



Town of Hilton Head Island
Community Services & Public Safety Committee
Monday, September 28, 2020 at 9:00 am
MEETING MINUTES

Present From the Committee: Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, Tamara Becker

Present from Town Council: Glenn Stanford

Present from Town Staff: Josh Gruber, Brad Tadlock, Jeff Buckalew, Darrin Shoemaker, Chris Blankenship, Joheida Fister, Tom Dunn, Tom Bouthillet, Karen Knox

Others Present:

Present from Media: None

1. Call to Order

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

3. Roll Call – Councilman Harkins was absent Council Member Becker filled in as Alternate.

4. Approval of Minutes

a) August 24, 2020

Councilman Lennox moved to approve the Minutes of August 24, 2020. Council Member Becker seconded. The Minutes of August 24, 2020 were unanimously approved.

5. Citizen Comments

Public comments concerning this agenda item could be submitted electronically via the Town's Virtual Town Hall portal. Citizens could comment on agenda items by phone during the meeting by signing up with the Recording Secretary. The public comment closed at Noon on September 25, 2020. There were six comments by citizens and no requests from citizens to participate by phone.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. 2019 Fire Rescue Annual Report and 2020 Fire Rescue Mid-Year Update

Chief Brad Tadlock gave a detailed overview of the 2019 Fire Rescue Annual Report and the 2020 Mid-Year Update. Chairman Grant and the entire Committee thanked Chief Tadlock and his staff for all their hard work and dedication.

b. Discussion of Supplemental Funding Request for the Island Recreation Association in the amount of \$140,000 to replace annual funding withdrawn by Beaufort County.

Josh Gruber stated that staff recommends the Committee forward to Town Council a recommendation to authorize a supplemental funding request to the Island Recreation Association in the amount of \$140,000 to make them whole for the current budget year.

During its budget adoption for the FY 2021, Beaufort County Council reduced their funding allocation to the Island Recreation Association in the amount of \$140,000. In order to ensure that this unanticipated reduction in funding does not result in a reduction of programing services, or otherwise negatively impact Island residents, staff is recommending that Town Council provide a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$140,000 from existing budgeted funds currently escrowed in a segregated line item within the Town's General Fund to offset the reduction initiated by Beaufort County. There are no anticipated budgetary impacts as a result of this request.

Councilman Lennox moved to approve. Council Member Becker seconded. The Motion unanimously passed.

c. **Burkes Beach On-Street Parking**

Jeff Buckalew stated that his understanding is this item will go to Town Council to see what we should do with the on-street parking on Burkes Beach Road from William Hilton Parkway down to the permanent spaces down by the beach. The history is that this is a County road maintained by Beaufort County. There was a wide paved shoulder originally put in there for pedestrians or bike travel down to the beach. When the park was constructed, the initial construction was the soccer fields and people using the fields led to people parking along the road shoulder to walk to the soccer fields. To alleviate that, the Town constructed 51 spaces between the soccer field and US 278 hoping to alleviate the need for people to park on the side of the road to walk to the soccer fields. At that time, the Town also constructed a pathway from that parking lot down alongside the soccer fields to get to the beach. Hopefully, if you were riding along William Hilton Parkway pathways and you wanted to go to the beach, you could get off and use that pathway. Since then, I understand lots of folks park there just to go to the beach. You turn down Burkes Beach Road and you want to go to the beach and you see a wide shoulder – people are parking there. We have no parking signs and we have since instituted a barrel and rope system to further prevent that. As I understand it, the issue is would the Town like to formalize parking there or ensure its prohibition through better signage, pavement markings and enforcement.

Councilman Lennox said he was down there yesterday afternoon for about 45 minutes early in the afternoon and saw a lot of activity. Most of the activity was from the parking lot and pathway accessing the beach. There was minimal activity on the road. That being said, it seems to me that parking on the shoulder is not desirable and I would defer to Mrs. Becker who has a lot more experience on Burkes Beach Road and any issues pertaining to foot traffic and parking. It seems to me that keeping it the same way it is and requiring beach access parking through Chaplin Park would be more than sufficient.

Council Member Becker stated the fact is that Burkes Beach Road was not set up to have parking along the side and during this time which is more of a shoulder season since Labor Day there are less people coming to the beach. Over the course of this summer when Burkes Beach Road was blocked off with two exceptions, there were zero complaints about having to park in Chaplin Park and use the pre-planned parking to access the beach as well as the Community Park. There seems to be no harm done in going back and doing what is the obvious and creating a safe road down Burkes Beach to travel. Burkes Beach Road is a very dangerous place and the extra parking we instituted is an absolute disaster waiting to happen. Many residents have written in by virtue of the Town Hall Portal and I am getting

emails from residents also. Chaplin Park is really well designed with sufficient parking to satisfy the beach goers as well as those who come to use the fields with no trouble.

Chairman Grant said I think we should keep it as is for now and my opinion is we do not need Code Enforcement down there. I believe it needs to be redeveloped. One thing I spoke to the Town Manager about is that it should be a round-about installed where people can drop off and then park at Chaplin Park. I think there should be a concrete shoulder for bike path only to eliminate anyone trying to park on the side of the road at Burkes Beach. Long term there needs to be some type of plan and vision so that we don't put Code Enforcement in there trying to tell people no when they have only one option which is to park in the parking area. I think that is the long term goal of what we should be looking at. In terms of short term, right now I think what we have is sufficient – keep the whole area blocked off and let everyone park at Chaplin Park until next year. Hopefully by next year Jeff, you and your staff can look at ways of making it easier for everybody to use it. The season will be back around before you know it. We must come up with a plan to deter people to park on the side.

Council Member Becker said that taking away trees and adding pavement is against everything that Hilton Head Island stands for. It just does a disservice to the folks who live back there. You would never think of doing this behind a plantation gate, you would never think of doing this along Singleton Beach Road. Burkes Beach Road should be off limits as well. There is a bike path, there is a foot path that is marked from William Hilton Parkway along the side of Chaplin Park down to the beach access which is sufficiently wide to satisfy bikes and children and all of the rest. If anything should be happening what I truly believe in keeping with Hilton Head's brand is that the area that has been pushed back by cars parking along there should be re-planted and more greenery installed so that the residential neighborhood stays intact and again that the road becomes safe. Furthermore, in terms of parking, the idea that we would be at this point even thinking even remotely breathing a word about creating more parking in light of the fact that we have a parking study and that parking study was briefed to us on the Public Planning Committee just a month ago and there is no additional capacity being looked at for creating parking further points to Burkes Beach Road needing to be re-landscaped and a safe residential neighborhood provided for those who live in the area.

Chairman Grant said the only reason he brought it up was how does a fire truck get down there and out and do what they need to do in case of an emergency.

Councilman Stanford encouraged Jeff Buckalew to work on some engineering study to solve the problems coming through loud and clear from Council and would recommend this be added as a new CIP Project. You need to work with Scott Liggett and others to work about getting that in place to move it forward. I wish it could be done immediately but it sounds like it is not likely but it does need to be engineered in an appropriate way. I know that you are the man to get that done for us. Council Member Becker move to keep Burkes Beach Road a non-parking road and that there be no parking along Burkes Beach Road on either side. Councilman Lennox seconded. The Motion unanimously passed.

8. Adjournment

Councilman Lennox moved to adjourn. Council Member Becker seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Submitted by:

Karen D. Knox

Approved: October 26, 2020