

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE/PLACE: March 9, 2020
 Pawleys Island Town Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Ashley Carter, Guerry Green

ABSENT: Rocky Holliday & Sarah Zimmerman

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70-(a)(2) discussion incidental to contractual negotiations or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; specifically, the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70-(a)(2) discussion incidental to contractual negotiations or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; specifically, the United States Army corps of Engineers. **Ashley Carter made a motion to step down into executive session. Guerry Green seconded. All in favor. Ashley Carter made a motion to step down from executive session. Guerry Green seconded. All in favor.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A property owner who lives in the middle of the island stated that she is very disappointed that she didn't get more sand than she did. She stated that there are parts of 2 groins that are showing.

Another property owner stated that at low tide you can see the groins but at high tide there is about 40 feet of those groins that are about 1 foot underwater and worries that surfers, boaters, etc. could be hurt out in the water because the groins are basically hidden from view at high tide.

APPROVAL OF 2/18/2019 MEETING MINUTES

Ashley Carter made a motion to approve the 2/18/2019 meeting minutes. Guerry Green seconded. All in favor.

Guerry Green made a motion to recommend item 5a to have Santee Cooper as the next item on the agenda. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.

BUSINESS

A. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Pawleys Island and Santee Cooper concerning repayment of deficit for the underground wire conversion project.

Mayor Henry thanked Ray Pinson and Greg Turbeville from Santee Cooper for the job they did for the Town with the underground wire project. There was an overage in the cost of the project from what was originally estimated. Mr. Turbeville stated that Santee Cooper has had a franchise agreement with Pawleys Island since 1986 and in 2005 they revised the agreement to have an underground matching fund. We took 40% of the franchise collections and matched it to do the underground conversions. In 2012-2013 the Town requested that the rest of the island be converted to the underground. The original estimate for the project was around \$3.5 million and the Town passed a referendum to cover the deficit. The project reconciliation was done at the end of the project with a \$333,702 shortfall that was realized. Approximately 75% of the shortfall was due to Santee Cooper using an outside law firm for easement acquisition in phases 1 and 2 of the project. Santee Cooper used their in-house legal to obtain phase 1 easements, but the outside firm was hired when it was determined that without assistance they wouldn't get the easements completed in a timely manner.

However, since the completion of the project the Town has continued to pay into the fund and Santee Cooper has continued to match that amount so the actual amount of the overage is now \$293,559. Santee Cooper has offered 3 options to the Town to pay off the debt; pay it in one lump sum, a combination of pay part of it and pay the rest over a period of time and the other would be for the Town to paid it through the franchise collections. It is estimated by, using the 3rd option, the overage would be paid in the first half of 2026 with the amount of interest being around \$30,000. After discussion it was decided that the Town will have first reading at this meeting and Santee Cooper will review the figures to see if the overage can be further reduced by the April council meeting.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Beach Renourishment Project Update

Ryan Fabbri stated that Marinex estimates that the project will be completed the following week – we have about 100,000 cu. yards remaining to complete the project. The County is expected to have the south-end parking lot completed by the end of March.

B. Police Report

Chief Fanning was not available for this meeting. Ryan Fabbri stated that Chief Fanning told him that there were no extraordinary incidences that occurred in February 2020 to report.

C. Building Report

Ryan Fabbri stated that the permits were for standard repairs except for one new construction.

D. Financial Report

- I. Approval of payment to Marinex for \$1,866,564.23 – **Guerry Green made a motion to approve payment to Marinex for \$1,866,564.23. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**
- II. Approval of payment to CSE for \$36,092.21- **Guerry Green made a motion to approve payment to CSE for \$36,092.213. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

BUSINESS (Cont.)

B. Resolution #2020-04, a resolution to indicate Town Council's support for South Carolina Senate Bill 869, The "Beach Preservation Trust Act." Senate Bill 869 is proposed to set aside 25% of the state's 5% Admissions Tax for beach renourishment purposes. Mayor Henry stated that the trust act 869 is proposed to set aside 25% of the States 5% admissions tax for beach renourishment purposes and must be matched equally by the municipality or county in which the project site is located or by a combination there of. Myrtle Beach recently approved this. This bill was introduced and sponsored by Senator Chip Camson in January 2020. Mayor Henry read portions of the senate bill 869. Admissions tax is collected by all places of amusement when an admission has been charged such as museums, golf courses, amusement parks, etc. **Guerry Green made a motion to approve the resolution. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

C. Consideration of Town and property Owner cost share program for sand fence installation north of Army Corps project area.

Ryan Fabbri stated that we have \$80,000 for the planting of Sea Oats and for the installation of sand fencing. \$30,960 of it is PRT Funds. Council approved, at our last meeting, \$40,000 for dune vegetation to be planted north of the Army Corp section which is on the southern part of the project. To spend the remaining \$40,000 Mr. Fabbri calculated the cost to continue the planting from 520 Myrtle Avenue to the northern tip of the island with incentivizing these property owners to do a 50/50 cost share with the Town. The cost will be \$8.00 a linear foot with a total cost to be \$84,000.

Hal Droter will be doing the installation of both the vegetation and the fencing. Property owners have the option of having the fencing and the planting done on their own if they don't want to wait for the Town to complete it. **Guerry Green made a motion to approve cost sharing with property owners on a first come, first serve basis. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

D. Discussion regarding U.S. Army Corp Project/Easement Acquisition

Ryan Fabbri stated that we have about 6 individuals who have not signed their easements but 2 of are expected to sign leaving 4 people who will not sign. He will work on getting them to sign within the next 2 weeks. The Corp will not do the work without all easements signed.

E. Discussion regarding Strategic Planning Meeting/Property Owner Survey

Mayor Henry stated that the next scheduled meetings are Friday March 20, 2020 at George Raftelis' home for dinner (TBD), Saturday March 21, 2020 at the Caledonia Club House from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the strategic meeting. Also, property owners have been sent a survey that is also on the Town website. The Town received 262 survey responses

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Henry stated the survey responses are very important and will be input to the strategic committee conversations.

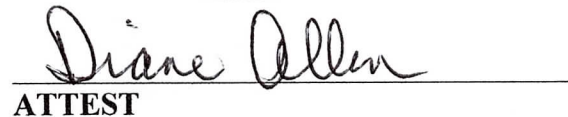
ADJOURNMENT

Ashley Carter made a motion to adjourn. Guerry Green seconded. All in favor.



APPROVED

5/11/20
DATE



ATTEST

4/13/20
DATE