

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, July 17, 2018**

**Time: 4:00 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*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects & Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; John Troyer, *Finance Director*; Jenn McEwen *Director of Cultural Affairs*; Carolyn Grant, *Communications Director*; Steven Markiw, *Deputy Finance Director*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief, Support Services*; Chris Blankenship, *Deputy Fire Chief, Operations*; April Atkins, *Revenue Services Supervisor*; Lorraine Schmidt, *Revenue & Collections Project Manager*; Rene Phillips, *Website Administrator*; Andrew Nicholls, *Systems Analyst*; 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 4:00 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. Executive Session**

Mr. Riley stated that he needed an Executive Session for: (a) Legal Matters; discussion of legal advice related to matters pending, threatened, or potential claim related to; (i) ArborNature, LLC vs. the Town of Hilton Head Island, et. al., and (ii) Sewer easements requested by Hilton Head PSD; (b) Land Acquisition Matters; discussions of negotiations incident to the proposed contractual arrangements, sales, or purchase of property in the Beach City Road area, and (c) Personnel/Employment Matters; discussion of the Town Manager's annual performance review and compensation.

At 4:02 p.m. Mrs. Likins moved to go into Executive Session for matters mentioned by the Town Manager. Mr. Harkins seconded. Mr. McCann requested that item 3(c) under Executive Session be moved to the top of the agenda. Mr. Grant requested that Council address a matter that took place over the previous weekend. Mr. Hulbert stated that it is a municipal matter, and due to its pending nature, it is not appropriate to discuss in Executive Session. The motion to go into Executive Session was approved by a vote of 7-0.

Town Council returned to the dais at 5:05 p.m. to begin the Regular portion of the meeting.

**4. Pledge to the Flag**

**5. Invocation**

**6. Proclamations & Commendations – NONE**

**a. Recognition of the Search & Rescue Efforts for Mr. James Holub**

Mayor Bennett made some remarks regarding the agencies involved in the search and rescue efforts of Mr. Holub. He then asked Mrs. Holub to come to the podium, where she made some remarks thanking the community and all involved in finding her husband. Mayor Bennett gave a Certificate of Appreciation to Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, Bluffton Township Fire Department, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue, Hilton Head Plantation Security, Hilton Head Plantation POA, and to the Strietenberger Family.

**b. Mayor's Honored Islanders**

- i. Claudia Kennedy**
- ii. Michael Znachko**
- iii. Susan Roberts**

Mayor Bennett made some remarks and presented a certificate to each of the three Honored Islanders mentioned herein above.

**c. Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation**

Mayor Bennett presented the July 2018 Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation to Mary Hall and Frank Soule of the Island Recreation Association.

## **7. Approval of Minutes**

### **a. Town Council Public Hearing/Special Meeting, June 12, 2018**

Mrs. Likins moved to approve the Town Council Public Hearing/Special Meeting minutes from June 12, 2018. Mr. Harkins seconded, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. Mr. Lennox was not present at the June 12, 2018 meeting.

### **b. Town Council Meeting, June 19, 2018**

Mrs. Likins moved to approve the minutes from June 19, 2018 Town Council meeting. Mr. Harkins seconded, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

## **8. Report of Town Manager**

### **a. Board of Zoning Appeals Update – David Fingerhut**

David Fingerhut, Chairman, provided an update to Council concerning the items that had taken place over the last six months. He reported that the Board heard one variance request and two appeals, and with no further business to report on, he concluded his report.

### **b. Design Review Board Update – Jake Gartner**

Jake Gartner, Chairman, provided an update to Council concerning the items that had taken place over the last six months. He reported that they had a light schedule lately, only approving approximately 16 applications. With no questions from Council his report was concluded.

### **c. University of South Carolina Update**

Mr. Riley reviewed the update provided by the University. He reported that work continues as scheduled, noting that all roofing components are installed. Mr. Riley stated that the project schedule allows for the University to occupy the facility by the middle of October.

### **d. Items of Interest**

- i. Town News**
- ii. Noteworthy Events**

Mr. Riley reviewed the Items of Interest including Town news, upcoming meetings, and current events taking place throughout the Island over the coming weeks.

## **9. Reports from Members of Council**

### **a. General Reports from Council**

Mr. McCann noted that the members of Council each received a letter from the President and CEO of the Hilton Head Island Symphony Orchestra, and asked how Council was planning on proceeding to respond back to the letter. Mayor Bennett responded, stating that he had just returned from being out of town, but had seen the letter and was still considering it. He said that he would reach out to obtain some additional clarification and then reach out to Council thereafter.

Mr. Ames reported that his constituents have shared the dangers of the intersection of US-278 and Yacht Cove. He said that he would like to solve the dangerous situation locally, and is encouraged that the Town Manager and Traffic Engineer are seeking ways to improve the intersection. Mr. Ames said that the second matter he would like to discuss is the success stories of the nesting turtles. He thanked, all of the entities and volunteers involved with the turtle's care each year, stating that this speaks to the Islands brand of environmental care and the visions pillar of sustainability. Mr. Ames said that holes and forts on the beach left unfilled are barrier for mother turtles and a hazard for beach goers and Shore Beach Services vehicles. He said that he believes this situation deserves a staff recommendation to address it, and reported that other coastal communities have done something to address this matter.

Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Riley what the answers were concerning the intersection at US-278 and Yacht Cove. He asked if there were options for lighting or flashing lights or even petitioning the SCDOT to slow down the traffic. Mr. Riley said that there isn't one single solution for each matter. He said as Mr. Ames pointed out, US-278 is a State Highway, and is subject to the SCDOT rules and regulations. Mr. Riley said he would work to staff about the ideas that could be brought forward regarding this matter and would report back.

## **Reports from Members of Council (cont.)**

### **b. Report of the Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman**

Mr. Harkins said that as a follow-up to the prior conversation that his Committee would like to take a look at the items posed by Mr. Riley. Mr. Harkins reported that a major issue that is looming, is the Jasper Port project. He said the project is currently involved in some political discussions of sorts, and has the potential of being postponed significantly. Mr. Harkins said that he would be speaking with Senator Davis about this matter to see what avenues could be taken to avoid any further delay of this project.

### **c. Report of the Community Services Committee – Kim Likins, Chairman**

Mrs. Likins reported that the Committee would be meeting on July 18, 2018 to finalize the interviews for the ATAC Committee.

### **d. Report of the Public Planning Committee – David Ames, Chairman**

Mr. Ames reported that the Committee is working closely with Chamber and staff continuing to address the alignment with the Chamber's Designated Marketing Organization matrix and the Vision. He said that the way marketing success is being measured is not sustainable for the Island's economy, environment, infrastructure, resident quality of life, and quality of guest experience. Mr. Ames said that the DMO matrix must be aligned with broader economic and community matrix in order to be in alignment with the Vision. Mr. Ames said that the Chamber and the Committee would continue to work on the broader alignment, with the help of key public stakeholders. Mr. Ames said the next steps are to refine DMO marketing matrix and to improve the way we, the Town, measures economic progress and community health. Mayor Bennett asked Mr. Ames where the Committee was at with the Vision as a whole. Mr. Ames reported that Town staff and the Planning Commission have been meeting, and from his standpoint and others of the Committee, that community input is not integrated directly enough. Mr. Ames said further conversations are continuing with staff regarding this matter, and there are two issues to keep in mind, every business, non-profit, and the like must understand the Vision and understand what they can do to support it. He said that it has to be a community effort with 100% buy in if that is practical. Further stating that the creativity, and innovation and out of the box thinking that citizens have is part of the process every step of the way. He said that he feels very strongly that the community is involved with phase 2 of the conversation. Mayor Bennett asked Alex Brown, Chairman of the Planning Commission what his involvement has been with phase 2 of the Vision. Mr. Brown said that at the upcoming Planning Commission on July 18, 2018, they would be discussion phase 2, calling it a Comp. Plan meeting of sorts. He went on to say that members of the community have been invited. Mr. Brown said from this meeting, a concise plan would be brought back to the Public Planning Committee for further discussion.

### **e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – Marc Grant, Chairman**

Mr. Grant reported that the Committee met on July 9, 2018 to discuss the Hilton Head Public Sewer District expansion plan and reimbursement agreement. Mr. Grant reported that the Committee met on June 25, 2018 where the Committee approved MOU for the Island Recreation Association, but tabled the discussion for the dirt roads until the meeting on July 23, 2018. Mayor Bennett asked about further discussions concerning LMO modification with regards to pre and post taking density. Mr. Cousins clarified that once the new LMO Committee is appointed by the Planning Commission, the item would be discussed.

### **f. Report of the Finance & Administrative Committee – John McCann, Chairman**

Mr. McCann stated there was no report at this time.

## **10. Appearance by Citizens**

**Joe Izzo:** Addressed the members of Council about the safety concerns intersection at Yacht Cove and US-278.

**Linda Prosser:** Addressed the members of Council about the safety concerns intersection at Yacht Cove and US-278.

**Karen Wells:** Addressed the members of Council about sea wall legislation.

**Dana Advocaat:** Addressed the members of Council about the sea wall in Sea Pines.

**Linda Farrenpopf:** Addressed the members of Council about the sea wall in Sea Pines.

**Rikki Parker:** Addressed the members of Council about the sea wall in Sea Pines.

**Mary Amonitti:** Addressed the members of Council about workforce and affordable housing on the Island.

**11. Unfinished Business - NONE**

**12. New Business**

**a. First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2018-07**

First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2018-07 to amend Chapter 1 of Title 10, (Business and Professional Licenses), of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, to amend Section 10-1-20, Definitions; to amend Section 10-1-30, Purpose and Duration; to amend Section 10-1-40, License Fee; to amend Section 10-1-50, Registration Required; to amend Section 10-1-80, Display and Transfer; to amend Section 10-1-120, Delinquent License Fees; to repeal Section 10-1-190, Classification Rates Schedules (Exhibit “A”); to amend Chapter 9 of Title 4, (Beach Preservation Fee), Section 4-9-100, Violations and Penalty (Exhibit “B”); to amend Chapter 10 of Title 4, (Local Accommodation Tax), Section 4-10-50, Collections of Local Accommodation Tax (Exhibit “C”); and to amend Chapter 13 of Title 4 (Local Hospitality Tax), Section 4-13-100, Violations and Penalty (Exhibit “D”); and providing for severability and effective date.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve, Mr. Harkins seconded. Upon no discussion from the dais or public at large, the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

**b. First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2018-10**

First Reading of Proposed Ordinance 2018-10 to amend the budget for the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018; to provide for the expenditures of certain funds; to allocate the sources of revenue for the said funds; and providing for severability and an effective date.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve, Mr. Harkins seconded. Upon no discussion from the dais or public at large, the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

**c. Consideration of a Resolution – Florence Graham Island Rezoning**

Consideration of a Resolution by the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island denying the Application for Zoning Map Amendment ZA-001111-2018 which requests an amendment to Chapter 1 of Title 16, “The Land Management Ordinance” (LMO), of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, by amending Section 16-1-107, the Official Zoning Map with respect to the certain parcel identified as Parcel 362 on Beaufort County Tax Map 10 from the CON (Conservation) Zoning District to the RSF-3 (Residential Single-Family 3) Zoning District.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve, Mr. Harkins seconded. Lauren Williams, attorney for the Applicant addressed the members of Council making a short presentation. After a brief discussion and questions posed to Town staff, the Mayor brought the vote back to the dais where the motion passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. McCann opposing.

**d. Consideration of a Recommendation – Island Rec. Association Memorandum of Understanding**

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Facilities Committee to Town Council authorizing the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Hilton Head Island Recreation Association, Inc.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve, Mr. Harkins seconded. Mrs. Likins said that she would like to see the Island Recreation Association’s emergency operations plan submitted to Council shortly after the execution of the MOU. She stated that there is an importance of having such a plan to ensure the safety of those occupying the premises during the operation of the facility. Mayor Bennett echoed Mrs. Likins statements, and asked Mr. Riley to make arrangements to have the Island Recreation Association provide copies of their plan during an update within the next six months. Frank Soule from the Island Recreation Association spoke and indicated that such a plan is currently being worked on and will be available for Council to review. With no further discussion or comments, the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

**New Business (cont.)**

**e. Consideration of a Recommendation – Hilton Head Public Service District Cost Reimbursement Agreement**

Consideration of a Recommendation from the Public Facilities Committee to Town Council authorizing the Town Manager to execute the cost reimbursement agreement between the Town of Hilton Head Island and Hilton Head Public Service District.

Mrs. Likins moved to approve, Mr. Harkins seconded. Upon no discussion from the dais or public at large, the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

**13. Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session.**

Based on Council's completion of a review of the Town Manager's FY18 job performance and his compensation conducted during Executive Session, Mr. McCann moved that Mr. Riley receive; for FY16 performance, a lump sum bonus of \$5,000, for FY17 performance, a lump sum bonus of \$5,000, and for FY18 performance, a 3% salary increase (\$5,257), resulting in a new base salary of \$180,460, with the changes being effective with Mr. Riley's contract term starting July 1, 2018. Mr. Harkins seconded. With some discussions taking place at the dais both in favor and not in favor of Mr. Riley's receipt of a salary increase, Mayor Bennett opened the discussion to the public at large. Upon no further discussion from the public or the dais, the motion passed by a vote of 4-3 with Mayor Bennett, Mrs. Likins, and Mr. Ames opposing.

**14. Adjournment**

Mayor Bennett adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

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Krista M. Wiedmeyer,  
Executive Assistant/Town Clerk

Approved: 08/14/2018

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David Bennett, Mayor