



TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585
1-18-2022 – 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Sarah Zimmerman, Guerry Green, Rocky Holliday (Virtual)

ABSENT: Ashley Carter

STAFF PRESENT: Ryan Fabbri (Town Administrator), Mike Fanning (Chief of Police), Ross Durant (Town Attorney), Preston Janco (Town Clerk)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Henry called Norm Avinger up for Public Comments.

Norm Avinger –

Norm expressed that him and his wife had big concerns over the amount of flooding and high waters over the roads. He would like to see the roads shutdown more often when they are flooded due to vehicles causing wakes large enough to surf on. If the causeways were closed more often this would not be a problem. Norm also stated that he understands DOT is planning on repaving the roads, however, this is a waste due to the amount of flooding that will damage the road again. Norm would like to see the roads elevated or possible berms put in place to reduce flooding. Norm believes the build up of the dunes on the beach side have done a great job in reducing flooding, but nothing has been done on the creek side. He recognized Council's effort on the drain program and would like to see more of these long-term flooding issues addressed.

Mayor Henry thanked Norm for his comments and called up Robert Moser to speak.

Robert Moser –

Robert Moser addressed Council's effort in trying to solve the money situation and addressed that he does not mind seeing budget cuts for the sake of saving money. However, Robert expressed budget cuts should not be made at the expense of safety and the police department. Robert stated that if you live on the Island, you have become well accustomed to the police presence, and he believes this is the largest deterrence the Island has for crime. Robert is unsure if the County can fill the void and believes Council should take some more time to weigh the security issues caused by cutting the police department. Robert would like to see a 24-hour Pawleys Island police coverage on the Island.

Mayor Henry called on Paul Gross to speak, however, Paul stated that he was just signing up to attend the meeting not to speak.

Mayor Henry stated that he wanted to clarify with Mr. Avinger that the drainage project was initiated to deal with part of the problem of water on the roads. Mayor Henry stated that it has been successful and would like to see it implemented over the whole Island to help with flooding issues. Guerry Green explained how the project helps with preventing water from coming up through the drains before it comes over the bank. Mayor Henry stated that long-term funding for these projects needs to be addressed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 12-13-2021 Regular Meeting

Mayor Henry Called for a motion to approve the 12-13-2021 Meeting Minutes. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

Mayor Henry stated that he would like to shuffle the agenda and put item 5A as the first item to discuss.

5A. Request for permission to hold fireworks display in Pawleys Island Creek over Labor Day Weekend – Betsy Altman / Pawleys Island Realty.

Brent Munnerlyn of the pyrotechnic company spoke that the fireworks project would consist of a barge being placed in the Pawleys Creek to light off fireworks. The project would be approved by the Coast Guard, DNR, and the State of South Carolina. Brent expressed that he does many shows in South Carolina and his company has a 100% track record of safety and is 100% confident about shooting off fireworks in the creek. There will be a fall out area around the barge for falling embers.

Betsy Altman of Pawleys Island Realty explained that the purpose of this project was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Pawleys Island Realty and to show the companies gratitude to the property owners of Pawleys Island. Betsy stated that Labor Day weekend was a better holiday weekend than others due to not as many crowds and the fireworks company is not as busy. Betsy stated that 20 years ago there was a fireworks show done on the pier but performed by volunteers. The barge will be 10X40 and almost all the debris from the fireworks is biodegradable. There is a small plastic piece in the firework that would be left over.

Brent explained that if it was rained out the event would take place the next day. Sarah Zimmerman asked if nearby property owners would be notified about the event and what does the permit process look like? Brent stated that it is not a requirement, however, if that was requested then they could notify nearby owners. Brent also explained that DNR would not have jurisdiction of permitting for fireworks shows in the creek, it would be the Town's jurisdiction to give approval. Mayor Henry asked if Brent has any experience doing shows in salt marshes? Brent used Port Royal and Beaufort as an example. Betsy stated that Pawleys Island Realty would be funding the whole project. Sarah asked about litter and waster. Brent explained that there would almost be no litter or waste other than the biodegradable

material and the small plastic piece for the fireworks. Guerry Green asked how long the creek would be closed. Brent explained that there would need to be always a 100-foot separation from the barge, however, right before the show begins there would have to be a 30-minute span where there is 350 feet separation from the barge. So, the maximum time of creek closure would be 30 minutes. Sarah asked about the location of the barge. Brent stated that they are very flexible with the location and a map could be provided. Mayor Henry asked where people would view it. The parking lot would be an ideal place. Brent stated that they are permitted to use up to 5-inch shells so shells that large could be seen from any point on the Island. Betsy stated that she does not want to burden the police so any extra costs to the police she would be happy to fund. Betsy stated that she is not going to advertise the event so that crowds are as minimal as possible. Rocky chimed in and stated Council should take this under consideration for the next meeting so they can have some time to digest the information. Chief Fanning asked Betsy when the permitting must be in. Brent added that the Coast Guard usually needs a 135-day notice but with this event they would only need a 60-day notice. The barge also needs time to reserve. So, a 2-month notice would be preferable. Mayor Henry stated that he would like to move on if there are no more questions from Council. Mayor Henry added that he has some concerns of debris, traffic, crowds, and fire hazards. He expressed that Council would consider the request but does not normally take up items such as this. Brent added that debris would be minimal, there would be a lot of space to see the even, they are computer controlled, and it is a nice display. Mayor Henry thanked Betsy and Brent for their presentation.

4. REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Coastal Science & Engineering – Creek Dredging

Mayor Henry discussed the purpose of bringing CSE to the meeting. Mayor Henry stated that the Town would like to consider pursuing a Creek Dredging project because the last one was years ago. However, Council needs to be informed of the process and what areas should be addressed the most. Steven of CSE thanked Council and stated that he went to check out the progress of the completed Beach Renourishment project and was very glad to see that the beach is holding up well. Steven explained that Creek Dredging is simple but since Pawleys does not do a Creek Dredging project regularly it will raise environmental questions. Steven is unsure of the project scope Pawleys has in mind and would like some feedback from the town for the purpose of pursuing a Creek Dredging project. Mayor Henry stated that a creek study would be a good start in determining the areas that need to be addressed. Steven stated that end goals should be established, whether pluff mud or sand needs to be pumped out, all money saving options should be evaluated, and environmental concerns should be addressed. Rocky asked if a project like this would be beneficial or not to tide flow. Steven stated that it is best to look at the applicant's scope to address the positives and negatives. One of the biggest concerns is reducing the marsh. Steven stated that after the project, nature would take hold and expand the creek in the long term. Guerry Green asked if the causeways have

affected tide flow at all in making the creek worse off. Steven stated that he is unsure but if some tide flow is going through the causeways that should not be a problem. Guerry expressed concern of the price and if other areas would be affected by a Pawleys Island Creek Dredging project. Steven stated that it is possible it could affect other areas but is unsure. Rocky recommended a proposal of examining the whole creek and addressing problem areas. He is curious if addressing specific areas would save the Town much more money. Steven stated that the price may come down a little, however, problem areas are what normally brings up the price. Guerry asked what the price looks like compared to beach renourishment. Steven stated it could be a small fraction or a large fraction. Sarah stated that she remembers the prior creek dredging project and it consisted of spot dredging. The project removed a lot of pluff mud. Steven stated that the best option would be for Council to look at a Cost-Benefit analysis consisting of pricing, environmental issues, and what help creek dredging would provide. Steven stated that a project like this with an optimistic look could take 18 months. Sarah asked the realistic view. Steven stated that it all just depends on the agencies involved and the reasons for creek dredging. Steven stated that if creek dredging is a priority Council needs to know how to maximize savings and examine mitigating flooding issues. Louisiana did a project where they pumped pluff mud into areas to raise the elevation of certain areas which decreased flooding. However, in SC it may be shot down due to being a new idea. Mayor Henry asked Steven how Pawleys Island compares to others in terms of flooding. Patrick of CSE stated that the South End may be the worst or on the short list for the worst areas that flood in South Carolina. Mayor Henry commends CSE on the beach renourishment project and stated that the beach is starting to look natural again. Chief Fanning stated that he has some concern with the exposed beach groins now and believes that more signage such as a buoy may be necessary to avoid the hazard. Steven agreed that it does become a hazard and Hunting Island put in strong piles with signage on the groins to prevent accidents. Buoys are easily washed away by storms. Mayor Henry thanked Steven and Patrick for the presentation.

Mayor Henry stated he would like to shuffle the agenda around some more and discuss item 5D.

5D. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-01: An Ordinance amending the 2022 annual budget.

Ryan stated that this amendment considers the elimination of one police officer position which is currently held by an officer retiring in March so it will take into effect after their retirement. Ryan stated that it also considers the reduction of the Cost-of-Living Adjustment from 5.9% to 4.5% accounting for \$2,000. Guerry Green asked Ryan why he stated that reducing one position would save the Town \$100,000. Ryan stated that he does not recall that conversation. Ryan added that the police vehicle was also taken out of the budget which accounted for \$47,000 so that totaled with the cut position

equated to \$100,000. Mayor Henry added that the original proposed budget had the police budget at \$523,000 and the amended budget will have it at \$416,000. Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2022-01. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve. Guerry Green seconded the motion. Ryan added that there is no money in the budget for a storm-drain program. So, if Council would like to add that line item this would be the time to do so. The previous project had a budget of \$35,000. Mayor Henry thanked Ryan and stated that Council could add the \$35,000 as a placeholder. It doesn't have to be used but at least it is there if the project moves forward. Mayor Henry asked for a motion to add the \$35,000 for the Storm-Drain project into Ordinance 2022-1. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

All approved for the Ordinance 2022-01 motion as well.

Mayor Henry shuffled the agenda around again to address item 4D.

4D. Financial Report

I. Approve Payment to CSE for \$8,050.00 (Invoice #21-10-2507)

Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve the payment to CSE. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

II. Approve Payment to Belser & Belser for \$4,967.35 (Invoice #23687)

Mayor Henry asked for a motioned to approve the payment to Belser & Belser. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. Rocky asked Ryan if this would be the last invoice from Belser & Belser. Ryan stated that it would not because Barry Stanton and others had appealed. Then after this is settled the easement process will begin again. All approved the payment.

Mayor Henry shuffled the agenda to address item 5B.

5B. Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees

I. Reappoint Sassy Henry to Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring February 10, 2024.

Mayor Henry asked for a motion to reappoint Sassy Henry. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

II. Reappoint Robert Levine to Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring February 10, 2024.

Mayor Henry asked for a motion to reappoint Robert Levine. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

5C. Approve MOA with Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce as the Town's designated tourism marketing organization.

Mayor Henry asked Ryan if this was any different than last year. Ryan stated that yes it has been the same for the past 5 years. Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve the MOA. Guerry Green motioned to approve. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.

Mayor Henry moved to address items 4B, 4C, and 4D.

4B. Police Report

Mayor Henry asked if there was anything out of the ordinary with the Police Report. Chief Fanning stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary.

4C. Building Report

Mayor Henry asked if the new construction on the Building Report went through the ARB. Ryan stated that it did.

4D. Financial Report

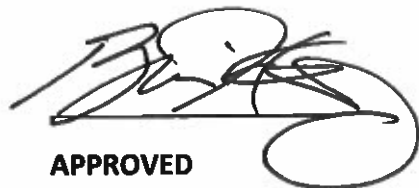
Ryan added that the one-line item that went over by a decent amount was supplies for Public Works because of trash bags and dog bags. Also, the buildings line item was over as well due to a water leak that needed to be repaired.

6. COMMENTS

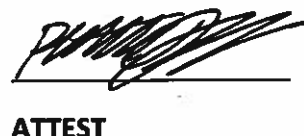
Rocky added that recent news article about the cut in the police budget are not accurate. Rocky stated that the Town has saved \$100,000 instead of \$50,000. Rocky stated that it is not a drop in the bucket amount. Rocky stated that Pawleys Island residents already pay County taxes like Litchfield so they should get coverage from Georgetown County. Guerry agreed with what Rocky and expressed that saving any bit of amount of money is a step in the right direction.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Henry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Guerry Green motioned to adjourn. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All approved.


APPROVED

2/22/22
DATE


ATTEST

2/22/22
DATE