



# TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND

## TOWN COUNCIL

### BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585  
2-13-2023 – 5:00 pm

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

**ABSENT:** Sarah Zimmerman

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

**ADDITIONAL PRESENT:** Ross Durant (Town Attorney), John LaMaster (Planning Commission)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. No one signed up for public comments.

#### 3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance 23-02: Amendment of Golf Cart Permit Fee

i. Wayne Fougere – Mr. Fougere explained that he heard the golf cart permit price changed from \$100 to \$50, to \$25, instead of \$10. The reason for the change could be revenue, which he understands but noted that there are other ways of doing that. Mr. Fougere recommends that the town could charge parking for cars on the Island. He continued to mention that the Town could charge less if it’s done online or in person. Or open the possibility of allowing permits to be good for two or three years to cut down on applications. Mr. Fougere stated that there is a benefit to having golf carts, noting that you could fit two carts in one parking spot. He closed his statements by mentioning that these proposed restrictions could lower the number of visitors and require them to go to the State Park instead.

ii. Rick Ahlert – Mr. Ahlert asked the council what the fee was for, and Mayor Henry noted that they will address that in the meeting. He continued to explain that it was hard for him to address without knowing what it was for. Mr. Ahlert stated that he did send an email to the Town Clerk for him to send to the Council. He mentioned the majority of his talking points were listed in that email. Mr. Ahlert noted that if this is being done to generate revenue then we are missing the big picture. He continued to explain that there could be a lot more revenue generated from coming on and off the Island. He stated that he hoped his email would give the council some ideas on how to expand revenue sources.

Mr. Ahlert continued to mention that he believes that 29585 residents are obligated to help support the natural resources of Pawleys Island and it should not fall solely on the homeowners of the Island or the golf carts.

- iii. John Battisti – Mr. Battisti stated he has no problem paying the fee, but it was to his understanding that the golf carts are to be driven by golf cart owners. He continued to explain he believes that many of the drivers of the golf carts that are on the Island are used not by the owners but by renters. And noted that he sees several carts that do not receive stickers for the year. He continued to mention that it should be enforced if it is for revenue. Mr. Battisti stated that he prefers to use his golf cart in the summertime and that two can fit in one spot. Mr. Battisti closed his remarks by stating that he moved here from Indiana and that he loves the area. But if the Town is looking for revenue, then it should look to charge individuals to park in the south end. Unless they have a Pawleys Island sticker.
- iv. Chuck Supple – Mr. Supple stated that he was unsure of the purpose of the meeting, noting that he read something in the paper. He explained that he hopes that the Town does not move away from golf carts. Mr. Supple noted the golf cart's slower speed makes it safer and mentioned previous comments on the smaller size of golf carts making it easier to park in two spots. He noted that most vacation communities are moving toward the use of golf carts instead of away from them. Mr. Supple recommended providing best practices for users of golf carts, especially renters. He continued to state that moving violations should be enforced and to give warnings and citations. Mr. Supple provided property values are affected positively by being accessible to the Island by a golf cart.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 1-16-2023 Regular Meeting
- B. 1-26-2023 Special Meeting
  - i. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve, amend, or add to the minutes. Ashley Carter motioned to approve minutes for the meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the Special meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All voted in favor. No opposed. Guerry Green was absent from the vote.**

#### 5. REPORTS AND UPDATES

- A. Police Report
  - i. Chief Fanning started his report by explaining a stolen boat incident that occurred sometime between Thanksgiving and the first of the year. Chief Fanning noted that there has been a diligent search done by the detective, Jonathan Fairfield. Chief Fanning explained that the rest of the reported incidents were nothing that substantial.

## B. Building Report

- i. Daniel Newquist noted that it was quite a busy January, mentioning that there were 25 permits approved and issued during the month of January. Daniel Newquist pointed out that there was one new single-family residence approved. He mentioned that there are more that are coming up for either a plan review or a permit. Daniel Newquist mentioned that since the Town began administering a Building Department it has been easier to work more closely with contractors on the Island and assist property owners with questions or concerns. Rocky Holliday asked if there was a way to tell the difference between the ones issued by the Town and the County. Daniel Newquist explained that he is in the process of gathering the current status of all of the permits previously issued by the County, but the report provided reflects all permits issued on the Island during the month of January. Mayor Henry asked if these reflect online applications. Daniel Newquist noted that the Town is currently requiring contractors to apply for permits in person, and not online. He continued to explain that the Town hopes to expand its capabilities to an online format. This led to a discussion on the usual amount of permits received, Rocky Holliday and Mayor Henry both noted that they have never seen this amount of permits in one month.

## C. Financial Report

- i. Daniel Newquist started by explaining that Daniel O'Hara the Town Clerk has been diligently working on the 2022 year-end financial review. Daniel Newquist continued to explain that the 2022 audit process was well underway and expected to be completed earlier than last year. Mayor Henry noted that in the past the council had been sent a thirty-page financial report, but the Town Council has asked that the Town staff provide a one-page summary. He noted the full report would still be included in the full packet. But the ultimate goal is to streamline the financial analysis given during each month. Daniel O'Hara shared that the report provided is a working document and could be adapted to the requests of the Town Council. Rocky Holliday asked if the expense that resulted from Hurricane Ian would be refunded. Daniel O'Hara mentioned that claims on Town Hall have already come back, but it is expected to be reimbursed throughout the year. Mayor Henry asked after the review if there is anything that changes for the recently approved budgeted expenses. Daniel Newquist mentioned that if something does require an amendment moving forward then we can prepare that as needed. Guerry Green requested to add a quarter budget for revenue and to add last year to date to help compare finances.

## 6. BUSINESS

A. Golf Cart Permit Ordinance – Second Reading

- i. Mayor Henry opened the discussion on the reason the Town has the fee and he stated that there are two administrative employees and three full-time police officers. He explained that if we are going to have a golf cart permit there has to be enforcement which costs time and money. Guerry Green pointed out the other part of the permit program was to be able to issue tickets to the owners for violations. Chief Fanning also noted that the police department issued a notable amount of parking summons for golf carts without decals. Chief Fanning continued to explain that the south-end parking lot is owned by Georgetown County, therefore the town can not charge for parking in that lot. This led to a discussion about charging for parking at beach access points. But no consensus was gathered on whether the town could or should charge for parking at its access points. Mayor Henry stated that this program is not to generate revenue but to cover the time it takes staff to enforce the ordinance. Mayor Henry reiterated that the decision to be made tonight does nothing but change the fee and there is no current effort to move away from golf carts. He continued that the Town Council is planning to take a more comprehensive look at the golf cart ordinance and permit process. Ashley Carter noted that there is a good reason to increase the fee and the reason is to cover the cost that this program is taking for the employees of the Town. Mayor Henry mentioned renters bring golf carts to the Island and Chief Fanning stated that if they are not registered in a two-mile radius they cannot operate on the Island. Daniel Newquist mentioned Town staff is moving the golf cart permit program to an online format. Rocky Holliday noted that the provided best practice flyer could be issued to rental companies for them to post in the rental properties. This led to a conversation about how the Town manages and works with rental companies. Mayor Henry said it is the goal of the Town Council to be stewards of the Island and the Town must make sure that the Town is operating efficiently to be able to serve the general public.
- ii. **Mayor Henry requested a motion. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve the ordinance as written. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** Mayor Henry added that the change would be a fee increase from \$10 to \$25. **All voted in favor. None opposed.**
- iii. Daniel Newquist noted that there had been a previous motion to pause the Town’s permit process while the changes were being made. Daniel Newquist asked if the Town Council could motion to reopen this process. **Rocky Holliday motioned to reopen the Town’s golf cart permit process. Ashley Carter seconded. All voted in favor.**

B. SCDOT Update

- i. Daniel Newquist stated that he has been in contact with State and County SCDOT on projects across the Island. Daniel Newquist noted that the bump at the North Causeway had been fixed and the request for the stop signs to be placed at the intersections of Second street on Myrtle and Atlantic Avenue. Town Council discussed the options available to place a stop sign. Mayor Henry stated that either SCDOT places the stop sign, or the Town applies for an encroachment permit and maintains it. Chief Fanning mentioned there is a potential for liability and enforcement if the Town does not follow the proper steps with DOT. He continued to mention that the biggest issue was that there has been complaints about speeding at those intersections. Chief Fanning mentioned that the police department has not found that it has been that much of an issue in those areas. Guerry Green asked if the flashing speed signs are expensive. Chief Fanning noted that it depends, and he can look into it if the Town Council would like. Mayor Henry asked about the prospect of the road being repaved. Daniel Newquist stated that the resurfacing project on the Island should be completed before 2024. This led to a conversation about the scope of the work and timeline. Town Council requested Daniel Newquist to reach out to the contractor to discuss potential changes to the scope. **No votes were taken.**

C. Tree and Landscaping Ordinance Update

- i. Mayor Henry opened a discussion on whether or not the Town wants the planning commission to review a broadened approach to a tree landscaping ordinance. Mayor Henry noted that there have been recent incidents on the Island that have sparked the attention of residents and the planning commission. Rocky Holliday stated that the ordinance as it is written only deals with new construction. He mentioned that if someone clear-cuts an existing lot there are no remedies. John LaMaster stated that the planning commission plans to discuss the expansion from just new construction. He noted that the original concern was that it would be too burdensome for the administration. He mentioned that it is purposed to incorporate the ARB and SAFEBuilt to help administratively and with enforcement. Guerry Green expressed concern over the list of trees to be protected under the new ordinance. This led to a discussion on what trees to protect and what the public's concern is with trees. **No decisions or votes were made.**

D. Tyson House Update

- i. Ross Durant stated that the letter had been drafted, sent, and delivered with a fair amount of time to take proper action. He continued to mention that the Tysons had until February 28<sup>th</sup> to take action and stated that he had not received any response or seen any action taken. Ross

Durant said he believes the Town has taken the proper actions and the only step to take next would be to file a lawsuit for abandonment. Mayor Henry stated he would reach out to the family again to try and discuss possible ideas on how to handle the situation. **No votes were taken.**

E. Chamber of Commerce Memorandum of Agreement

- i. Daniel Newquist noted that this is a standard renewal of services for Tourism and Marketing funds. He mentioned that they handle the staffing for the ATax Committee and any larger marketing services for the Town. **See action in item 6. F-i.**

F. CSE Beach Monitoring Contract

- i. Daniel Newquist presented the renewal of the CSE post-beach renourishment contract. He noted that it is required by the OCRM and Army Corp of Engineers and outlined the services included in the agreement. Rocky Holliday asked about how the price compared to the previous contract. Daniel Newquist mentioned the scope of work was slightly different and this is reflected in the price. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion for approval of the contracts. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve the proposal and the agreement. Guerry Green seconded the motion.** Mayor Henry clarified the motion was to approve the memorandum agreement with the Town and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and to approve the CSE Beach Monitoring Contract. **All voted in favor. None opposed.**

**7. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Guerry Green stated that the goals of the Town Council were to prepare, preserve, and protect Pawleys Island. Guerry Green believes following the most recent storm that the Town did a good job of getting people back on the Island but there is still room for improvement in the preparation. He pointed out what if Pawleys Island was hit like Florida was during Ian and the Town is without ATax dollars for two years. Guerry Green stated that without that it would be hard for the Town to survive. He continued to explain that there are inconsistencies in protocol with people who live on the Island. Guerry Green explained that he would like to create a committee of individuals who are residents and some who are not, to recommend set protocols for these situations to Town Council.
- B. Mayor Henry reiterated the major points that Guerry made, the first being to create a checklist for preparing for a pending storm. Second, if the Town is hit by a major hurricane how does it recover funding with the possibility of no A-Tax revenue. And a third was post-hurricane protocol for how the Town handles reopening the Island following a Hurricane. Ashley Carter stated that usually in these situations there is a mandatory evacuation. Rocky Holliday pointed out that there have been a lot of situations where there are no evacuations. And continued to state that the recent situation was handled well. This led to a

discussion about how it was handled during Hurricane Ian. Mayor Henry stated that if Guerry Green would like to head up the committee, Guerry Green confirmed that he would, and Ashley Carter stated he would be happy to help as well. Rocky Holliday asked what the scope of the committee would be. Guerry Green stated that the committee would recommend and prepare options for Town Council to consider on how to prepare financially and create a protocol for handling a hurricane. Guerry Green referenced instances of how Hugo affected the area and that the Town should be proactive and not reactive in this situation.

- C. Rocky Holliday asked for an update on how the Town stands with the grants the Town has applied for. Mayor Henry noted that Lee Hewitt reached out to him and asked if the Town is seeking funds and the Town submitted a letter listing requests for funds to assist Town projects.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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