



TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585
1-26-2023 – 5:00 pm

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

ABSENT: None

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. No one signed up for public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. 12-20-2022 Special Meeting
 - i. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion. Ashley Carter motioned to approve the 12-20-2022 Special Meeting minutes. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed.**

4. BUSINESS

- a. First Reading – Golf Cart Permit Fee – **Action Item**
 - i. Mayor Henry noted that it was discussed at the last regular meeting it would be prudent to gather before the regularly scheduled meeting on February 13th to discuss any potential changes to the golf cart permit ordinance. Mayor Henry mentioned that the Town Council wanted to discuss the current fee for the permit and whether it should be updated. Daniel Newquist mentioned that it would be best to create a schedule that includes fees and penalties the Town collects in the annual budget ordinance and review them during the annual budget process. Daniel Newquist noted that this is standard procedure for many local governments. Daniel Newquist explained that he would look into examples from other areas. Daniel noted that for tonight’s action, the Town Council should go ahead and establish a fee they see fit and amend the current ordinance accordingly. **No decision was made on creating a fee schedule appendix.** Daniel Newquist noted that there were two key discussion points for tonight’s meeting, one to review the fee and determine if it needs to be changed and then discuss the possibility of moving the permitting process for golf carts to a virtual format. Daniel Newquist mentioned that moving to a more virtual format will allow staff more time to complete other tasks.

Daniel Newquist noted that the Town has already begun initial steps to moving to a virtual permit and it has received positive feedback thus far. Mayor Henry noted that it would be important to vote on this tonight and then allow staff time to prepare for the shift to the virtual format. Sarah Zimmerman asked if it is required to wait that long. Daniel Newquist stated that it would be necessary for staff to prepare the proper materials and notify the public about the change from in-person to virtual shifts. Daniel Newquist also noted any changes to the ordinances would require a first and second reading and also a public hearing which is scheduled to take place on February 13, 2023. Guerry Green asked how many permits were issued during 2022. Mayor Henry stated 667 permits were issued 204 to Pawleys Island Golf at five dollars a permit while 463 permits were issued to individuals and other companies at ten dollars a permit. Sarah Zimmerman proposed a fee of 100 dollars. Sarah continued to explain that people driving golf carts are more likely to get a parking spot than those who drive cars. She noted that she believes there are going to be more golf carts in the future. Sarah continued to mention that the number of golf cart permits tripled within the first year. Sarah stated the funds could help to maintain the beach access and clean up the Island. **Sarah Zimmerman started a motion to raise the fee to 100 dollars. Guerry Green seconded the motion.** Ashley Carter stated that is a significant increase, he stated that he would be ok with a 50-dollar fee but that 100 was too much. Mayor Henry, Rocky Holliday, and Guerry Green agreed. Chief Fanning noted that some individuals express concern about why cars were not being charged the same. Mayor Henry clarified that the reason the Town has the permit is to insure that golf cart owners are compliant with state law. He noted that the Town has tag readers to monitor the cars on and off the island but does not possess the same ability for golf carts. Guerry Green noted that for his vehicle he pays a road user fee of fifty dollars to the County and asked if golf cart owners pay a similar fee. Chief Fanning noted that the DMV permit is five dollars and lasts five years. Rocky Holliday stated that 25 dollars is a good starting point for this, noting that 100 is too much to do initially. He mentioned that in retrospect the fee should have never been 10 dollars. **Mayor Henry asked if Sarah Zimmerman would like to absolve or amend her motion. Sarah Zimmerman stated that she would like to amend it to a 50-dollar fee.** Mayor Henry stated that he believes 50 is still too much. Chief Fanning stated as far as a revenue stream it is not something he is concerned about he would just like to make sure everyone has the proper information. Sarah Zimmerman noted that she receives support from individuals for raising the fee to 100 dollars. Mayor Henry stated that he believes that it is not something that will raise that much issue, but he

believes 50 is too high to start. Guerry Green stated that he would like to see a courtesy reminder to golf cart users but also listing Town rules and regulations on the roads. Guerry Green also mentioned denying repeat violators of the rules a golf cart permit. This led to a conversation about the tickets issued to golf carts on the Island and the cost the Town incurs for golf carts. Town Council agreed that they could always review the fee later in the year. **Sarah Zimmerman amended her original motion to a 25-dollar fee. Guerry Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed.** Rocky Holliday stated that the Town Council should consider a ceiling on the total number that the town issues for the Island. He continued to explain that while all 700 carts might not be on the Island it still causes concern about parking at the beach accesses. He continued to mention the growth of the area and that the Town Council should make sure not to extend the Town's resources too far. This led to a conversation about whether the Town can limit the number of golf carts on the Island. Town Council agreed to discuss it with the Town Attorney. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion for approval or denial of the first reading of the ordinance change. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed.**

5. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- a. Rocky Holliday asked to put in his request to discuss the limitation of the number of permits issued to golf carts on the Island to the February 13th meeting agenda.
- b. Mayor Henry asked for staff to prepare a courtesy flyer for golf cart permits.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE