

**THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Monday, March 30, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present from Town Council: John J. McCann, *Mayor*; Bill Harkins, *Mayor Pro-Tempore*; David Ames, Tamara Becker, Marc Grant, Tom Lennox, Glenn Stanford, *Council Members*

Present from Town Staff: Steve Riley, *Town Manager*; Joshua Gruber, *Assistant Town Manager*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Exec. Assist/Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. By way of roll call, Mayor McCann confirmed the presence of all members of Town Council.

Mayor McCann explained that he had received word that the Governor would be holding a press conference at 4:00 p.m. which is why he moved the start time of this meeting to 6:00 p.m. Mayor McCann also noted that after having conversations with the Mayors throughout Beaufort County, a decision was made to give the Governor an additional 48 hours to respond to the stay-at-home request.

Mr. Riley reviewed statistics related to the number of viewers reached during the first virtual meeting. He said that the citizen reach was greater than any other council meeting ever. Mr. Riley also provided the statistics for website traffic from March 10th to March 26th. He continued by saying that the Town is getting a lot of information out and reaching a significant number of people. Mr. Riley said that he received an update from Sea Pines who manages about 400 rentals. He said that as of that morning, 147 units were occupied, of those occupied, 41 were occupied by short-term renters who had a reservation and in their unit before Sea Pines stopped accepting reservations, the other 106 units were owner occupied. Mr. Riley also went over the traffic count compared to the same time last year. Mr. Riley mentioned the number of items that the Town is going to start doing to promote some positivity throughout the Island.

- 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. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the approval of the agenda, Mr. Ames asked that after all scheduled business, each member of Council have a chance to express what they have been experiencing. Mr. Harkins moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Becker seconded. By way of roll call, the motion was approved 7-0.

4. Consideration of a Resolution

Consideration of a Resolution to urge rental agencies, including hotels/motels, to voluntarily stop taking reservations through the month of April. Urge agencies not to target promotional materials to areas hard hit by COVID-19

Mr. Stanford said he would like to amend agenda item number 4 to say; “including a notice to the rental companies and others that are offering rental properties on the Island, asking them to give notice to prospects about what is closed on the Island, so that they are discouraged from coming here.” Mr. Harkins moved to approve as amended. Mr. Stanford seconded. The members of Council had a brief discussion on this item. By way of roll call, the motion as amended was approved by a vote of 7-0.

5. Consideration of a Resolution

Consideration of a Resolution to urge residents and guests to limit recreation to walking and biking or to activities that they can walk or bike to. Close Town park parking lots. Keep Town beach parking lots closed. Urge POA’s and private clubs to voluntarily restrict access to their beach facilities to walkers and bikers. To be effective through the end of April

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Grant seconded. The members of Council had a brief discussion on this item. During the discussion, a notice was received that the Governor issued an executive order closing all beaches throughout the state. Mr. Riley read the press release concerning the Governor’s executive order. Mr. Harkins amended his first motion to include both public and private beach access. Mr. Grant seconded. Mr. Riley confirmed that the resolution being considered does include the Town-owned parks. Mr. Harkins amended the amended motion to include the Town’s ability to tow vehicles from the on-street parking at Burks Beach Road. By way of roll call, the motion as amended was approved by a vote of 7-0.

6. Consideration of a Resolution

Consideration of a Resolution urging businesses that are non-essential (per Homeland Security Guidelines), or where the ability to practice social distancing is comprised, to voluntarily close through the month of April

Mr. Harkins moved to approve. Mr. Stanford seconded. The members of Council had a brief discussion on this item. By way of a roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

7. Town Council Comments

Mayor McCann called on each member of Council who discussed items that were of importance to them and their constituents.

8. Adjournment

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

Approved: April 28, 2020

John J. McCann, Mayor