

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE/PLACE: December 14, 2015
Pawleys Island Chapel

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Otis, Rocky Holliday & Sarah Zimmerman

ABSENT: Mike Adams, Ashley Carter

EXECUTIVE SESSION: SECTION 30-4-70(a)1, DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS; 30-4-70(a)2 LEGAL ADVICE ON MARKETING CONTRACT, LITIGATION

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to step down into Executive Session to discuss the agenda items. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor. Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to step down from Executive Session. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor. Mayor Otis stated that the Executive Session was for the purpose of discussion and advice on the items described in the agenda under sections 30-4-70(a)1 and 2; no decisions were made in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 BUDGET

Public Hearing on the 2016 budget was properly advertised. No one was present to speak – public hearing was closed.

OPEN SESSION, PUBLIC INPUT

Brianne Daub stated that she was hoping to do an “Amazing Race” to have it start at Lowe’s Foods, continue onto the island and provide various activities as a fund raiser for the St. Peter’s pre-school and she would like to have it on April 23, 2016. Mayor Otis suggested that she meet with the Town’s Administrator and the Police Chief to discuss the details and provide them with a specific request that Council can review as April is the beginning of the busy season on the island. She said that the date can be changed.

Emilie Carey stated that she had not known of any other Council that had so many executive sessions as our Council did and was curious as to what it was they discuss in these sessions. Mayor Otis stated that she can pick up a copy of the Freedom of Information Act brochure at the Town Hall that will explain what can and cannot be discussed. She also requested a copy of the 2016 budget. That will also be available for her at the Town Hall.

Lee Hewitt stated that he is running for State Representative and wanted to introduce himself to Council. Mayor Otis stated that Mr. Hewitt is currently on the DHEC/OCRM Board in Columbia, and had helped the Town several times in the past.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Sarah Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes. Seconded by Rocky Holliday. All in favor.

ELECT MAYOR PRO TEM

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to nominate Mike Adams for Mayor Pro Tem. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.

APPEAL OF THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY GROIN PERMIT AS AN INTERVENER

Town Attorney David DuRant stated that he still had not heard from the judge. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion for the Town's Attorney to request a status conference with the judge. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

POLICE REPORT

Chief Fanning reviewed the November 2015 police report. (See Attached)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Otis stated that Phase II of the underground wire project, which is north of the North Causeway, was to begin September 1st but had been delayed because of a few easements that had not been received. Council had a copy of the Reimbursable/Billing Project Authorization for Phase II of the project, effective January 4, 2016, to pay Santee Cooper \$901,000. This amount was expected to be paid in September of 2015 so we will amend the 2015 budget for the underground wire project to reduce it by that amount. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve Mayor Otis signing the authorization for Phase II and to pay Santee Cooper \$901,000. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.** Mayor Otis stated that we had received a series of grants to the underground wire project over the past several years which are carried on the balance sheet as a reserve for the project, and we recently recently received the last payment which brings the total amount to approximately \$150,000. He would like to utilize that money for Phase II, as that is when the double loop system will be installed and will be more expensive than the 1st and 3rd phases. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve spending the Legatus Grant for Phase II. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

Mayor Otis stated we have moved the payment to Santee Cooper of \$901,000 from the 2015 budget to 2016 budget. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to amend the 2015 budget to reduce the Underground Conversion line item to \$3,000. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.**

Our Local A-tax revenue is about 4% over budget. We are slightly above budget for the underground wire project payments by property owners. Because of Storm Joaquin, we are way above budget in expenses for beach management due to the large amount of beach debris that had washed ashore that we cleaned up, but we expect to get approximately \$6,500 back from FEMA for that cost. We are a little over budget for legal expenses due to an ongoing lawsuit that we will get reimbursed for from the State Insurance Reserve Fund. We continue to have revenue in excess of expenses for both the month and year to date.

2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION, AMENDMENTS FROM FIRST READING – SECOND READING

The amendments from the first reading of the 2016 Budget are due to changes in law enforcement for new cell phones for \$1,150 additional for the year. The addition of \$250,000 to the budget for beach renourishment is for sand scraping on 90% of the oceanfront properties south of Hazard Street due the severe dune erosion there. These properties had water wash up within approximately 20 feet of the homes there, and some had water wash up under the homes and cross the street into the creek. We are in need of a permit from Corps of Engineers and from the State which is in process. This can be a very significant cost for beach renourishment, not just for this area but also north of Hazard to the Pier and beyond. In 2017 the State will re-establish the beach front base line which is measured at the top of the eastern most dune, so we need to get this dune established before that. We will have special called meeting at the Chapel the following Monday to discuss this. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve second reading on the 2016 Budget. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

BUILDING REPORT

We had 4 remodeling/constructing walkways and one demolition.

APPOINTMENT TO FILL OUT ROCKY HOLLIDAY'S TERM ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION – 12/9/16

Mayor Otis stated that Rocky Holliday stepped down from his position on the Planning Commission to become Town Council member which leaves an open position on the Planning Commission. Jim McCants had made a recommendation for Jim Braswell who lives at the north end of the island to fill the open position. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the recommendation for Jim Braswell to fill-out Rocky Holliday's term on the Planning Commission. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS THE TOWN'S DESIGNATED NON-PROFIT FOR TOURISM MARKETING USING STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDS

Mayor Otis stated that the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce will do the advertising and marketing for the Town, because the Pawleys Island Civic Association no longer wanted to provide this service for the Town. Chairperson, Sassy Henry, Mayor Otis and Ryan Fabbri met with Lauren Joseph who is with the Chamber of Commerce, and who does all of the Hammock Coast marketing for Georgetown County tourism. Ms. Joseph and the Chamber board approved providing advertising and marketing for the Town of Pawleys Island, subject to Council's approval. The Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed and approved by Town Attorney DuRant. It is for a six month term for \$300 per month or \$65 per hour, whichever is higher, which is paid out of the State Accommodations Tax funds. Ms. Joseph thought that we may be able to get some matching parks recreation and touring funds. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve Mayor Otis to sign the memorandum of understanding. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.** Sarah Zimmerman expressed a concern that the Chamber understand that the Town would be marketed differently from Georgetown County, and that they know that Pawleys Island is its own entity.

PROPOSAL TO REVISE MEMBERSHIP IN THE TOWNS ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE TOURISM MARKETING MEMBERS WITH BACKGROUND FROM THE PICA MARKETING COMMITTEE – PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE COMMITTEE:

Mayor Otis stated that the Town's A-tax Advisory Committee will work with the chamber of commerce and have at least 4 meetings a year to receive financial information, to work together on the planning of the Town, and to receive reports on the results of the marketing. The State requires that 4 members be from a hospitality and lodging background, 1 member come from a cultural background and 2 members from a general background. David Ellerbe will step down from the Advisory Committee and possibly join a new committee that will be upcoming. Corinne Taylor, co-owner of the Pelican Inn will fill-in this spot with her hospitality/lodging background. Dana Parker will step down from the Advisory Committee as her term expired 12/8/15 and be replaced by Hamp Johnson who works at Pawleys Island Realty, and will also fill a hospitality/lodging background. Carolyn Camlin's term expires on 3/16/16 and Sassy Henry will fill Carolyn's spot as a hospitality/lodging background or general. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the nomination of Corinne Taylor, Hamp Johnson and Sassy Henry for the A-tax Advisory Committee to become effective immediately. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Underground Wire Project Phase One and Phase Two: Construction Status and Timetable, Easements, Phase 3 Easement Schedule

Ryan Fabbri was unable to attend this council meeting. Mayor Otis stated that Phase I boring is complete. Electrical wiring is being pulled through the conduit and they are installing all the necessary transformers. This phase is scheduled to be fully complete with live electricity, and poles down on the Causeway by the end of the first quarter of 2016. Phase III, Birds Nest and below, ½ of the easements have been sent out. Phase two will start construction after the first of the year.

New Preliminary FEMA Flood Maps

The new FEMA flood maps are on the Town's website. This is the establishment of a new base flood elevation which property owner's houses are measured in terms of whether they are in conformity with FEMA regulation and plays a role as to what their federal flood insurance premiums are. This map shows that the beachfront flood elevation of these properties has dropped 2 feet. The Birds nest has gone up one foot because of being moved to a "V" zone. This should not create significant issues for the Birds Nest area in terms of insurance premiums.

Turtle Strut

There were over 100 registrants and because of the race being in honor of Guy Osborne many people ran the race, including Guy's family.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ICMRA-RETIREMENT CORPORATION AS AN APPROVED DEFERRED COMPENSATION 457 AND 401 PLAN ADMINISTRATOR AND INVESTMENT MANAGER

Mayor Otis stated the current plan has costs involved to the Town's employees that are much higher than they should be. These new plans being recommended by Ryan are much better, and help all our employees earn better on their investments after fees. Resolution 2015-14 adopts the ICMA-RC 457 deferred compensations plan for our full-time employees and resolution 2015-13 adopts the ICMA-RC 401(A) money purchase plan. The current plan we have may be left in place if some employee money is subject to penalty. All new money will go into the new plan(s). There has been discussion with a representative of the current policy holder, which is MetLife, about our employees incurring a penalty of part of their investment if money is taken out before a specified period of time. We are going to have our Town Attorney talk to MetLife's council because Mayor Otis is not sure that the person who signed the original agreement was an authorized signature. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve resolution 2015-13 to adopt the ICMA-RC 401(A) money purchase plan and resolution 2015-14 to adopt the ICMA-RC deferred compensation plan for the Town's full time employees. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.** Mayor Otis stated that Ryan Fabbri has gone above and beyond to help our employees get a better retirement plan. If we can't get the penalties waived the Town may want to consider covering the cost of the penalties.

APPROVE CHRISTMAS BONUS'S \$300.00 NET FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AND JAMES SNOW, \$110 FOR PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYEE

Mayor Otis stated that the Town each year approves Christmas bonuses of \$300 to our contractor James Snow, \$300 net to each full time employee and \$110 to our permanent part time employee. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the 2015 Christmas bonuses to our town contractor, our full time and part time employees. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

BOEM CHANGE TO REQUIRE 10 MILES OFFSHORE OF THE PAWLEYS HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR TURBINES

Mayor Otis stated that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management developed a plan of sites for wind turbines that were within 3 miles of the island. We wrote a letter to them stating that the turbines should not be that close to the Island of Pawleys Island for a number of reasons. One of those reasons was that in the center of our island we have a certified historic area. BOEM has approved removing all the original potential turbine sites that were within 3 miles of the island by creating a 10 mile buffer away from the islands Historic District>

Mayor Otis stated that we will have a special meeting on 12/21/15 at 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel to discuss where we are in terms of beach damage and restoration.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No Comments

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE