

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE/PLACE: January 11, 2016
 Pawleys Island Chapel

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Otis, Mike Adams, Ashley Carter, Rocky Holliday & Sarah Zimmerman

ABSENT: None

OPEN SESSION, PUBLIC INPUT

Emilie Carey stated that she received the Freedom of Information packet and is still trying to understand some of the procedure rules. Regarding executive sessions, on page 11 it states meeting much start in public but are closed for certain specified discussions. She questioned how much information she could have about what the executive session is about and to clarify when they occur. Do we always have them before the council meetings? Mayor Otis stated that responses are not made by council or himself during the open sessions but to contact him or the town attorney and they would be happy to answer any questions she may have. Ms. Carey asked if there was a possibility that they would consider to allow during an open session that questions could be asked and answered during the meeting. Mayor Otis stated that he would have it on the agenda as that is a council decision to be made but typically there is not a back and forth discussions during council meetings. He will have the town attorney contact her to answer her questions regarding executive sessions.

Leda McIntyre Hall stated that perhaps we should be more diligent with the enforcement of dogs on a leash. If we enforced the leash law, word would spread fast and people would be more apt to leash their dogs. There are dogs that belong to her neighbor that are frightening dogs and are never on a leash. She has a grandson that visits and is afraid for his well-being. She feels the publicity of someone being attacked by a dog would not be good for the island. She had previously talked to Chief Fanning about the dogs next to her. Mayor Otis stated that Chief Fanning and Administrator Fabbri will discuss this and if necessary we will put this on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2015 & DECEMBER 21, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the December 14, 2015 and the December 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

BEACH COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Mayor Otis recommended that Council form an adhoc Beach Committee, similar to the one that was formed in 1997 which lead to the groin rebuilding and the Beach Renourishment Project completed in March of 1999 at a cost of \$1.6 million. This committee should have members owning on the beach front of the south third, middle third and the north third. The south third is the most damaged section. The middle third has been damaged significantly but not to the extent of the south third. The north third has not been damaged as significantly as the other two thirds. There should also be representation from off beach property owners on the south and north ends of the island, representing creek front as well as land locked properties. This committee should be able to approach Council at appropriate times to request funding for technical, legal and governmental relations support and lobbying.

This committee should be put together as soon as possible. A Council member should be the Chairperson of the committee. Rocky Holliday has been involved with the Mayor and Administrator with OCRM on the permitting for this project, and upon Council approval would be willing to Chair this committee. Council should be in touch with Rocky to put together a list of property owners, not necessarily voters (however there should be a representation of both), as potential members. This committee will not deal with the current emergency project that is underway, but the project north of Pritchard and Hazard will be handled by this new committee. One of the things this committee can work on is to look into a way to get permitted, and to pay for, having a small pocket dredge offshore of the low tide line to move sand on the high tide beach. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve forming an adhoc Beach Committee and to have Rocky Holliday Chair it. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.**

APPEAL OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY GROIN PERMIT AS AN INTERVENER

Mayor Otis stated that a letter had been sent to the Judge asking for a hearing as to why there had not been a decision made on this matter and still have not heard an answer as of that day.

BEACH AND DUNE DAMAGE FROM STORM

OCRM Emergency Permit Application - Mayor Otis stated that an application has been made for the State OCRM permit and received last week which has approximately 58 houses on it to have sand pushed up to them. Under state law these houses meet the emergency criteria of storm water coming within 20 feet of the house. We have received an invitation to bid for the sand scraping and we will put this out soon so when we get all the letters in we will be able to immediately begin the project. If we get everything we need before the next Council meeting we will have a special called meeting to approve commencement of the project. If we get the permits and the company is selected to do the job and we don't get all the letters, we will have to exclude them from having sand scraping for their property. The problem with that is the properties on either side of that property will be susceptible to water washing away their built up sand.

Letters from South End Property Owners - OCRM will not allow this work to commence until we receive permission from each of these property owners so we sent every property owner on December 12th, south of Hazard, a letter asking them to sign it and return it giving the Town permission to move this sand. We are still waiting for approximately 1/3 of those letters as of today. Ryan will inquire with OCRM as to whether an email from the property owner would suffice as permission.

USACE Emergency Permit Application - Mayor Otis stated that Corps of Engineers Emergency Permit application was sent in last Friday. They will turn this permit process around shortly but we still need the permission letters from the property owners before we can begin.

USACE 2005 Storm Damage Protection Plan - Mayor Otis spoke to the Corps regarding the 2005 Storm Damage Protection Plan that is about putting a dredge offshore and pump sand on the south 1/3 of the island that would cost the Town cost \$9.5 million project. Because there had been no action by Congress to fund it there was a possibility this plan would be de-authorized so we contacted the Corps about updated the Plan to improve the ability to get it funded. The Corps told us that this is a two-step program. First step is to update the numbers as to the current cost to the Town which would cost approximately \$100K. This would take approximately 3 months. The second step is to update using new methodology and to update the value of the properties that would be saved or protected which would be between \$800K to \$1.2 million. This would take approximately 9 months. With this discussion the de-authorization has been put on hold.

The Corps indicated that there was no hurry to get this done. Sarah Zimmerman asked if the second step couldn't be accomplished by using the county assessed values instead of incurring such a heavy cost by the Corps. We will ask the Corps if this could be done.

FEMA - Ryan Fabbri stated we had two projects; one being repairs to beach access walkways, of which we have been reimbursed by FEMA 75% of the \$5, 173.00 cost and the other was cleaning the beach of debris that storm Joaquin brought to shore which cost \$4,700. We will also get 75% reimbursement for that. Another project, for beach and dune sand loss had been submitted to FEMA with an estimated cost of \$3,026,910 to repair by putting additional sand on the beach. This is not part of the sand scraping project. FEMA specialists will come to Pawleys to do an assessment in the next few weeks. Mayor Otis wrote a letter to Governor Haley stating his concern about the State not showing strong advocacy on behalf of the Coast with the Federal Government regarding repairs to our severely damaged beaches.

Pawley Island Beach Committee

Rocky Holliday stated that selection of members for this committee is coming together from a number of sources. This committee will be tasked with providing input to the Mayor and Council on a long term plan for our beach erosion issues. These beach issues are complex and difficult to deal with. We should consider these challenges as we put a committee together. These members should have broad community connections, who will be able to discuss the issues with others in the community and gain their input and people who will be trusted by the community to represent their views. He and Mayor Otis have structured this committee to have 11 members to consist of 3 people from the south end and the Birds Nest area, 3 from the historic district and the mid-section of the island, 3 from the north end, 1 from our Civic Association and 1 from Pawleys Pier Village. As we select members consideration should be for beach front, creek front and the interior sections of the island.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Fanning review the December 2015 police report. See attached.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Otis stated that at the end of the year we had approximately \$5 mil. in the beach reserve. We have received a donation from a donor who had donated in the past for the underground wire project to encourage us to do such a project. We have recently received the last of a total of \$150,000 from this donor which will be applied with our check that council approved at the last council meeting. We are above budget for the Underground Wire Project for year to date. Beach Management was over budget for the month but we will get reimbursed by FEMA for some of these costs but will be received in 2016. Turtle Strut expenses were over budget for the year but the revenue more than makes up for that. For the month our revenue was over budget by \$20K and expenses under budget by \$20K. Year to date, before audit, we have \$600K surplus of which approximately \$300K will go to beach reserve.

HARPER, POSTON AND MOREE ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Ryan Fabbri stated that this is a document that the auditors send us each year describing the scope of what they are going to do during the audit which is a 4 or 5 month process.

BUILDING REPORT

We have had a few \$20,000 to \$40,000 remodeling's.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Underground Wire Project

- Phase 1 Construction Status & Meter Conversion Timetable – between the causeways. They are almost completely done with everything. What is left is the connection to each property. Georgetown County needs to inspect each hook up before the connection can be made so we are hoping we can coordinate that with them so we can do blocks of inspections at a time. Hopefully all this should be completed by Memorial Day and the power lines will come down. Ryan will find out from Santee Cooper when they will power up the underground wire. The cost for the hook up is unknown as each house is unique. Some situations are unsafe and that needs to be addressed and that can change how much the hook up will cost.
- Phase 2 Construction Status & Easements – Town Hall and north. Preconstruction walk through is scheduled in the next week. It should start the last week in January. There are 222 easements in this phase and we have acquired 181.
- Phase 3 Easements – Birds Nest and south. That is planned for 1½ to 2 years from now. There are 140 properties in this phase and we have received 16 signed easements out of 44 that were sent out.
- Property Owner Payments – We sent out 165 second year invoices in October and have received all but 67 have paid.

New Preliminary FEMA Flood Map Approval Process

- Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination Meeting – Tentatively set for March 16th (Georgetown). We received new flood maps the end of November. These maps will have a positive effect for the island with the exception of the Birds Nest area. The DFIRM Community meeting of March 16th has been changed to March 8th which is when all local government officials meet and go over the maps and then adopt them. After that there is a 90 day appeal period for homeowners and Towns to contest anything on the new maps. There is going to be an open house in Georgetown hosted by the City of Georgetown.
- Open House for Public Input – Tentatively set for March 17th. The open house for Pawleys Island Community and the Town of Pawleys Island has also been changed from March 17th to March 9th from 4 to 7 p.m. The location has yet to be determined but Ryan will check with the Library in Litchfield.
- Progress of Change Employee Retirement Plan – Council approved last month to go with the ICMA-RC retirement plan but it takes about 30 days to fill out paperwork and set up the new account but there is a question as to what to do with the Metlife account. There is a 5% surrender charge for each employee. Metlife stated that if the Town completely terminates our contract with them and employees are no longer contributing to them, upon receipt of a letter stating such Metlife would waive the surrender fee.

SOUTH CAROLINA BEACH ADVOCATES DUES - \$500.00

Mayor Otis stated that the Town joined this group last year that represents the beach area to the State and is getting ready to send a new letter to the legislature and to the Governor pertaining to the lack of attention given to the Coastal areas of South Carolina. The dues for the Town is \$500. Mayor Otis recommended we pay the \$500.00 to the South Carolina Beach Advocates to renew our membership. Currently every coastal community is working with a different lobbyist to deal with the State and the Federal Government. Mayor Otis approved us to be included with Edisto who put out a request for their Council to review.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE