



TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585
10-10-2022 – 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Ashley Carter, Sarah Zimmerman

ABSENT: Guerry Green, Rocky Holliday

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Newquist (Town Administrator), Mike Fanning (Chief of Police), Daniel O’Hara (Town Clerk)

ADDITIONAL PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Toni Ricker: Toni stated that she was very pleased with the way Town Council has handled assessing the roads, beaches, and creeks. Toni mentioned that property damage should also be a major concern especially if you own a vacation home or rental. But if you are a permanent resident and you cannot reside in your house because of the damage it becomes an even greater issue. She asked what the Town is doing or if they can do more to help us. Toni asked when the FEMA assessment would be finalized. Toni stated that every day the mitigators working on her property are finding more damage.
- Bill Caughman: Bill wanted to extend his appreciation to the Mayor for the Town emails. The information he provided has been extremely beneficial. He continued to extend his congratulations to Chief Mike Fanning and his crew, stating that it was nice to have a period of time when the Island was closed to the public to allow him to work on his home. He mentioned that there is currently a lot of sand on Davis Dr. that needs to be pushed back up to the dunes and re-utilized. He stated that currently, he has no dune protection in front of his property and is requesting the Town to help rebuild his dune line.
- Bill Otis: Bill started by congratulating Mayor Henry and the entire Town Council, he continued to thank Daniel Newquist the Town Administrator for his work, he is doing an amazing job. He also thanked Daniel O’Hara for his work for the Town. Finally, he thanked Chief Mike Fanning and his entire police department for their work during the Hurricane. Bill continued to thank everyone for their amazing work to help clean up the Town and beef up the dunes so far. He continued to thank the planning commission and council for terminating the Building and Zoning agreement with Georgetown Building and Zoning.
- Betsy Altman: Betsy started by thanking everyone for their work and thanking Dan and Daniel for their work and that they have gone above and beyond in

communicating. Betsy stated that there are other things that she would like more communication on, but as far as overall, things have been tremendous. Betsy also thanked Sarah Zimmerman for giving her a water bottle while she was out checking on homes last Saturday. She continued to thank Mayor Henry and the rest of Town Council for their work in response to the storm.

- Eric Oliver: Eric stated that he would like to echo what everyone had previously stated. He mentioned that congratulations are in order, and he personally enjoyed the communication that he had gotten considering he does not live on the Island. He thanked Chief Mike Fanning and office staff for helping to understand what is going on and what to expect when coming back. Eric asked for further information on what the plans are for removing debris from the beach and creek. Also mentioned was where the Town would receive funds for these projects.
- Patti Hunter: **See attached letter in the minutes.**
- Gary Patterson: Read by Daniel O'Hara, Will dune erosion be addressed in the central area of the Island?

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 9-12-2022 REGULAR MEETING

B. 10-1-2022 EMERGENCY MEETING

- a. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve the 9-12-2022 Council Minutes and 10-1-2022 Emergency Council Minutes. Ashley Carter started the motion to approve the 9-12-2022 Council Minutes and 10-1-2022 Emergency Council Minutes. Sarah Zimmerman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

4. REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. POLICE REPORT

- a. Chief Fanning started by congratulating administrative staff on getting through their first hurricane. They have done a good job. Chief Fanning also congratulated Mayor Henry on his first storm and thanked everyone who acknowledged their hard work. Chief mentioned that if he could change any procedures regarding the Hurricane recovery, he would've closed the south end off longer for homeowners and contractors to not be bothered by onlookers. Chief continued into his normal report stating that September was a normal month. Chief stated that there were a lot of EMS and Midway Fire responses on the Island. Nothing extraordinary about the calls. Chief mentioned on September 21 there were a few car break-ins at 586 Myrtle and 506 Hazard. Chief stated that they committed the crime right under newly installed cameras. Chief stated that they have a picture of the vehicle and images of the suspects, but the tag reader could not pick up the tag on the vehicle. The Sheriff's Department has information about the vehicle.

B. BUILDING REPORT

- a. Daniel Newquist started by explaining the building report is still in progress and that there were three permits issued for the month. Daniel mentioned

that the list of active permits was also included in the packet. Daniel mentioned that there is a ZBA meeting planned for the 27th of October. The meeting is regarding a variance request on the OCRM critical line of the property. Sarah Zimmerman asked to add the estimated cost of construction to the monthly report for permits. Mayor Henry mentioned the comments made about the Tyson house. Mayor Henry stated he reached out to the owners, and they had a plan to fix up the property. Town Council discussed the issue with the Town Attorney, David Durrant. **No actions or votes were taken.** Town Council plans to reassess the situation at the next Town Council meeting to determine a proper response.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Daniel Newquist started by mentioning that property owners had been sent Invoices for the underground wire project. Daniel continued to explain the Town is currently seeking an extension on a grant through the SC Office of Resilience. Daniel noted that the accommodations tax for the month of August was up this year as compared to last year. Daniel continued to explain that staff is currently working on preparing information for the 2023 Budget and working on the audit for 2021 both for review by the next meeting.

5. BUSINESS

A. Hurricane Ian Response

Mayor Henry started by discussing the work that was done by contractors on the South End to move sand from under homes and off the roads. Mayor Henry stated he was very pleased with the work that had been done by both the DOT and private contractors to help assist the Island. Mentioning to Council that there is a possibility of the Town not being reimbursed for this work by FEMA, Mayor Henry referenced information that was given to him by SCEMD. He cited work following a storm in 2015 that the Town was denied FEMA reimbursement. Mayor Henry mentioned that he was not aware of why the Town was denied but that he was going to make sure the Town understands what's eligible for reimbursement this time when applying. Mayor Henry explained that the Town is in contact with several companies to help remove the debris from the beaches and begin sand scrapping. The site of work for this project would be from approximately 200 feet south of the pier to approximately 500 feet north of 2nd Avenue. Mayor Henry explained that residents with dune concerns outside of this area should reach out to the Town for assistance. Chief Fanning mentioned that from a public safety standpoint that if the storm had occurred before beach renourishment the damage would've been catastrophic. Chief stated that the project was well worth the money over the loss of life and property. Mayor Henry mentioned that the beach is still going to continue to rework itself and that sand fencing and dune vegetation replanting should be reevaluated in late winter to early spring. Daniel Newquist referenced the Emergency Orders given by the OCRM

following Hurricane Ian. That if homeowners plan to do any work to return sand to the beach or dunes they should notify the Town of this. Daniel then went into an explanation of the breakdown of how FEMA determines its reimbursement process. Stating that there is a State and County threshold for damages that must be met to receive funds. It is not based on one storm's damages, but on the damages experienced in each state or county. Mayor Henry started a discussion on the execution plan for removing the debris from the ocean, beach, and creek. Mayor Henry asked Town Council what are willing to authorize the Town Administrator to spend to get the beach cleaned. Daniel Newquist stated that he had reviewed the ordinances and that the Town can enter procurement immediately due to the nature of the situation. Sarah Zimmerman stated that she would like to see other bids and allow Guerry Green and Rocky Holliday to provide their input. Mayor Henry mentioned that normally it is the job of the administration to make a decision on the contract, but it is the Town Council's job to approve the funds for the project. Daniel Newquist reminded the Town Council of the timeline for the emergency orders issued by OCRM which last until October 31st. Daniel stated he would follow up with the OCRM on the issue. **The town council decided to postpone the vote for a special town council meeting.**

B. Tree and Landscaping Ordinance Update

Daniel Newquist gave a brief recap of the process. After the ordinance was introduced at the last council meeting, no further edits were made. Daniel said he has prepared a copy for David Graham for an ARB review. Daniel stated that he plans to have it ready for first reading at the November Town Council meeting.

C. Building Permitting and Inspections Contractor Update

Daniel Newquist gave a brief recap on his meeting with Holly Richardson and the conditional termination notice submitted to the County. He continued to explain that he does have a meeting with the County to follow up on the process property owners should follow for permitting after Hurricane Ian. Daniel also shared information regarding the damage assessment conducted by DNR on the island the previous week. Daniel mentioned that Daniel O'Hara the Town Clerk assisted with the process. Daniel O'Hara shared a brief insight into what the damage assessment process looked like. Daniel Newquist followed up and explained the county would have that information soon. Daniel Newquist shared that the Town is currently in good standing with the FEMA CRS program, mentioning that we have received a rating of 5 following our most recent our annual CRS recertification. In closing, Daniel Newquist mentioned that he is actively interviewing two companies to assume the permitting roles of the county.

6. COMMENTS

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Henry requested a motion for adjournment. Ashley Carter started the motion. Sarah Zimmerman seconded. All voted in favor.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

Dear Mr. Newquist, this email is to address the members of the town council re: the status of the "greenhouse" at 338 Myrtle Avenue and to ask for your assistance.

We have been property owners on Pawleys since the early 1970s and have watched the house deteriorate over the years and wondered why. Then about 3 years ago we purchased the house beside it at 340 Myrtle. Since then I have had several conversations with the prior town administrator about the house. Among other things, he generally indicated that there was nothing the town could do short of getting the Tysons to upgrade the exterior and yard- a promise he said they made a few years ago and never kept.

The house has deteriorated dramatically since we have been next door. Gutters hanging, debris littering the yard (knee high weeds) overgrowing into our yard, screens shredded, windows broken and missing, continual flooding, glass door broken and standing open for weeks at the time. Beer cans and food littering the main room from vandals or worse.

We have to be careful when we let our dogs out to stay away from the fox who inhabits the house and roams the neighborhood, and we try to keep our young children from playing on that side of the yard because of the thick growth of weeds.

The ocean side of the house looks far worse than the road (west) side. (please stop by and walk around the house) Every morning that is the view that I see from my kitchen window, but more importantly that is the view that my renters see! Not the view of the beautiful marsh, but a view of a dilapidated house and all that trash and/or standing water.

It is obviously an eyesore, and I question whether it is not also a health and safety hazard. I often wonder how many renters I miss when they realize what kind of mess sits next door. It certainly devalues my property value and that of others around it. It is a disgrace to the town and to the island itself: our arrogantly shabby little piece of heaven on earth that we all love.

Please take action to force the Tysons somehow to be responsible for bringing it up to a certain level of refurbishment worthy of Pawleys Island standards and to MAINTAIN it... or to divest themselves of it.

I thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Patti Hunter