

The Tides

June 16, 2017

Mayor William L. Otis, Jr.
mayor@townofpi.com



Town of Pawleys Island SOUTH CAROLINA

Summer is here, and so are the renters and visitors! The “Tides” is the way that the Town Council of Pawleys keeps all property owners and residents informed about what is happening at Pawleys. This “Tides” is very long, but there is a lot going on!

There would have typically been an issue of the Tides in late April or early May but we had nothing to report on regarding the most significant issues, FEMA storm reimbursement, Beach Renourishment and replacing Town Hall. As of this writing we are now able to firm up the status of our reimbursement from FEMA for the \$640,000 the town spent to recover from Joaquin and Matthew. We have received \$115,868 for the sand dune/berm work after Joaquin, 75% FEMA and 25% State of South Carolina funds! The Town has also received \$46,497 from FEMA through SCDOT for the costs involved with clearing Springs Avenue of sand and debris and clearing the rest of the island of Hurricane Matthew debris. Springs Street will also be swept by SCDOT quarterly this year. We are informed that FEMA has “obligated” \$244,147 as 75% reimbursement for the sand dune/berm repairs after Hurricane Matthew, though no funds have been received yet. The Town has also received \$19,415 insurance reimbursement for Town Hall damages. In total we expect to recover at least 80% of our Hurricane costs by the end of this year. Our Administrator Ryan Fabbri has been responsible for our ability to provide the backup necessary to FEMA and the State and insurance company to accomplish these great results!

TOWN HALL LOSS AND REPLACEMENT PLAN

After months of discussion about the alternatives for the site of the proposed Town Hall, the Pawleys Island Pavilion Company (owns the Park) Board of Directors last week rejected the use of any part of the Pawleys Park property for the Town Hall. We were informed that, “after much discussion, the consensus of the Board is that the Town should utilize its property at the corner of North Causeway and Myrtle Drive for the town hall.” That means that a New Town Hall, if approved by Council, will have to be built on the corner of the North Causeway and Myrtle Avenue. This will eliminate the “pocket park” on that corner and will reduce the Towns financial flexibility by using town property that could have been sold in the future, if necessary. However, with a small change in the use of Local Accommodations Tax receipts, which will be necessary whether or not a New Town Hall is constructed, no fee or tax will be required to fund the Town Operating Budget for at least the next 10 years. Including a New Town Hall with a Budget of \$500,000 for a maximum 2,000 square foot

building will also not cost Town property owners a fee or a tax over the projected 10 years. The old 450 square foot town hall is being made “useable” for something other than a town hall, but under FEMA and local laws there is a maximum of \$14,000 that can be spent on the building over the next 5 years, and it cannot realistically be expanded where it is. Meanwhile, nearly every “King Tide” now has water lapping against the floor structure, and the Matthew storm surge generated nearly 40 inches of salt water in the building.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT

The Towns Beach Committee voted unanimously in September of 2016 (before Matthew) to recommend to Town Council that the Town move forward with the engineering for a beach renourishment project so as to be able to make an early submission to SCPRT for State Matching Funds. It was noted that this recommendation was based on the ability of the Committee to make later recommendations to the Town Council on the final project scope, with the understanding that the scale of a permitted project can be reduced.

Since then the Town has hired Coastal Science and Engineering Company to do the engineering and the permit was submitted to the State and the Corps of Engineers on January 30, 2017. With the submission of the permit application the Town could submit an application to the State Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism for matching state funds for beach renourishment. The application turned out to contain over 126 pages of application and supporting historical and engineering documentation. The application and support was hand carried to SCPRT in Columbia on March 8, 2017. SCPRT has told the General Assembly that they would be able to respond to each applicant within 6 weeks of receipt of the application. The Town of Pawleys Island has not received any response to its application as of today.

While there still is no decision from the State on the \$6,200,000 grant we have requested, engineering continues on the project so that time is not lost if the grant is approved. The project would be constructed with offshore sand pumped on our beach front. It is projected that most of the existing groins will not be visible after the project is completed, which still could be done by summer of 2018. Presently over half of the Pawleys beachfront has little or no high tide beach.

There have been several property owners who have questioned why the renourishment project stops just beyond the Pawleys Pier. Some have commented that they have paid many thousands of dollars in property tax over the years, and they don't understand while their property is not included for renourishment.

The Town of Pawleys Island has never imposed a town property tax to date so our property owners have never paid property taxes to the Town. In fact, the FEMA CRS Program which the Town implemented in 2005, and which has been improved over the years, now provides a discount on all Federal Flood Insurance premiums paid by town property owners which averaged \$795 per federally insured property owner in 2016, a substantial benefit totaling \$353,781 provided by the town to its property owners through this program. The Town is on track to improve to a level 5 in the program in 2018, which would increase the total savings to \$442,226 or \$995 per federally insured property owner.

Georgetown County does have substantial property taxes, which apply to all County owners including those on Pawleys Island. To date Georgetown County is not assisting in the financing of this proposed project.

In mid-2015 after Hurricane Joaquin damaged the beach and dune system of Pawleys, the Town retained Coastal Science and Engineering to survey the beach in detail and provide historical changes in the beach profile over the years relative to the damage caused by Joaquin. In mid-2016, the town asked for additional engineering work to determine how much sand would have to be added to the island beachfront to establish a healthy beach. That engineering was updated after Hurricane Matthew and the major damages to much of the beachfront that resulted.

The engineering reports establish that the Pawleys Island Beach generally, and specifically after the two storms, is generally erosional south of the pier and generally healthy above the pier as the beach is stable to accretional above the pier. The further north you go above the pier the more accretional the beach. The further south you go below the pier, the more erosional the beach. Our engineers state that the north end did have some obvious erosion with the storms, but mostly this erosion was an adjustment of the beach profile, and that it will recover quickly.

The engineers then established a plan that would generally add sand to the system to establish a healthy beach design for the part of the island generally below the pier/first street similar to the stable beach above the pier/first street. The renourishment project was designed to implement the healthy beach design where it was needed, predominately south of the pier. The engineers also note that with any nourishment project, sand naturally spreads from the fill area into adjacent areas. Some of the fill placed along the central part of the island will spread to the north and feed that part of the beach for years to come.

TOWN HALL MEETING ON BEACH RENOURISHMENT & REPLACING TOWN HALL. 4:00PM THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017 @ THE CHAPEL

The meeting will be to share information and provide property owners with an opportunity to ask questions or provide input. It will be on Thursday July 6, 2017 at 4:00PM and will be held at the Pawleys Island Chapel.

SEWER WORK AGAIN!

The replacement of a section of old iron sewer pipe in the Birds Nest section of the island that was scheduled to be replaced early this spring has been completed, and not too soon if you were here Easter weekend! There was more to be replaced than was thought, so it took several weeks longer than expected, but it is finished and the road damage repaired and repaved.

PERMITS FOR OCEANFRONT BOARDWALKS & STAIRS

A flyer was sent out with the November 21, 2016 tides which explained the permitting requirements for rebuilding beach boardwalks and stairs, and the flyer has been on the front page of the town website since then. The subject of permits for this type of work was also covered in the March 21, 2016 and October 28, 2016 Tides. It now appears that a number of oceanfront boardwalks and stairs have been built without permits, and beyond the maximum 4-foot width allowed by the town ordinances (There can, however, be a 6-foot by 6-foot section of the boardwalk with benches on each side). The Town Council has directed that Georgetown County determine which boardwalks are not in compliance and require that they be brought into compliance with town Ordinances.

UNDERGROUND WIRE

The town now has all easements needed except one on Springs Street above Pritchard street. All boring work is complete on the north end and work pulling wire through the conduit this summer has been approved by Council in order to try to catch up on time lost as a result of Matthew. This is not heavy equipment work and should not create traffic issues on the north end. Work on the south end has stopped and will begin after Labor Day as the contractors are still in the boring phase on the south end. Completion of all work on the underground wire project should be prior to summer 2018.

BEAUTIFICATION FOUNDATION

Please don't forget that your gifts and memorials to the Foundation help to continue to maintain a pleasant Pawleys vista. The Beautification Foundation is responsible for maintaining four properties on our island, the Nature Park, Myrtle Avenue and the triangle at the South Causeway, Birds Nest Park, and the entrance to the public parking area at the south end. Tax deductible memorials or recognitions may be made to the Pawleys Island Beautification Foundation, P.O. Box 2712, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

PLEASE RECYCLE ALL PLASTICS, CANS, CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPERS, OFFICE PAPER, MAGAZINES, AND PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS. THE ONLY ITEMS WHICH CAN NOT BE INCLUDED IN YOUR RECYCLE BINS ARE GARBAGE, AND GLASS OR STYROFOAM PRODUCTS. PLEASE DO NOT PUT GARBAGE IN THE RECYCLE CONTAINERS. Owners can purchase clear recycle trash bags at Pawleys Island Supplies on the North Causeway.

GARBAGE PICKUP: The garbage pickup schedule is Garbage only on Monday Tuesday and Saturday, recycled materials only will be picked up on Wednesday.

TRASH PICKUPS

THE NEXT TRASH PICKUP WILL BE Wednesday JULY 5 and Thursday JULY 6. PLEASE DO NOT PUT TRASH OR VEGITATION CUTTINGS ON THE STREET BEFORE THE PICKUPS. IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP UNTIL THE SCHEDULED DATES AND GIVES OUR ISLAND A "TRASHY" APPEARANCE. Town Council is considering financial penalties for doing this in the future.

NO ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, garbage, shingles, asbestos, liquid paint and hazardous wastes may be included. Please don't pile loose paper or leaves. They need to be in bags to be picked up.

SOUTH END TERMINAL GROIN

Still no ruling on our request to be allowed to defend the Georgetown County South End Groin permit by Columbia Administrative Law Court Judge Lenski. Now more than 3 years with no decision!

PAWLEYS ISLAND REUNION

The Pawleys Pavilion Reunion was held on May 20th at the Pawleys Park again this year. I believe this was the 19th annual Reunion party! “The Blackwater Rhythm and Blues Band” performed and a fine time was had by all! The Reunion is put on by the Georgetown County Habitat for Humanity and all proceeds are going to build a home for a low income working family in the Georgetown County Community.

4th OF JULY PARADE

The 51st annual Pawleys Island 4th of July parade will be held on Tuesday July 4th at 10:00 AM. The South Causeway will be closed from about 9:00AM until the parade passes, and the North Causeway will close as the parade approaches. Signups and T Shirts will be available at the “Old” Town Hall at 321 Myrtle Avenue around mid-June. There is again a \$250 prize being offered for the best musical float!

CANOE, SUP & KAYAK RACE

Will be held again this year on Tuesday July 18th at the North Causeway Bridge, beginning at 2:00PM. Check the Town Web Site or Facebook page for updates. Kayak rentals are available from Surf the Earth on the east side of Highway 17 between the causeways, Pawleys Island Beach service on the east side of Highway 17 north of the North Causeway, or at the Pavilion Park before the race. There are prizes for all age groups! It is great fun and all are invited to participate or to observe from your dock or the bridge. Sign up at Town Hall after the 4th of July.

FLOOD INSURANCE INFO

ALL OF OUR PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD BE RECEIVING A 20% DISCOUNT ON ALL FEDERAL FLOOD INSURANCE POLICIES. You should call your agent and be sure they have your house listed as in the Town of Pawleys Island with the following ID number 450255 0001D and that you are getting the discount as it doesn't always show on some invoices. The Town Administrator, Planning Commission and Council are working toward earning a 25% Discount from FEMA by late summer 2018!

TURTLE SEASON

Has begun. Be careful of your beach front lights and please don't leave chairs, tents or holes on the beach overnight, as they can turn a turtle back toward the ocean where she may expel her eggs. Thanks to our SCUTE volunteers who walk the beach each morning to locate new nests!

TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to update our mailing lists and email addresses. Please email info@townofpi.com so we can capture your address; please assume we don't currently have it, as we only have about 60% at this time. This will also help our communication to you in emergency or in case of a storm event. Please add the Town email address to your email address list so your spam filter won't block emails from Town Hall. Events of the past during and since Hurricane Matthew have shown that our resident information data base is out of date. The

The inability to contact owners almost led to the Island not being granted permits for the beach scraping and dune rebuilding after Hurricane Joaquin due to State and Federal notification requirements. Thanks for your help!

TOWN WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website www.townofpawleysisland.com

Tourism Marketing Website www.onlypawleys.com

Town's Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TownofPawleysIsland

Tourism Marketing Facebook Page www.facebook.com/TheOriginalBeachVacation

Town's Twitter <https://twitter.com/toPawleysIsland>

Police Dept. Twitter <https://twitter.com/PawleysIslandPD>

Instagram page www.instagram.com/topawleysisland/

TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

This year is the biennial election year for Mayor and Town Council. All are up for election each odd numbered year for a 2 year term. The election will be held November 7, 2017. Filing for the Offices of Mayor and Council will be from noon August 1 to noon August 15, 2017, at the County Election Commission, 303 North Hazard Street, Georgetown.

Filing Information at: www.georgetowncountysc.org/elections/

Absentee voting information at: <http://www.scvotes.org/absentee-voting>

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT – JANUARY 9, 2017

The year 2017 marks my 22nd year on Town Council and my 20th year as Mayor of Pawleys Island. During these years I have had the honor and pleasure of serving this Blessed Isle, and its residents and property owners.

Over the past 5 or 6 years the Council and I have discussed the future management of the Town. As you know, we determined that Pawleys Island should have a professional administrator in place to assure future continuity of management of the town. We said that he or she should be someone who could understand the history and culture of Pawleys, and who could administer the affairs of the Town through future changes of elected leadership.

As a result, Ryan Fabbri was hired as Assistant Administrator in October of 2013, and became Administrator in June of 2015. Ryan has developed a clear understanding of the background of the Town and its culture, and has demonstrated his excellent abilities as its administrator.

Of course, as we made these plans we had no idea that we would be confronted by two hurricanes in successive Octobers, the second of which would wreak havoc on our Town and its property owners! One benefit, however, has been a deep learning experience for all of us on today's complex processes for recovery from a hurricane. As a result of the two hurricanes the Town has seen more change in the past year and a half than it has seen in the past 20 years, and we, and our property owners, have met those challenges together!

There will continue to be many challenges in the next few years. Among these will be the future repair and renourishment of our beach, replacing our historic Town Hall, improving our CRS flood discount program, the selection of our future elected leadership, and the protection of our town culture through all of these changes.

The Town of Pawleys Island is now in a good position as an organization -- with a professional administrator in place, and a strong Council to meet the challenges we face. That solid foundation will be necessary as the town, the Mayor and Council develop the plans that best meet those challenges, and that best reflect the interests of our community.

I will work hard during these coming months to help Ryan, Council, and our Committees on the development and the beginning of implementation of those plans.

For several election cycles Alice and I have discussed if I should run for Mayor again, recognizing there is a point at which that decision would be appropriate. I now believe the stage is set for a smooth transition of leadership of our Town. Alice and I have, therefore, decided that this 20th year ending in November will be my last one as Mayor of the Town of Pawleys Island.

During my 19 years of service as Mayor I have been particularly blessed with the amazing support and encouragement of every member of Town Council with whom I have been privileged to serve. Without exception your elected members of this Council have been dedicated to the island and the Town, and have served only in the best interests of Pawleys Island and all of its property owners.

All of us also owe our gratitude to the many Chair Persons and Members of the Town Boards, Committees and Commissions. They have volunteered much of their time and talents to maintain the best traditions of "Pawleys as it was".

So, in closing, let me express my deep and everlasting appreciation to all of the property owners of Pawleys Island. Your support and encouragement has been both humbling and a source of wonderful satisfaction.

Alice and I look forward to continuing your friendship for many years to come.

FINAL THOUGHTS

After Ryan Fabbri was named Administrator and given the responsibilities and authority of an administrator, a resolution was passed in 2015 giving me the authority and responsibility of acting for the council in the supervision of the Administrator. I now believe that Ryan has accomplished an excellent transition and is, in every way, the Administrator for the future of our town. I have been relinquishing more and more of the authority given me in the 2015 resolution since my January announcement. For this reason, I will ask the Town Council in June to formally remove the responsibility and authority given me for the supervision of the Administrator, and to return to operating as a "Council" form of Government as defined in State Law.

The Council can then reorganize itself as it wishes, and clarify any areas of the job description of the Administrator as needed. This should assure anyone considering offering for the position of Mayor that the position will be very much less demanding in the future under the "Council" form of government, and with our capable Administrator.

We cordially invite you to any Town Council meeting on the second Monday of each month in the Pawleys Island Chapel. We provide time at the beginning of the meeting for anyone to speak for up to three minutes to express a concern, or just simply to speak to council. If I can be of further service please don't hesitate to call me at my home office (843) 237-8005, or at my home, (843) 237-2053. The other current council members are Mayor Pro Tem Mike Adams (843) 237-0394, Rocky Holliday (843) 237-0377, Ashley Carter (843) 237-4257 and Sarah Zimmerman (843) 237-7774. Your Council works together to protect and serve our island and its heritage of gentleness, history and tranquility. Administrator Ryan Fabbri is also available to discuss and address problems on the island. He would be happy to receive a call, or to sit down with you at any time, to discuss your interests or concerns. His town hall number is (843) 237-1698.

Summer looks so promising to us so after so much bad weather and the stress associated with Hurricane Matthew and the following storm driven "king tides". Come and enjoy your Blessed Isle!

Sincerely,

Bill Otis
Mayor