

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE/PLACE: December 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Rocky Holliday, Ashley Carter & Sarah Zimmerman

ABSENT: Guerry Green

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2021 OPERATION BUDGET & ORDINANCE 2020-12 TO REZONE A PORTION OF 632 PRITCHARD STREET

No one sign up to speak at the Public Hearing. Ryan Fabbri offered to review the proposed operating budget for 2021. Mayor Henry preferred to wait to discuss the details during the regular meeting. Mayor Henry closed the public hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

Town Council convened and Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Submitted written public comments attached to minutes.

APPROVAL OF 11/9/2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES. Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve 11/9/2020 meeting minutes. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR TOWN LOGO. Mayor Henry presented a conceptual logo design for a new town logo that he received from Alice Otis, who was given the opportunity to join the meeting discussion with council. Mrs. Otis stated that about 18 months ago she came before Council to raise concerns about the town's current logo not having a lot to do with Pawleys Island and it was her opinion that it did not represent the town well. It was her recollection that several of the council members seemed to agree with her at the time and directed her to research a new logo. She worked with architect Robert Kennedy to come up with a conceptual design and that is what is being presented for consideration. It shows a loggerhead turtle, the ocean and a new moon. Mrs. Otis stated she thought it would make for a charming logo for the town and requested that council consider using it. Rocky Holliday thanked Mrs. Otis for her research on this and said that he certainly preferred it over the logo currently being used. Mr. Holliday asked Mrs. Otis to confirm that the design is currently just a rough draft and the plan would be for an artist or graphic designer to polish it up. Mrs. Otis confirmed that was correct. Mayor Henry said that he didn't dislike it. Maybe if it were digitized and cleaned up council could all look at it and see exactly what it's going to end up being. The mayor said he was not opposed to moving forward with it. Ashley Carter also said he liked the design, and it encompasses the elements of Pawleys Island. Mrs. Otis asked Mr. Fabbri if he could assist her with bringing a graphic designer on board to assist, and he agreed to do so. **Item tabled; no action taken.**

REPORTS AND UPDATES

- A. Police Report.** Chief Fanning reported that the department was not too busy in November. They did have a handful of auto break-ins of vehicles that were unlocked. A variety of items were stolen, everything from loose change and sunglasses to a new Xbox video game system. The break-ins occurred very early in the morning and they're still investigating it. There was also a reported break-in to an unlocked house on Springs Ave. which was also vandalized. They took everything out of the refrigerator and dumped it all over the floor and the furniture. The chief said they're looking into a couple leads and they believe it to be the work of some kids.
- B. Building Report.** Ryan Fabbri stated there is nothing out of the ordinary. (See Attached)
- C. Financial Report.** Ryan Fabbri informed council that the town had collected almost \$530,000 in local accommodations tax through the end of November and that only reflects rental activity through October. The estimated revenue for the entire year is \$495,000, so this goes to show how well vacation rentals are doing on the island. He stated that all department expenditures were tracking well below the budgeted amounts, with the exception of judicial. Judicial is a little higher since the town recently brought on the county magistrate court to handle court administration. The cost ends up being a little bit more than what was anticipated at the beginning of the year, but still nothing major.
- I. Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve payment to Coastal Science & Engineering for \$3,953.25. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.**

BUSINESS

- A. Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations.** Mayor Henry stated that the Accommodations Tax Committee made a recommendation that council approve a request from the Beautification Foundation for \$15,000 in A-tax funds. Mayor Henry said he tried on numerous occasions to set up a meeting with PIBF leadership to go over their financials before council made a decision. Opportunities to meet continued to get pushed off by the PIBF and he decided to move forward and bring council a recommendation based on financial information he had access to. The Pawleys Island Beautification Foundation is a 501c3 organization with their own board, and they are not an official town committee. The group supports the town and does a lot of maintenance projects through landscaping and beautification. Mayor Henry stressed that the PIBF receives their funding from 2 different sources. One is through the accommodations tax grant funds that council is discussing tonight, and private donations received from the community. The Pawleys Island Nature Park is leased to the Town and its Council's responsibility to make decisions regarding maintenance and improvements to the existing landscape. The beautification Foundation has stepped up in a volunteer capacity to be able to do that for us, but Town Council has control over those grounds since it's the Town that's leasing the property. Mayor Henry provided an overview of the Beautification Foundation's financial information (attached to minutes). The PIBF estimates that their annual maintenance costs are \$18,000, but in 2019 they spent \$12,000 and for the first three quarters of 2020 they've spent \$9,000. The Town contributed \$13,500 in 2017, \$17,500 in 2018, \$15,000 in 2019. When compared to the revenue generated from donations it shows that the Town has contributed about 79% of the foundation's revenue over that three year span. The foundation's current checking account balance is about \$8,600 and if about 79% of that has been subsidized by the town, then

about \$6,800 of that reflects money previously provided by the Town. Mayor Henry contended, if the PIBF needs \$18,000 for operating costs and they already have roughly \$6,000 in town funds in their account, it makes sense to provide them with \$12,000. Sarah Zimmerman asked if the \$12,000 is what was recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee. Mayor Henry stated that the committee approved \$15,000 and the \$12,000 figure comes working the numbers backward, as he just demonstrated. Mayor Henry stressed that we don't have receipts and information that shows exactly how much they're spending. They don't report to the town, but council is making the decisions on how much to give them, so that's important to know. Mayor Henry said that he would like to see an increase in private donations, because that allows them to fund future projects, and improvements. He'd also like to see quarterly updates, just like the Planning Commission, Events Committee and all these other bodies that report to us. Rocky Holliday agreed with the mayor about the donations. He also pointed out that the foundation completed recent improvements to the Nature Park, and they should be thanked for their hard work. It is his hope that these improvements will hopefully incentivize the island property owners to get back into the habit of gifting to the beautification Foundation. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve \$12,000 in accommodation tax funds to the Beautification Foundation. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor. Rocky Holliday made a motion to give the remaining accommodations tax funds to the Town to pay tourism related expenses. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

- B. Approve MOA with Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce as the Town's designated tourism marketing organization.** Sarah Zimmerman asked if they've done anything to change their advertising. Ryan Fabbri said that he was unaware of any changes, but he'd ask the Chamber to send examples for the town to review. **Rocky Holliday moved to approve MOA with Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce as Ashley seconded. All in favor.**
- C. Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-12: A request from Walt Niemczura and Monica Zweber-Niemczura to rezone a portion of their lot from Conservation & Preservation (CP) to Residential (R-1). The property is located at 632 Pritchard Street. TMS Number 42-0174-024-00-00.** Mayor Henry stated that Ryan made a presentation on this issue at last month's meeting and council discussed it. There have been no changes and it is the same as it was in November. **Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2020-12 to rezone a portion of the lot located at 632 Pritchard Street from Conservation & Preservation (CP) to Residential (R-1). TMS Number 42-0174-024-00-00. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**
- D. Second Reading of Ordinance 2020-13: An ordinance adopting the 2021 Annual Operating Budget.** Mayor Henry thanked council for meeting last Thursday to discuss the budget and some of the larger items. A general consensus was reached regarding a new

police patrol vehicle and ATV for beach patrol. Also, the addition of \$35,000 to the budget to conduct a drainage pilot project with a particular focus on a couple of drains near Town Hall, and another set of the drains at the corner at Prichard and Springs. The pilot projects would be a private public private partnership, where there's costs to clean out the drains and get them prepared for a backflow preventor, and an additional cost to purchase the backflow preventors. Half of that would be paid by the town and the other half would be paid by nearby property owners that have a vested interest in making sure that the projects are funded. \$8,000 was added to the budget for installation of more electrical outlets near the Nature Park for future use during various events. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve second reading of ordinance 2020-13. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.**

- E. **Approve Employee's Christmas Bonus.** Mayor Henry thought it would be a good idea to increase Christmas bonus for full-time employees from \$300 to \$400, and part-time employees from \$110 to \$150. **Ashley Carter made a motion to approve Christmas bonus for town employees. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.**

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments made.

ADJOURNMENT

Ashley Carter made a motion to adjourn. Rocky Holliday seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

Subject: Public Comment from Henry Thomas

Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 at 11:46:31 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Emilie Carey

To: info@townofpi.com

REFERENDUMS

A VOTE of all property owners should be required when spending more than \$250,000 except in emergency situations.

Owners voted on a new Water an Sewer system. A 70% vote of all owners was required for the Underground Wire project. Why were we not allowed to vote on Beach Renourishment???? A vote is not yet part of the Town's proposed plan to access a new property tax.

All owners should vote on the proposed property tax, elections and other town matters.

Henry Thomas