



Town of Hilton Head Island
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
MEETING MINUTES

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

Present from Town Staff: Marc Orlando, *Town Manager*; Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Shawn Colin, *Interim Deputy Town Manager*; Angie Stone, *Interim Deputy Town Manager*; Jennifer Ray, *Interim Director of Community Development*; Jeff Buckalew, *Interim Director of Public Projects & Facilities/Chief Engineer*; Darrin Shoemaker, *Traffic Engineer*; Krista Wiedmeyer, *Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. By way of roll call, attendance of all members of Town Council was affirmed.

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. U.S. 278 Gateway Corridor Project Status Update

Mr. Orlando made a few comments, stating that he and the Mayor met with the Hilton Head members of the 278 Oversight Committee. He said they spoke about the project schedule and a letter that the Committee sent to HDR with some of their concerns and requests. Mr. Orlando said that Shawn Colin will take the lead on the project, coordinating staff and outside agencies.

Mr. Colin led off the discussion by first summarizing the workshop from March 10, 2021, covering each of the topics discussed at that meeting. He reviewed the strategic direction and action items that came out of the March 10th meeting. Mr. Colin then discussed the key points from the feedback Council provided in advance of this workshop.

Mr. Colin talked about the Land Planning team. He said that the Town had contracted with MKSK who was tasked with developing a Corridor Plan including development scenarios, public spaces, and visualization. He also reviewed some upcoming meetings with MKSK, noting that the intent of staff is to also have MKSK meet with Town Council.

Mr. Colin reviewed the questions that the Hilton Head Island members of the 278 Oversight Committee had posed to HDR. He said that both the SCDOT and HDR had these questions and the answers would be incorporated into the final report from HDR.

Mr. Colin reviewed the SCDOT NEPA schedule and where they are currently. He talked about what the next steps are for the SCDOT, noting that they have moved the public hearing out to July 2021.

Mr. Orlando said that the Town has become very engaged with this project. Sending the concerns and feedback from Town Council to the SCDOT and HDR. He said he has had meaningful conversations with the SCDOT and feel there is a clear path forward to move the project along. Mr. Orlando assured Town Council that their feedback is important and that he and staff are listening. He thanked Mr. Colin for taking the lead on this project, and asked for Council Questions.

Discussion Continued:

All of the members of Town Council expressed their gratitude to Mr. Orlando and staff for bringing forward a thoughtful plan as the project moves forward.

Mr. Stanford asked if there was a drop-dead date when a decisions on the project must be giving, specifically asking about utilizing the funding that we awarded. Mr. Colin told Mr. Stanford that there has to be such a date, but that he did not know the answer to the question. He said that staff is working to better understand the SCDOT schedule, but are also working to set-up an internal schedule. Mr. Stanford asked if there would be a preliminary viewing or update on the preferred alternative. Mr. Colin said that when the SCDOT notices the public hearing, the materials would be released to the public to begin to review. Mr. Stanford asked if there has been discussion about grade separation at Old Wild Horse Road. Mr. Colin answered affirmatively, that HDR was currently reviewing and discussing.

Mr. Ames asked that Council have an opportunity to express the Island values to the consultants from MKSK. Mr. Colin said that such an opportunity is being planned. Mr. Ames expressed his concern for the Town to have a Land Master Plan, and if MKSK could assist with such a plan. He also said that the community has made a statement that we are planning an infrastructure to accommodate as many people as possible. He closed by stating that as Council, we have to connect our decisions to rezoning.

Mrs. Becker stated that one of the critical items is to identify what the true needs are and where they exist. She said there has to be an overall discussion that comes from Council, that we are stopping and considering the overall thoughts and capacity for the entire Island.

Mr. Harkins said the chain reaction of Council's decisions, could have multiple impacts throughout the Island. He said that this is our entry point to the community. When travelers come over the bridge, we want people to be excited!

Mayor McCann said that he was pleased with the leadership role Mr. Colin has taken in guiding this project. He said he would like to continue this conversation with Council as important milestones are reached.

Mr. Orlando closed out the discussion by stating that the project schedule will continued to be refined and will communicate that out as soon as possible. He said that this is a team effort moving forward, understanding what and what is not on the table is important.

4. Adjournment

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved: April 20, 2021

Krista M. Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

John J. McCann, Mayor