

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Present from Town Council:** David Bennett, *Mayor*; Kim Likins, *Mayor Pro Tempore*; John McCann, Bill Harkins, Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, David Ames, *Council Members*

**Present from Town Staff:** Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; John Troyer, *Finance Director*; Nancy Gasen, *Human Resources Director*; Jenn McEwen, *Director of Cultural Affairs*; John Tuttle, *Information Technology Director*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Steven Markiw, *Deputy Finance Director*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Julian Walls, *Facilities Manager*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief, Support Services*; Chris Blankenship, *Deputy Fire Chief, Operations*; Heidi Boring, *Finance Administrator*; Cindaia Ervin, *Finance Assistant*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Executive Assistant/Town Clerk*

**Present from Media:** Alex Kincaid, *Island Packet*

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**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. FOIA Compliance** - Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and distributed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

**3. Review of General Operating Budget**

Mr. Riley provided an overview of the general operating budget to Town Council. He made mention of the discussions that took place during the Budget Workshop the week prior regarding potential changes to the Solicitor's Office request, and wrapping up the discussion regarding the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office request. Mr. Riley reported that the general operating budget is flat for the year, as is debt. service. He said that CIP is still aggressive, however less than last year, but there will be funds to roll forward. Mr. Riley stated that Stormwater is down, but that was due to a one time infusion of borrowed funds last year for repair work. He said he was happy to report that the Town recently received a new reimbursement from FEMA to be added to the previously received reimbursement. Mr. Riley said that this year is a reassessment year, and some preliminary figures have been received from the County, which are currently being reviewed very closely. Mr. Riley said that there would not be a formal presentation from staff to go over the general operating fund or debt. service, but that Mr. Troyer is going to answer questions posed by Council. Mr. Riley said there are a number of unmet needs that are continuing to increase, and described those needs to Council. He said the staffing requests to meet the increased needs were not brought forward simply because the funds are not available. Mr. Riley concluded his overview by stating that the budget presented to Council is a balanced budget that meets the most critical needs.

Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Riley if he could provide a list of the staffing needs and their associated costs to Council for review. Mr. Riley said he would provide the information, but does not want to make it part of the budget documentation. Council continued the discussion with Mr. Riley and Town staff regarding the staffing needs to meet the current unmet needs.

John Troyer, Finance Director, provided additional information to previously asked questions concerning the general fund. He continued to answer questions posed by the members of Council, providing detailed answers related to each individual line item he was asked about.

**4. Review of Debt. Service**

Mr. Troyer provided a high level overview of the debt. service, and continued to answer questions posed by the members of Council. Mayor Bennett addressed the numbers provided for the sewer project, and suggested that the Hilton Head Public Service District could make a presentation at the next meeting to discuss the sewer project master plan.

## **5. Review of Capital Improvement Program**

Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects & Facilities/Chief Engineer, provided an overview and answered questions from the members of Council related to both the capital improvement program and stormwater utility fund.

Mayor Bennett asked if there was anyone who wanted to make a public comment related to the budget discussions that took place during the Workshop. Several members of the community at large addressed the members of Council regarding the funding for the Cordillo Courts project.

Just prior to the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Riley brought to the attention of Council a guidance letter received from the South Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the project at Squire Pope Road and U.S. 278. Mr. Riley also discussed the potential allocation of funds for repaving Palmetto Bay Road.

## **6. Adjournment**

Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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Krista M. Wiedmeyer,  
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 06/05/2018

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David Bennett, Mayor