

**MINUTES  
PAWLEYS ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE/PLACE: April 12, 2021  
Town Hall Conference Room, 323 Myrtle Avenue

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

ABSENT:

**CALL TO ORDER**

Town Council convened and Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Henry Thomas, 181 Atlantic Ave.** Mr. Thomas expressed his opinion on the importance of public hearings. He's aware that any citizen could request that council hold a public hearing on any issue, and he also acknowledges that whether or not that request is granted is at the discretion of the council. He pointed out that one of the agenda items up for discussion are a proposed change in the length of terms for elected council member, from two to four years. He thinks a public hearing is absolutely essential for an issue like this. He stated the last time he asked for a public hearing he was told he could ask all the questions he wanted, but that council didn't have to answer questions. He would really like to see a public hearing happen for this proposed change, and maybe like to see something in the future done where on public hearings and townhall meetings are part of a routine.

Mayor Henry stated that a public hearing will take place before second reading on this issue.

**APPROVAL OF 3/8/2021 REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES.** Before asking for council approval on the minutes Mayor Henry pointed out that he noticed in the minutes there was a reiteration about the 2019 audit being a bit delinquent. He wanted to make sure that the 2020 audit is done sometime around the June or July timeframe so council can have a look at a document that's viable and useful to us. Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve 3/8/2021 meeting minutes. Ashley Carter seconded. All in favor.

**REPORTS AND UPDATES**

- A. Administrator's Report.** Ryan Fabbri informed council that the Town is currently going through a cycle visit with FEMA to conduct a review of the CRS program. He explained it's essentially an audit of all the town's floodplain management activities over the previous 5 years to ensure the Town is enforcing its own regulations and to get the appropriate amount of CRS points for doing so. The Town currently gets enough points to qualify as a class level 6, resulting in a 20% discount for all NFIP policies within the Town's jurisdiction, and after the cycle visit, it should improve to a class level 5 increasing the total discount per policy to 25%. Rocky Holliday asked how this would affect the flood insurance policies with private companies and Mr. Fabbri said that it wouldn't have any impact. Mr. Holliday said that we should make sure that we clarify that it only impacts the NFIP policies and not private policies when informing residents.

Administrator Fabbri had an update on the preliminary flood maps issued back in 2016. He was informed by SCDNR that FEMA should be issuing final approval this summer, after which council can give its approval and they'll become effective. The new maps lower base flood elevation across most of the island with the exception of the Bird's Nest area where it increases by 1 foot.

Mr. Fabbri also told council that the U.S. Army Corps is getting close to issuing an RFP to install sand fence and sea oats on the south end of the island. Mr. Holliday recommended that the mayor send out an email to property owners to further explain the town's relationship with the Army Corp and the future benefits. Mayor Henry agreed.

- B. Police Report.** Fanning reported that the department's ATV used to patrol the beaches was brought to mechanic for brake repairs and during the mechanics inspection it was their opinion that the vehicle was rusted beyond a safe and operable condition. A replacement ATV was included in the 2021 operating budget pending a final approval from council to make the purchase and the Chief requested that council approve the purchase, otherwise the department would be left without a way to patrol or respond on the beach. Chief Fanning acknowledged that council had been reluctant to approve the purchase at previous council meetings this year and offered to purchase a single rider ATV that's around \$6,000 less than the \$13,000 side-by-side ATV included in the original budget. Mayor Henry thanked Chief Fanning but expressed his concerns over the Town's growing legal fees. Sarah Zimmerman asked Administrator Fabbri if the Town can afford the ATV and Mr. Fabbri responded by clarifying that the expense is already included in the 2021 operating budget. He also stated that there's no way to predict how long the town will be paying the condemnation legal fees or how much it will end up costing. Guerry Green reminded council of the financial surprise we dealt with last year from Santee Cooper and now the uncertainty of the ongoing legal fees. He said this ATV purchase might not sound like a lot of money, but one thing adds up to another and you don't know. Chief Fanning stressed that this is a safety issue and that he believes most people wouldn't place an emphasis on financial considerations when it came to decisions regarding their families or businesses. He stated that the use of an ATV to patrol the beach is an essential tool his department needs to ensure the safety of people on the beach. Ashley Carter said one of the biggest concerns that we have as property owners is the fear of homes being broken in to and he thinks with having a presence out there with an ATV will help with that situation. Rocky Holliday said that we might have this purchase budgeted, but we have \$150,000 in legal fees that aren't budgeted and still growing. He questioned the Chief about there possibly being other places where he could make cuts. Chief Fanning said he's already offered to cut the purchase price in half by going with a less expensive model, in addition to going over the budget with a fine-toothed comb to provide council with the best possible option. Sarah Zimmerman questioned whether the vendor would be able to produce the ATV before the tourism season if we were to order it now. Chief Fanning said he received a quote for an in-stock model that would be \$7,032 and we could have it immediately. Mayor Henry said there's the issue of money and the issue of whether we want to patrol the beach, but a decision needs to be made. Mayor Henry asked the Chief if he needs the ATV to adequately patrol the beach and his response was that it is not possible to do so without an ATV. Guerry Green stated that he doesn't think there's a need to patrol all areas of the beach.



Mr. Green also questioned why council is considering a vote on this issue when it's not listed on the agenda. Mayor Henry said he understands the town's financial constraints, but he sees it as a compromise if council decides to purchase a \$7,032 ATV as opposed to what's in the original budget. Sarah Zimmerman made a motion to approve the police department's ATV purchase for a total expense of \$7,032.00. Ashley Carter seconded. **All in favor – Sarah Zimmerman, Ashley Carter & Mayor Brian Henry. Opposed – Rocky Holliday & Guerry Green.**  
**Motion passes.**

C. **Building Report.** Ryan Fabbri stated there is nothing out of the ordinary. (See Attached)

D. **Financial Report.**

- I. **Rocky Holliday made a motion to approve payment to Belser & Belser for \$10,960.00. Guerry Green seconded. All in favor.**

## **BUSINESS**

A. **Consideration of Ordinance 2021-04: an ordinance to change terms of office for mayor and councilmembers from two-year terms to staggered four-year terms.** Mayor Henry explained that this ordinance would change our local laws so that mayor candidates would be running for four-year term. For council members, the 4 council members will be running for 2 four-year terms and 2 two-year terms. What we're proposing is the two top vote getters of the four winning council member candidates would get four-year terms and the third and fourth place vote getters would get two-year terms which would transition into four-year terms at the next election cycle. Sarah Zimmerman questioned why council is considering changing this? Mayor Henry replied by saying it was for continuity and to avoid having the potential for complete council turnover every 2 years. Sarah Zimmerman said she doesn't believe this is a problem and it's never proven to be a problem. Mayor Henry stated that he didn't have a strong feeling about it although he believed it makes sense. Rocky Holliday stated that he also did not have a strong opinion about it and council should look forward and do what makes the most sense for the community in the future. Ashley Carter stated that he did not have a strong feeling about it and prefers two-year terms. Mayor Henry said he feels that once you're one year into your position, you have to start thinking about reelection and that's not necessarily the most positive way to run. Four-year terms allow elected officials to roll up your sleeves and do the work without constantly looking over your shoulder and waiting for you thinking about an election that's right around the corner. **No motions made. No vote taken. Item tabled.**

## **COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Ashley Carter wanted to take the opportunity to commend Chief Fanning and the rest of the Pawleys Island Police Department for the outstanding job they do.

Mayor Henry acknowledged that the discussion about the ATV and other issues can get uncomfortable, but council needs to have them. Sometimes we're going to disagree. Sometimes we all agree. But we have to have these conversations so we can keep moving the ball forward. He also hopes everyone got to see the video he made with John Hildreth about the Architectural Review Board. He wanted to tell council that he had gotten a number of email responses in the vast majority, not every one of them but the vast majority were all positive. Very positive for what we're doing encouraging us to keep going.

ADJOURNMENT

Rocky Holliday made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All in favor.

  
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APPROVED

6-2-21  
DATE

  
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ATTEST

6-2-2021  
DATE