



Town of Hilton Head Island **TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley **7/22/2020**

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

I hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful weather and taking precautions to stay COVID-free and stay cool. Today, I want to take a moment to bring you up to speed on actions from yesterday's Town Council meeting.

And the Stats Are In

This year, we had several new beach rules go into effect regulating shovel sizes and requiring beachgoers to fill in hole to dig on the beach before they leave and take their personal belongings with them or else we would remove anything left overnight. We asked the vendors we are working with to compile data on trash and personal items they collect once people have left the beach for the evening. We got our first report compiling June's collection. It details the quantity of trash and recycling removed from 224 trash and 74 recycling receptacles located on the beach, in addition to abandoned personal property and other issues addressed daily. For the month of June, they removed 136 tons of trash and recycling, and 3,888 pieces of personal property including 340 tents, over 1400 chairs, 739 umbrellas, 378 towels, 285 toys and 733 miscellaneous items. Our vendors and code enforcement officers also had 3,816 encounters with beach-goers, educating them on beach laws pertaining to alcohol, glass, dunes, holes/shovels, lights and personal property.

Funding for Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and Other County Services

Following an executive session to discuss contractual arrangements with Beaufort County, Town Council voted to approve a three-year agreement it believes will provide fair and equitable funding for law enforcement services the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department(BCSO) provides for the Island and help better maintain parks and roads.

The proposal was sent to Beaufort County Council today. If the Council accepts the proposal, it would be effective for Fiscal Year 2021, which began July 1, 2020.

Under the new agreement, the Town will:

- Pay to the County \$2 million annually for BCSO services, including Victim Services and the Detention Center.
- Continue to provide rent-free office space to the BCSO Southern Command Division and stipends to deputies.



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- Accept responsibility for operations and maintenance of all Town-owned parks. Additionally the Town will accept responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the County-owned Barker Field and the Town-County owned Hilton Head Park.
- Absorb the County's support of the Island Recreation Center programs and activities with the exception of youth swimming lesson programs.
- Assume basic maintenance and repair to County-owned roads within the Town Limits.

Town Supports Plan for Relocation of St. James Baptist Church

The Town and Beaufort County have been working with representatives of St. James Church to develop initial plans and costs estimates for building a new facility and moving Cherry Hill School to a new site. This effort followed a positive vote by members of the church to support this relocation. These efforts have included undertaking due diligence to understand site limitations and opportunities, preparing initial site and architectural plans and estimated costs, and developing a costs estimate to move the school. These initial costs estimates have been finalized and are ready to be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for its initial input. Town Council voted unanimously to submit plans to the FAA. If approved, the church and school may be relocated from their currently location at the corner of Beach City and Dillion roads to Town property adjacent to Union Cemetery, which the church oversees.

Accommodations Tax Fund Use Deadline Extended

Due to COVID-19, many of our grantees that received accommodations tax grant for calendar year 2020 have run into challenges with spending their funds as appropriated. Grantees have had to cancel events and make other operational decisions that affected their ability to use grant awards. With that in mind, Town Council approved a one-year extension for all 2020 Accommodations Tax grants, enabling the grant recipients the ability to use the 2020 funding through December 31, 2021, if needed.

Fire Rescue Receives Grant

In 2019 the Technical Rescue Team of our Fire Rescue Division was awarded an \$80,000 Homeland Security Grant, and has now received the funds. The grant will be used for training and equipment.

Keep Up with COVID

For the latest figures on COVID-19 cases in our community, visit the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at [SCDHEC.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov) or check out our COVID-19 hub page at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.



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Ways to Give

Our local organizations need your support. We still have people in our community who need help. For a list of very worthy organizations and initiatives that need your support as they continue to help individuals in our community, visit the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber Commerce at www.hiltonheadchamber.org/covid-19/ . These organizations are assisting with rent, food and other needs.