

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

DATE/PLACE: August 27, 2019
Pawleys Island Town Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Jimmy Braswell, Ashley Carter, Guerry Green & Rocky Holliday

ABSENT: Sarah Zimmerman

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to amend the agenda to move #4 discussion and possible action regarding the size and scope of renourishment project to the #3 position making the original #3 agenda item #4 which is progress update on developing beach renourishment funding strategies and legislation from Theodore DuBose with Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd, P.A Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.

Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to allow former Mayor Bill Otis to speak and participate in the Councils discussion regarding the size and scope of our beach renourishment project. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF RENOURISHMENT PROJECT

Rocky Holliday stated that we now understand and acknowledge that we were not thinking about the life of this project correctly. Originally, we were looking at doing this project every 10 years and do another renourishment. Now, in working with our engineers and discussing it among council members and Town staff, another scenario has now been reviewed with a much longer time span between renourishments. Another thing that we now understand is something called a trigger point which the erosion on the beach reaches a certain level then triggers the next renourishment project. Bill Otis stated that the Beach Committee looked at doing a 725,000 cu.yd. project on Pawleys Island that would last approximately 9 to 10 years and borrowing \$2.14M which was 2 or 3 years ago. Steve Trantum, CSE, told him that we would have an erosion rate of approximately 50,000 cubic yards a year for the first 2 years then 30,000 cubic yards a year after that. The graph Rocky developed was based on that information. The graph shows 400,000 cubic yards of sand as being the trigger point which is 400,000 cu.yds. more than what we have now on the beach. Steve Trantum, CSE, stated that 700,000 cu.yds. of sand on our beach was a few years ago and is still the amount of sand to have for an ideal beach with a trigger point of 400,000 cu.yds. (See attached cost comparison for 850,000 vs. 1,100,000 cu.yds. of sand and the Project Life Scenarios Graph). Rocky Holliday stated that looking at these reports he is now looking at the larger beach project. Bill Otis stated that an important fact to remember is that we have a historically low cost of \$9.20 per yard of sand and we are only paying 60% of that cost because of what PRT will be giving us. The larger project is hugely more protection for the island. The long-term protection is significant. Steve Trantum stated that he thought it was in the Town's best interest to do the larger project. Sarah Zimmerman expressed concern about not having any money available for the first few years before we have a chance to build up our funds in the event, we have damage to the beach. Bill Otis stated that we are not talking about 9 years – we are looking at 15 or more years to build up our funding. Council will wait for the September Town Council meeting to announce which project the Town will go with. Steve Trantum stated that we will be well south of where any turtle nests are. Marinex hopes to start pumping sand on October 1st and should take approximately 3 months.

Initially the sand should be darker than what we are used to but it will bleach out to a lighter color. When the new sand starts to erode it will go north so there will be a good bit more at the south end initially. Steve suggests planting sea grasses and plants on the dunes and sand fencing is really only good on established dunes.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON DEVELOPING BEACH RENOURISHMENT FUNDING STRATEGIES AND LEGISLATION FROM THEODORE DUBOSE WITH HAYNESWORTH, SINKLER & BOYD, P.A.

Theodore Dubose from Haynesworth, Sinkler & Boyd, stated that getting funding for this project is possible but it is not a slam dunk. He has developed a draft for the key individuals in the legislative delegation and will share it with OCRM. He will also send it to our Council. What he is doing now is talking about the lobbying effort however, he does not do lobbying. He stated what we could do is ask property owners or interested parties to voice their opinion to the legislation to get them to act on helping to fund our project. What Mr. Dubose will do is create a bond as the State law allows him to take the accommodations taxes and pledges for a bond. The banks have to hang on to any bonds and cannot sell them because under federal security laws they have to promise that they will not sell the bonds to anybody else. Ryan Fabbri has contacted a number of local banks to make them aware that we are looking for a bank to do business with. The Town, without doing a legislative amendment, has the authority to issue a general obligation bond, for up to 30 years and repay it through property taxes levied within the whole jurisdiction based on relative assessed values of the properties. You can borrow up to 8% of the assessed value of all property within the Town without having a referendum and can be done within 70 days but it cannot be used for operational purposes. You can borrow as much as the voters can stand with a referendum. The approximate assessed value of the Town is \$30M. Steve Trantum stated that it may be a good idea to include language to include other sea level rise flooding issues.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE