

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE/PLACE: March 14, 2016
Pawleys Island Chapel

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

ABSENT: None

OPEN SESSION, PUBLIC INPUT

No one signed up to speak.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AND MARCH 7, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the February 8, 2016 and March 7, 2016 special meeting minutes. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

APPEAL OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY GROIN PERMIT AS AN INTERVENER

Town Attorney, David DuRant, stated that there still had not been a response to this issue. Further discussion as to options that we can take will continue at the next Council meeting.

BEACH AND DUNE DAMAGE FROM THE STORM

Status of Sand Scraping – Ryan Fabbri: Ryan stated that Goodson Construction had completed from the south-end up to Hazard Street quicker than originally expected then started to progress north. They are completing about 1½ groins every day. The recent tides prohibited work for a few days so they plan to work early in the morning and late in the day as that is when the low tides will be. Mayor Otis stated that this equipment is not quiet and apologized for any interruption of sleep our property owners may endure while this work is being done. Ryan Fabbri stated that the equipment is stored overnight on a platform they build on the beach next to the dune that is elevated about 3-4 feet. Equipment was stored at the south end parking lot but as they progressed north they then used the Hazard Street lot to store their equipment then they plan to use First Street as their access point at the north end. They may not be able to get their equipment into the First Street lot as the entrance from the beach is small but if so they will probably build another platform on the beach to accommodate their equipment. We could build the walkway wider for vehicles but that would require an OCRM permit which then requires a 30-day waiting period for public comment, and we don't want to close that access to the public for that length of time. The Second Street beach access would require a minimal amount of work to make it beach accessible to vehicles. We will need to rebuild the First Street access so we are working on getting 3 bids for that work. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion and to authorize Ryan Fabbri to get 3 bids to rebuild the First Street beach access and to sign the contract based on the low bid. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

Public Access Areas – South end parking lot has reopened and the Hazard Street access will be closed temporarily to store their equipment overnight, then everything will transition to the First Street area, which is the only access point they will need in the north-end. Mayor Otis asked the press to make public that any property owner that are extending their boardwalks to get over the built up dunes need to be aware that any structural boardwalk or change to a boardwalk requires a building permit. It will be in the next issue of the Tides.

Beach Committee – Rocky Holliday – Rocky Holliday stated that rebuilding of the dunes is well underway so now it is time to refocus on forming the Beach Committee to address some of the longer term issues that we have. This week the list of candidates will be finalized. They are focused on people who have broad connections on the island, who have a history of property ownership on the island, who will be able to attend meetings as they are scheduled to discuss the issues with other property owners and who will be trusted by the property owners to properly represent their views. The committee will be formed of 3 people from the south end, 3 people from mid-island, and 3 people from the north end. These people will include people from ocean front properties, creek side and interior areas of the island. In addition, we will have 1 representative from Pier Village and 1 from the Civic Association. Including the Chairperson this would make this committee a group of 12 members, but it would represent the property owners in a broad way. We should finalize the list this week and then we will begin to contact these people asking them to participate in the committee.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Fanning reviewed the February 2016 police report. See attached.

Body Camera Policy – Mayor Otis stated that we have budgeted for body worn cameras this year. It is a requirement, by the State Public Safety Council that a policy be created for use of body worn cameras. This Council and the International Chiefs of Police have requirements as to what should be included in the policy. The Chief also incorporated segments of the policy from Briar Cliff Acres to create our policy for the Town. It was unknown at that point, but doubtful that these cameras would have an impact on the Town's liability insurance.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Otis stated that the state a-tax revenues were running over budget for the month and year to date. The local a-tax revenues are also running over budget. Franchise Fees are slightly over budget for the month and year to date. Underground wire payments had more advanced payments this month, so we are running substantially ahead of what we planned to take in. The new car for the police department was purchased and came in \$600 - \$700 under budget. Legal costs were reimbursed this year for last year's expenses. We have received all the reimbursements due from FEMA for trash removal but the last reimbursement will be reflected in next month's financials.

BUDGET SAND SCRAPING

Mayor Otis stated that he needed clarification regarding the dollar amount to pay the contractor for sand scraping. It was agreed that the intent of the March 7th meeting motion was to agree to a maximum of \$150,000 for the sand scraping, not including the walkway for Goodson Construction. Ryan Fabbri stated that he will get 3 bids to rebuild the walkway, hire the lowest bidder and next month we will amend the budget to accommodate that cost.

SAND FENCE BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mayor Otis stated that we have approximately 235 property owners on 13,000 linear feet of dunes who will have had their dunes rebuilt from the sand scraping by March 31st. The scraping stops at the pier and there is scarping above the pier. Council will need to decide about scarping above the pier after November 1st when the last Corps permit can be utilized again. We have asked one contractor who has done work for us with the Vitex program to give us an estimate to install sand fencing on the rebuilt dunes below Hazard Street.

His estimate was \$32,100 for 4,700 linear feet of dunes in front of 79 properties - \$6.83 per linear foot or \$405 per property. For our total length of 13,300 feet it would calculate to \$91,000 for the Town, if the Town contracted and paid for the sand fence. Sand fence should not be installed until the new dunes have a chance to settle. In our current sand fencing program, which has been on hold, the Town would reimburse 50% of the cost to install sand fencing up to \$180 for every 60 feet. Sand fencing must be installed at least 2/3 of the face of the dune and not on the flat beach. Estimated cost to each property owner has been \$350 to \$375 for a 60-foot lot. Three options: 1) Continue with the current option except the sand fencing must be installed entirely on the face of the dune and not on the beach. This would cost the Town approximately \$11,000 – we would increase the budget as needed. 2) This option is the same as option 1 except council would decide to make the reimbursement a larger amount over a definitive period of time. 3) Town sets a specification and requests proposals for 13,300+ feet, issues a contract to successful bidder and pays the full cost. OCRM said that work can be done during the turtle nesting season and equipment can be on the beach during that time to perform the work and the Town can use its existing general sand fence permit. After some discussion it was decided that Ryan Fabbri would call Coastal Science and Engineering to get their recommendation relative to sand fencing and will email council members that recommendation. Mayor Otis stated that at this point we need to tell people who want to put up sand fencing now, what we will do to help, if anything

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to amend the budget to \$12,000 to pay up to 50% replacement costs up to \$200 for sand fencing to be installed 100% on the face of the dune. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor. Mayor Otis stated that Council should be ready to discuss and decide at the next meeting whether we want to do more than the 50% reimbursement up to \$200, and that if any property owner installs sand fencing and if Council later decides to reimburse more, the Town will reimburse that property owner the additional amount due.

BUILDING REPORT

Ryan Fabbri stated that there were a lot of permits for transferring electric service underground in phase 1. There was a house that had a new driveway installed with impervious concrete and did not get a permit for it so the construction company had to remove it and replace it with pervious material.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE – 2 YEAR TERMS EXPIRED

Robert Levine – term expired 2/10/16 & Sassy Henry term expired 3/14/16 - Mayor Otis stated the A-tax Advisory Committee had been reformatted to be the committee that works with our new Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce on our marketing and advertising. The Accommodations Tax Committee was also reformatted to work with the Chamber on the marketing, advertising and the other issues they handled in the past. Sassy Henry filled an unexpired term of an existing member that had expired. Sassy had accepted a full two-year term. Robert Levine had been on the committee as the cultural member and accepted another two-year term. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve Sassy Henry and Robert Levine, each to an additional two-year term. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.**

Local A-tax 2015 results – collections up 7.8% - Mayor Otis stated that our local a-tax collections for 2015 were up 7.8%, which is an indication of the increase in rentals we had last year. Ryan Fabbri's efforts to seek out the property owners who were not sending in their a-taxes on personal rentals contributed to the increase in collections.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Underground Wire Project, Phase 1 and Phase 2: Construction Status and timetable, Easements

Ryan Fabbri stated that the Phase 1 area is now dealing with transitioning the above ground service to the underground service. The 1st part of this area covers a few properties south of the South Causeway up to Sea View Inn and consists of 17 properties not currently underground. From the Sea View Inn to the North Causeway there are 19 properties not currently underground that need to be transitioned. There are 5 property owners that have not been contacted for various reasons to let them know that they can begin the transition to the underground service. If all these property owners transition to the underground service, the telephone poles could come down by Memorial Day. Ryan questioned the Town Attorney, if everyone in Phase I completed the transition to the underground service except for 1 or 2 property owners, would we be able to still connect their service so as not hold up the connection for the other properties. Mayor Otis stated that that is something to be discussed at a later date. Phase II – we will be able to do boring in all of Myrtle Avenue and all of Atlantic Avenue up to Second Street with existing signed easements. Between Second and Third Streets there are 3 properties that have not been contacted for various reasons, one being a deceased property owner. There is another property that could hold us up from Third Street up to the Assey PD. Phase III has 140 properties, from the Birds Nest area and south. So far 91 easements have been sent out and 35 received back signed. This phase should start right after Labor Day.

FEMA Preliminary Flood Maps - Ryan Fabbri stated the FEMA open house in Georgetown had approximately 50 people that attended, and over 100 people attended the open house at the Library in Litchfield. Mayor Otis stated that there was a public officials meeting in Georgetown before the open house which was a worthwhile meeting because they addressed complex issues that everyone will be hearing about. Most of the property owners on the island will find themselves in a better position relative to their base flood elevation and their flood insurance premiums. The areas that will not do better are the properties in the Birds Nest area that are below Hazard Street down to Pritchard Street and the properties on the southwest side of Myrtle Avenue in the birds nest that are non-ocean front, as those zones have changed from an AE zone to a VE zone. The impact to those property owners will be felt in approximately 18 months.

DISCUSSION OF “TOWN HALL” MEETING OF COUNCIL

Town attorney, David DuRant, stated that the actual council meetings that we hold each month are not conducive to any type of give and take, or asking and answering questions. It is more of a formal process of doing the business of governing the Town. We have had a few individuals ask if there could be more of a “Town Hall” type of meeting where they could ask questions during, before or after the meeting concerning the municipality. Attorney DuRant talked to some other attorneys in Myrtle Beach who said they do have Town Hall meetings which are set up as an informal gathering at times other than scheduled Council meetings. The Town would give public notice as you do for a regular meeting, but there would be no agenda and the Mayor would act as the moderator of the meeting. Any resident or property owner who attends could raise their hand and be recognized by the moderator and then direct their questions to either the Mayor or Council members. It is usually not an every month meeting, but could be every 6 months or once a year. It is more of an opportunity for the Town people to have a more direct communication with the Mayor and the council members. Mayor Otis stated that the Mayor speaks at the Civic Association every year and there is always a question and answer time for the Town’s people then and there is a lot of interaction at the reception following the that meeting. Mayor Otis asked council if they felt there should be a “Town Hall” meeting on a non-periodic basis once or twice a year.

Mike Adams felt that the yearly Civic Association meeting would probably meet those needs, but we could have a “Town Hall” meeting after that as necessary. Mayor Otis stated that people are generally in town for Easter but it is too close to that holiday this year to plan anything and people are here for July 4th but we have so much going on for the July 4th holiday. He will look at some options and discuss options that would work for everyone. Rocky Holliday stated that when we do have such a meeting we assess the attendance and if there is low attendance, then this idea may not be a good use of everyone’s time. Sarah Zimmerman stated that everyone on council is very accessible with their telephone numbers listed in the Tides. Anyone can call them at any time. It was agreed that Memorial Day may be a good day to have a “Town Hall” meeting.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Otis stated that our data base for our property owners is very out of date. We have collected a lot of information with all the easements and permits we have had to get in the last year. Ryan Fabbri will be looking at acquiring a data base program in which we could integrate up to date property owner information and then keep it current. Ryan will consider either a student or someone part-time to work on that this summer.

Mayor Otis stated that during this FEMA process of collecting information he found the Corps of Engineers information about Hurricane Hugo. Hurricane Hugo hit on September 22, 1989 at midnight. From 9/22/89 to the completion of the Corps of Engineers work rebuilding the dunes from North Myrtle Beach to Folly Beach, the total elapsed time was 1 month and 6 days and it cost \$2,638,176 to do 40 miles of dunes. It took the Town of Pawleys Island from 10/1/15 when storm Juaquin hit, to April 2, 2016 just to obtain permits. Today we are half way through constructing 14,000 feet of dunes on the permit that we just got on 3/2/16.

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

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE