



# TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585  
10-9-2023 – 5:00 pm

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Henry, Ashley Carter, Sarah Zimmerman

**ABSENT:** Guerry Green, Rocky Holliday

**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 Member)

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. No one signed up to make comments.

## 2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance 23-08: Adoption of the 2023-2032 Town of Pawleys Island Comprehensive Plan

i. John LaMaster: Mr. LaMaster thanked the administrative staff for their efforts in updating the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend it for the Town Council’s approval.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 09-11-2023 Regular Meeting

i. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve or amend the 8-14-2023 Town Council minutes. Ashley Carter motioned to approve the minutes. Sarah Zimmerman seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted in favor.**

## 4. REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Police Report

i. Chief Fanning shared that the department has started its post-summer operations, he noted that it was a quiet September with nothing significant to point out. Chief Fanning mentioned that item 6D on the agenda is a renewal of a mutual aid agreement for the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit court. He explained that it would allow PIPD to provide and receive assistance from neighboring agencies if needed. Chief Fanning emphasized the importance of this during storm events. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned an incident with a golf cart, she asked if it would be something that the Town could revoke a permit. Chief Fanning stated that there is not anything in the ordinance

that would allow that currently and he noted that the complaint turned out not to be viable after receiving statements from both parties involved. Mrs. Zimmerman expressed frustration with the speed limits on the South Causeway. She stated that it did not make sense to have varying speeds on the South Causeway. Mayor Henry mentioned that he agrees with Mrs. Zimmerman it should be one speed the entire way. He shared that Bill Otis has been heavily involved in the issue.

**B. Building Report**

- i. Mr. Newquist shared that there had been a recent increase in permit activity on the Island this month. Sarah Zimmerman asked about the work conducted in the creek at 534 Myrtle Ave. Mr. Newquist shared that the work had been permitted and approved by the Town and the OCRM. He continued to share that the Office of Ocean Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) had been notified of the issue. Chief Fanning shared that he had spoken to the contractor and the work had been ordered to stop.

**C. Financial Report**

- i. Mr. Newquist mentioned that administrative staff were preparing for allocated funds from DHEC as part of an earmark in the State budget that Representative Lee Hewitt obtained for the Town. He added that the funds were granted based on projects identified in the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan. He shared that those funds should be allocated to the Town by the end of the year. Mr. Newquist updated the Town Council on the 2024 Budget review and noted that a draft budget would be ready by the next Town Council meeting for First Reading. Mr. O'Hara reviewed the financial report and the corresponding financial report supplementation. During the review, Mr. O'Hara identified trends and the current position of the Local Accommodations Tax and Municipal Association Business License Tax revenue programs. Mrs. Zimmerman requested staff to follow up with realty companies to estimate what next year's projections look like. Mayor Henry agreed that it would be important to get information from them on their current projections for next year.

**5. BUSINESS**

**A. First Reading: Ordinance 23-08: Adoption of the 2023-2032 Town of Pawleys Island Comprehensive Plan**

- i. Mr. Newquist stated that the Town staff and Planning Commission have been hoping for feedback and comments on the document. He noted that the document has been in a public comment period since late August, and it ended on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Newquist continued to thank the Planning Commission for their efforts in assisting staff in revising the plan. He then reviewed a few edits that he noted would need to be included in the next version of the document. Mr. Newquist also reaffirmed that this document

would help the Town obtain state and federal funding for various projects identified in it. Mayor Henry agreed and noted that it is never a bad idea to have more people reviewing this sort of document and welcomed the idea of receiving more public feedback. Mayor Henry suggested that staff should send a MailChimp to distribute to property owners with just the Comprehensive Plan for them to review. **Mayor Henry requested a motion for approval of the first reading of Ordinance 23-08. Sarah Zimmerman motioned to approve. Ashley Carter seconded.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

- B. Resolution 23-01: Ratification of Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management project-related agreements.
  - i. Mr. Newquist shared that following a meeting with the Army Corps on 8-14-2023, he met with John Hinely, the realty specialist for the Army Corps and was notified that the Army Corps does not intend to revise the language of the perpetual easements. He mentioned that they advised him that there was a miscommunication with the Army Corps staff representative, Dudley Patrick, at the 8-14-2023 Town Council meeting. Mr. Newquist stated that the easement is not just limited to construction, but he added that there are current restrictions listed in the code of ordinances that prohibit activities in dunes. Mr. Newquist mentioned there can be research into other options to update the ordinances to better address property owner concerns. Mr. Newquist reviewed resolution 23-01. He then reaffirmed the Town's commitment to the Army Corps of Engineers by reviewing the signed partnership agreements and the corresponding minutes with the Town Council's approval. **Mayor Henry asked to defer the vote to pass the resolution for the entire Town Council to be present. Sarah Zimmerman motioned to defer action to the next meeting on Resolution 23-01. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**
- C. SC Parks Recreation and Tourism Dept – Beach Renourishment Funding
  - i. Mayor Henry shared that he has been participating with the South Carolina Beach Advocates, who are working on the creation of a Beach Renourishment Fund. He added that SCPRT would be requesting funds to be made available for the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year, with the goal for them to request these funds annually. Mayor Henry noted that this would make State funds available to beachfront communities for renourishment and beach management projects in the near future and hopefully, it will create a statewide beach preservation fund. **No decisions or votes were made.**
- D. Police Department Mutual Aid Agreement
  - i. Chief Fanning had no additional comments, **see item 5A. Mayor Henry requested a motion. Sarah Zimmerman motioned to approve the Mutual**

**Aid Agreement. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

- E. FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Recertification
  - i. Mr. Newquist stated that the Town successfully reobtained its level five (5) rating with the CRS, which allows property owners to receive a 25% discount on flood premiums. Mrs. Zimmerman asked how the Town could reach the next level. Mr. Newquist shared that since the Town has control of its Building Department it may be an avenue to explore further credits in the program. But he added that it is his understanding it would be difficult for the Town to get lower as it has set all the restrictions it can to his knowledge. Mr. Newquist stated that he would be willing to look into it further to see what other options there were for this. **No decisions or votes were made.**
- F. Conference Room Audio Upgrades
  - i. Mayor Henry shared that he asked staff to look into options to help the acoustics in the conference room as it can become loud and noisy during meetings and is difficult to hear on Zoom. Mr. Newquist reviewed the proposal which recommended the installation of 11 acoustic panels would cost roughly \$3,000. He shared that he was open to discussing or editing the current proposal. Mr. O’Hara said that it can be difficult to hear people speaking on the recordings when reviewing the minutes. There was a further discussion about the audio issues within the conference room. **No decisions or votes were made.**

**6. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Sarah Zimmerman: Mrs. Zimmerman reiterated her concerns regarding the speed limit along the south causeway. Chief Fanning noted that he would be happy to request more uniformity across the causeway.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Henry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Zimmerman motioned to adjourn. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. All approved.**

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**APPROVED**

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**DATE**

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**ATTEST**

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**DATE**