

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

DATE/PLACE: September 12, 2016
 Pawleys Island Chapel

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

ABSENT: Rocky Holliday

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leda McIntyre Hall mentioned again the possibility of the Town purchasing an additional piece of property that may be for sale that might alleviate some of the issues with parking problems.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the August 8, 2016 meeting. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Otis stated that at the prior town council meeting minutes stated that Chief Fanning that the proposed amendment creates zones which allowed dogs of property owners to run unleashed at water's edge but prohibits anyone else to do the same. After discussion it was agreed that the amendment, that didn't pass, would have allowed the public's dogs at water's edge near the public beach accesses, but not at other sections of the island, and that would create an enforcement issue. Mayor Otis stated that the inference in the minutes was that the proposal confined the island to private property owners which wasn't the intent.

APPEAL OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY GROIN PERMIT AS AN INTERVENER

Town Attorney, David DuRant, stated that there has been no response.

BEACH COMMITTEE -ROCKY HOLLIDAY

Mayor Otis stated that the next Beach Committee meeting will be September 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. A representative from Coastal Science and Engineering which has done engineering work on our island in the past, will be at this meeting to go through the process based on the information they already have of the island. Items to be discussed will be:

1. Define the options for beach renourishment.
2. Understanding beach permitting process.
3. Discuss and understand the new State program for beach renourishment and the South Carolina Beach Renourishment Funding Assistance Grant Program.

DISCUSSION OF THE SC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM
BEACH RENOURISHMENT FUNDING GRANTS AND DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

Mayor Otis stated that we have had conversations with PRT and had a PRT representative who toured our beach and discussed the issues of Pawleys. It appears that we are on a preliminary list for at least \$2.7 million of the State funding. It looks like Edisto Beach, Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach & Garden City Beach are under a federal renourishment program, and are ahead of everyone else, as they have projects that are already permitted and have funding ability.

We are in an advantageous position to send out an early letter of intent to PRT in October/November which will address the grant funding application and point out we have in excess of \$5 million in the bank for beach purposes and we have results of engineering done in 2014 and 2016 and our establishment of an ideal engineered beach profile this year. We want to give PRT an idea of our situation for planning purposes. We need to move forward as much as possible in the short run, so as not to lose our position while the beach committee and council gain enough information to make a firm decision on the scope of restoration and long term maintenance of our beach. We will first need to have the engineering completed in order to apply for an OCRM permit. The engineers would provide maps, a narrative, and a budget summary required for the permit application. It will take at least 60 days for us to get the permit application completed. With the permit applied for we can then apply to PRT for State Matching funding. We would provide PRT with a copy of the permit application, proof of matching funds and a copy of our approved Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan and the rest of our supporting documentation.

BOARD OF APPEALS VACANCIES – WORTH JOHNSON

Sarah Zimmerman stated that Mr. Johnson is in the hospital and has had surgery, so she had not received a response from him. Mayor Otis stated that Ashley Carter had a recommendation of a north end resident and if anyone else had a recommendation to let Mayor know before the next Town Council meeting and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE VACANCY – HAMP JOHNSON, PAWLEYS ISLAND REALTY RESIGNED

Mayor Otis stated that Hamp Johnson resigned and returned to Greenville. Betsy Altman submitted a letter to be considered for his replacement for the duration of his term. **Mike Adams made a motion to appoint Betsy Altman to fill the unexpired term of Hamp Johnson as a member of the Accommodations Tax Committee. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.**

POLICE REPORT

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Otis stated that State A-tax revenue is now fairly close to what was projected. Rentals were up substantially in the month of July.

Approval of payment to Santee Cooper 3rd Phase - \$892,000 budgeted in August – Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve payment to Santee Cooper of \$892,000 when final easement is received. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

Approval of payments to Coastal Science and Engineering:

Contract 2463 – Beach Groin and inshore survey report - \$11,005.81 of \$34,433.00 Max Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve payment to CSE of \$11,005.81. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

Contract 2461 – Design Profile Report - \$2,315.25 of \$13,036.00 Max Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve payment to CSE of \$11,005.81. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.

BUILDING REPORT

Mayor Otis stated that there is nothing out of the ordinary.

QUIT CLAIM REQUEST – UNOPENED SCARBOROUGH AVENUE AT 607 MYRTLE AVENUE

Mayor Otis stated that the purchasers hired an attorney to determine their ability to build on the lot. They requested information on the buildability of the lot from Ryan. Ryan responded that it under our ordinances it is a buildable lot, no minimum dwelling size limitation and under the existing ordinance (20-1) they can use the line demarking the division between lot 53 and Scarborough Avenue as a rear yard setback. Mayor Otis stated that in 2007 the Town passed ordinance 20-1(c) that addresses the subject of platted but unopened streets within the Town which allows streets that are fully or partially on the marsh/creek side of the critical line to be used only for construction rear setbacks purposes. Attorney Moran requested that the Town quit claim the unopened section of Scarborough Avenue where it bi-sects the lot on 607 Myrtle Avenue. Attorney Moran noted that a portion of Scarborough Avenue had previously been quit claimed to a Dr. Kimbrough. Town Attorney DuRant informed the Town that the 2002 Kimbrough quit claim was before the 2007 ordinance on street dispositions, and was a special circumstance case where the property was totally cut off from Myrtle Avenue by the unopened Scarborough Avenue, and a stop work order had been filed to stop improvements underway because of the lack of setback from the unopened street. The existing structure of many years also slightly intruded into the unopened street. 20-1 (d) requires that the quit claims only be available where platted are streets completely on the marsh/creek side of the OCRM critical line, that is in the marsh/creek, which is not the case with 607 Myrtle Avenue. The Town Council has also followed this ordinance in November of 2012 by determining the Town would decline a request from the owners of 630 Pritchard Street to quit claim the adjacent unopened high ground on Morrison Avenue so they could expand their home. Attorney DuRant stated that if the Town responded to this quit claim, there would be a precedent set, but the ordinance could be changed if Council desired. **Mike Adams made a motion to table the quit claim. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

SIGN ORDINANCE REVISION, PLANNING COMMISSION – SUPREME COURT DECISION

A recent US Supreme Court decision concluded that it is unconstitutional to restrict signage based on content. Mayor Otis stated that a property owner recently had a political sign in their yard which was destroyed by vandals. Attorney Woody DuRant stated that we are now allowed to regulate the size of signs, but generally not content. Mayor Otis stated that the Town has directed the Police to not enforce our existing ordinance until we can get the ordinance revised. Attorney DuRant will contact the MASC to see if there is a model sign ordinance, and then make recommendations to the Planning Commission to update our sign ordinance.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Proposal to enroll in the SC State Health Plan

Ryan Fabbri stated that all municipalities, local governments and other organizations are eligible to provide this plan to their employees. Currently the Town does not offer health insurance to its employees but they each receive a monthly \$500.00 stipend to use toward insurance. It is looked at as income as federal and state taxes are taken out and a percentage is taken out for retirement of which the Town must match. The Town is actually paying approximately \$576.00 per month for each employee. After deductions the employee actually receives \$350.00 per month to offset the cost of health insurance.

Ryan reviewed the South Carolina State Health Plan. See attached. The employer can not influence the employee as to which plan they take. Nationally, approximately 56% of employees choose single coverage only. If we decided to go with the state health plan, we would have to stay with it for 4 years, and there would have to be a benefits administrator to process the paperwork. Diane Allen had already agreed to take this task on. Classes will be available for training. The Human Resources Director with the City of Georgetown and an individual with the State were asked as to how intensive administratively this would be, and they each said that it wouldn't be difficult as we are only dealing with 7 full time employees. After the application is submitted there is a 120 day waiting period from the day of approval by the State to begin coverage. This is an exceptional plan with very low co-payments. Ryan stated that the Town currently spends \$48,465.00 per year for the monthly stipend. If all the full time staff were to enroll in the State Insurance Plan, given the current status of employees, the annual cost to the Town would be \$49,081.32. Once an employee is covered by the State Plan the \$500.00 monthly stipend would cease. Other scenarios presented were, the least expensive to the Town, all choose single coverage, would be \$31,916.64; the most expensive to the Town, all choose full family coverage, would be \$77,041.44. Ryan believes the scenario most likely to occur, given the current staff and their situations (4 with existing good health plans, 3 with other coverage not as good as the State Plan and more expensive) the cost to the Town would be \$47,784.96, \$680.00 less than what the Town is paying now with the \$500.00 stipend per month, per employee. Our existing employees would have the option of continuing with the stipend or to go with the State Plan but could not do both. Once they decide to go with the State Plan there is no going back to the monthly stipend, and the stipend would not be an option for any new employees. New employees would have the choice to go on the State Plan or not, and at what level. Sarah Zimmerman commented that the Town may lose good prospective employees if we don't have a good health plan to offer. Mayor Otis stated that he felt that Council should recognize that, over time, this benefit can potentially increase the Towns health insurance expense by 50%. Ryan Fabbri believes that, given the national statistics, a majority of people would be insured as a single only, and believes there is no scenario where we would have 7 full time employees all choosing full family coverage. He felt that was highly unlikely. Mayor Otis stated that the cost of health insurance and pension plans are what has broken many municipalities. Ryan Fabbri stated that at the end of the day, given the employees we have now, it will be less expensive than what we are currently doing, and the Town will be providing good, affordable health insurance to your longest working employee of more than 15 years who is now paying \$600.00 out of pocket every month for very bad insurance. Even though this insurance plan is cheaper than what the Town is paying now, it isn't so much the money but it's providing for our employees. Mayor Otis felt that because this is a complicated issue, Council should review the information given out and call Ryan with any questions. We will look into what MASC has to offer and have it for our next Council meeting.

Proposal to reimburse on employee for retirement plan funds transfer surrender charge - \$1,4492.09

Ryan Fabbri stated that we changed the retirement plan last fall. When we moved the retirement funds from MetLife, they charged a 5% surrender fee of \$1,442.09 for only one employee. This penalty was not the employees fault so he asked Council to approve replacing the surrender charge to that employees 401 A account. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve adding the \$1,442.09 surrender charge to Corporal Milligan's 401A account. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

Hazard mitigation plan progress report update

Ryan Fabbri stated that all the municipalities and towns in Georgetown County must update their Hazard Mitigation Plans. We are show all the actions we are taking and where we stand with these actions – some are changes and some are ongoing and some are completed. **Sarah Zimmerman made the motion to approve the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mike Adams seconded. All in favor.**

Georgetown Sewer and Water Birds Nest sew line repairs – January 2017

Ryan Fabbri stated that sewer pipes in the Birds Nest area are corroding much like we had in front of the Town Hall and the Pelican Inn last year. Georgetown Water and Sewer is aware of that and is going to repair it in January and February 2017.

Drainage/paving work SCDOT 200 block of Myrtle Avenue

Ryan Fabbri stated that the drain repair and the installation of new storm drains around the 200 block of Myrtle Avenue is working well and the paving is complete.

Sink hole repairs driveway 241 Myrtle Avenue

There is a brick paver driveway at 241 Myrtle Avenue. The owner of that address brought to Ryan’s attention that there is a sink hole at the end of his driveway that is held together by the tension of the bricks. The hole underneath is about 5 feet wide. This is directly adjacent to where the drains were installed in the road. No one knows how or what caused the sink hole – no one is claiming ownership. DOT has agreed to fill in the hole but will not repair the driveway and then we will have to replace the bricks. Not sure what the cost will be yet, but probably not more than \$700. A hold harmless agreement will be drafted signed and notarized before the bricks are replaced.

Beach Creek Sweep – September 17 – 9:00 a.m.

Beach Creek Sweep is Saturday, September 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Budget preparation for 2017

Ryan Fabbri stated that a letter will be sent out asking for input on the budget for 2017.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

None

Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE