Pro-Tem*) and Tamara Becker

Present from Town Staff: John Troyer, *Director of Finance*; Cindaia Ervin, *Assistant Town Clerk*, Natalie Harvey, *Office of Cultural Affairs*, Shena Smith *Finance Assistant*

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.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. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Fluker asked the Committee to consider the agenda be amended to include discussion of the new Legislation Bill 284 to New Business proceeding 11a. Mr. Arnold made the motion to amend the agenda to include discussion of the new Legislation of Bill 284 as a New Business item. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

4. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – April 6, 2023

Chairman Fluker asked that the agenda be amended to correct the spelling of Committee Members Cecile Eck's name. Stephen Arnold then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 6, 2023, once amended. Mrs. Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Arnold seconded. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-2 with Martin Lesch and Keith Schlegel abstaining as they were not members of the Committee at that time.

5. Crystal Award Presentation

a. James Berghausen

John Troyer, Director of Finance, presented Mr. Berghausen with his Crystal Award. Mr. Berghausen served six years on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and Mr. Troyer thanked him for his excellent service on behalf of Town Council.

b. Julie Martin

Mrs. Martin was not present for the meeting and therefor will be sent her Crystal Award.

c. Richard Thomas

John Troyer, Director of Finance, presented Mr. Thomas with his Crystal Award. Mr. Thomas served six years on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and Mr. Troyer thanked him for his excellent service on behalf of Town Council.

6. Swearing in of Reappointed Member

a. Cecile Eck

John Troyer, Director of Finance, swore in reappointed Committee Member Cecile Eck. He congratulated her on behalf of Town Council and thanked her for the important role she will continue to serve in the community.

7. Swearing in of Appointed Member

a. Martin Lesch

John Toyer, Director of Finance, swore in committee member Martin Lesch. He congratulated him on behalf of Town Council and thanked him for the important role he will now serve in the community.

b. Keith Schlegel

John Toyer, Director of Finance, swore in committee member Keith Schlegel. He congratulated him on behalf of Town Council and thanked him for the important role he will now serve in the community.

8. Reception

A short break was taken for those present to participate in the reception to congratulate and welcome the newly appointed members, reappointed member, and to thank outgoing members for their service to the community and committee.

9. Special Orders

a. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Mr. Arnold made a motion to reappoint James Fluker as Chairman. Ms. Johnson seconded. After discussion by the Committee, by way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Fluker abstained from the vote.

Mr. Lesch made a motion to appoint Stephen Arnold as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Schlegel seconded. After discussion by the Committee, by way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Arnold abstained from the vote.

10. Appearance by Citizens

Cindaia Ervin, Assistant Town Clerk, stated that comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. The public comment period closed the day prior to the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Skip Hoagland: Addressed the members of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee regarding his concerns of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, the Freedom of information Act and other issues related to the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Lynn Greeley: Was not present at the time of the meeting. Mr. Hoagland presented a Power of Attorney on her behalf and addressed the Committee for her. Ms. Greeley's address was

regarding concerns of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and transparency issues related to the Town of Hilton Head Island.

Mr. Fluker noted that pursuant to the Town Ordinance Section 2-5-27 and AG Opinion of the 3-minute limit, Mr. Fluker would allow Mr. Hoagland to speak on behalf of Ms. Greeley for this meeting and this meeting only.

11. New Business

- a.** Discussion regarding potential amendments to the Accommodations Tax Grant Application for 2024

Cindaia Ervin, Assistant Town Clerk, discussed the 2024 Accommodations Tax Grant Application for the Committee and potential applicants in the audience. She and the Committee discussed the changes brought up in the April meeting regarding slight wording changes that were made to the financial section, bolding of dates to help draw the applicant's attention to, and having the Town's Web Administrator to not allow the application to be able to be submitted if all areas of the final check list were agreed to by the applicant.

The Chairman and Assistant Town Clerk asked for questions and comments from the potential applicants that were present and there very few.

- b.** New Legislation Act 284

Mr. Stephen Arnold asked for a motion to remove discussion of Legislative Bill 284 to the August Committee Meeting when further details of the new legislation were made clear. Mr. Lesch seconded the motion and motion was carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

12. Adjournment

At 9:51 a.m. Mr. Fluker adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by: Shenandoah Smith, Secretary

Approved: August 10, 2023