



TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585
11-14-2023 – 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Ashley Carter, Sarah Zimmerman, Rocky Holliday, Guerry Green (via Zoom)

ABSENT: None

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

ADDITIONAL PRESENT: Ross Durant (Town Attorney)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Paul Groce: Mr. Groce noted that he thought that he would be speaking before the Town Council requesting assistance regarding concerns with the project scope of the resurfacing project. He noted instead he is giving thanks. Mr. Groce first thanked Daniel Newquist for providing him with the project specifications. He noted that the original DOT plan was to only allocate 3% of the total material for the leveling. Mr. Groce added that if the road is not properly leveled it could cause more issues. He shared that from his conversations with DOT and Mr. Newquist materials allocated for driveways would be redistributed to leveling efforts. Mr. Groce noted those materials would be better served on the road rather than the driveway due to the impervious requirements set forth in the Town's ordinance regarding driveways. He also thanked Robert Moser for his observations and input relative to this issue. Mr. Groce then thanked DOT and Mayor Henry for their work to ensure that the repaving went down to the gate on Atlantic Avenue and did not stop short of the turnaround. Mr. Groce asked when Springs Avenue will be repaved, and he stated that it should be of concern to the County with all of the public usage of the beach. Mr. Groce closed by stating he is excited to hear about the plan for the near future and thanked the Town Council for the time.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance 23-09: Adoption of the 2024 Town of Pawleys Island Annual Budget
 - i. Robert Moser: Mr. Moser acknowledged over the recent years the Police budget has become increasingly tight with cutbacks in staff. He added that the county has struggled to gain new resources and to respond to concerns. Mr. Moser requested that the Town Council consider increasing the staff hours and paying for the police department.
 - ii. James Blaszczyk: Mr. Blaszczyk mentioned that he would like to reiterate what was stated by Mr. Moser.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 10-09-2023 Regular Meeting
 - i. **Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve or amend the 10-9-2023 Town Council minutes. Ashley Carter motioned to approve the minutes. Rocky Holliday seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Guerry Green was absent from the vote.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor. Guerry Green was absent from the vote.**

4. REPORTS AND UPDATES

- A. Police Report
 - i. Chief Fanning noted that there was nothing extraordinary with October's Police Report. He stated that it was overall a quiet month with some mirror incidents. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned whether there had been a lot of fireworks complaints. Chief Fanning mentioned it was an isolated incident.
- B. Building Report
 - i. Mr. Newquist shared that there were nine new permits issued in the month of October. He mentioned that there were also two new construction projects approved at the latest ARB meeting earlier this month. Mr. Newquist provided a follow-up on concerns regarding the 534 Myrtle Avenue dock permit that has damaged the marsh adjacent to the new dock. Mrs. Zimmerman asked if there was a stop work order placed on this project. Mr. Newquist responded sharing that the recent cease and desist had been lifted by the OCRM. He added that there had been regular communication between himself, the contractor, and OCRM regarding the project and that staff was closely monitoring it.
- C. Financial Report
 - i. Mr. O'Hara reviewed the current projections for the Town's local accommodation tax collections. Mrs. Zimmerman asked what the expected remaining collections are for the year. Mr. O'Hara noted that it is projected to be on par with 2022. Mr. O'Hara highlighted the Town's new plans to sell luminaries for Christmas Eve. Rocky Holliday asked him to clarify the program. Mr. O'Hara shared that for \$10 anyone on or off the Island could purchase a luminary to be placed in the Nature Park or their property at Christmas. This effort is being spearheaded by the Events

Committee. He then continued to review the remainder of the Financial Report.

5. BUSINESS

A. First Reading: Ordinance 23-09: Adoption of the 2024 Town of Pawleys Island Annual Budget

- i. Mr. Newquist began reviewing the proposed revenues for the 2024 Annual Budget. During his review he shared that he communicated with local real estate companies that rent homes on the Island and noted that they are observing similar booking trends for 2024. Mr. Newquist pointed out that the Town has received \$250,000 in the state budget to implement recommendations in the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan. He added that the staff has a better understanding of the Building Department revenue and will be recording the gross collected income for revenues. Mr. Newquist also mentioned the addition of vending permits as a placeholder revenue item due to interest from Town Council in allowing limited commercial vending on the island. He commented on the interest collected in the Town's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), due to heightened returns in 2023 staff increased the expected revenue for those categories. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned if the proposed revenues should be higher than what was presented due to the year-to-date collections so far. Mr. Newquist stated that the staff will look into the interest rates on these accounts to determine if a revised budgeted revenue for this category is warranted. He then began to review the expenditure categories in the budget. During the review he noted the Town Clerk's salary is included entirely under administrative expenses. Previously it was split between the admin and police department budgets. He added that included in the Police Department's budget is a new police vehicle. Chief Fanning added that the new police vehicle would be a Toyota 4Runner, with plans to have interior lights instead of exterior. He added that this was due to corrosion issues experienced with the current fleet that is equipped with exterior lights. Mr. Newquist added that also in the capital outlay budget were body cameras which are expected to be reimbursed by the State. Mr. Holliday asked if there were plans to include more cameras on the Island. Chief Fanning added that there are not any funds budgeted for that but there are a few locations that would be ideal for new cameras. Mr. Newquist then reviewed the proposed salary adjustments and explained that the Social Security Administration set the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) at 3.2%. Mr. Newquist stated that currently the budget has a 3.5% wage increase. Chief Fanning shared that he was frustrated with the proposed increase in salaries of the Police Department. He said that in previous years the salary increases were based on the full COLA and a merit-based

increase of 1.5%. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned if the 3.5% included the merit increase or not. Mr. Newquist confirmed the 3.5% increase is the proposed combined total for COLA and merit and noted that it is open for discussion. He added that in his review across the state, most municipalities use a different metric for determining the annual COLA other than the Social Security Administration metric. It was difficult to use the COLA as a means of pay adjustment as so many municipalities use a different metric. Mayor Henry added the wage comparison last year concluded that the Town's officers are well-paid compared to other jurisdictions. He mentioned he did not believe the County Sheriffs Department were getting this type of pay raise. **Mayor Henry requested a motion to table further discussion and a vote on the first reading of ordinance 23-0009 to allow the Town Council to review Resolution 23-01. Rocky Holliday motioned to table further discussion and vote on the first reading of ordinance 23-0009 to review Resolution 23-01. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** 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. Mayor Henry stated the importance of the resolution is to identify all of the related decisions and votes made by the Town to join the Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Program. He added that this decision reaffirms the Town's ongoing partnership with the Army Corps. **Mayor Henry asked for a motion to approve Resolution 23-01. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve Resolution 23-01. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor. None opposed.** Mr. Holliday stated that this is an important decision for the Town. Mrs. Zimmerman asked what the current status regarding the Army Corps project is. Mayor Henry shared that the condemnation is still in legal dispute. He added that the Town still is required to have the three additional easements and has missed the potential deadline for a spring renourishment. Mayor Henry noted that there were funds obligated by the Army Corps and FEMA to renourish but noted that it might not be available until 2025.

A. First Reading Ordinance 23-09: The Town Council returned to the 2024 budget discussion. Mayor Henry stated that he would conduct some salary research on regional law enforcement agencies. He asked if the crime statistics for the year would warrant the hiring of a new officer. Chief Fanning stated that he would have the new quarterly data ready for the next Town Council meeting. Mr. Holliday requested Chief Fanning to add the funds for a new set of cameras. Mr. Newquist then reviewed the usage

of the 250,000 dollars for stormwater infrastructure. Mrs. Zimmerman asked if the Town has access to these funds yet. Mr. Newquist mentioned that the approval process was being finalized and that the funds would most likely be made available to the Town at the beginning of the new year. Mr. Holliday asked if the engineering firm the Town currently is working with would be collaborating on these new projects. Mr. Newquist mentioned that there would need to be a procurement for the services but is sure that they would be included in that process. Mr. Newquist reviewed the remainder of the proposed budget expenditures. Mayor Henry requested clarification on the carry-over of funds to 2024. Mr. Newquist noted that it would be a carry-over of excess funds into 2024 to assist in covering the cost of various items such as the new police vehicle. **Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 23-0009. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted in favor. None opposed, and Guerry Green was absent from the vote.**

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

- i. Mr. Newquist shared that following the recent public outreach to get more input from residents and property owners, staff was working to make additional edits and needed more time to complete the document. **Mayor Henry requested a motion to defer action to the December meeting. Rocky Holliday motioned to defer. Ashley Carter seconded the motion.** Mr. Holliday questioned if the feedback generated was useful. Mr. Newquist stated that it had been, and the staff was preparing an executive summary for the Comprehensive Plan. **All voted in favor. None opposed, and Guerry Green was absent from the vote.**

D. SCDOT Resurfacing Project Update

- i. Mr. Newquist shared that the current road resurfacing project has been postponed. He explained that due to the abrupt start time of the project Georgetown County Water and Sewer District was not quite ready to make necessary updates to its infrastructure. Mr. Newquist stated that the project would most likely resume in the Spring. He added that SCDOT still plans to resurface sections of Myrtle Ave, First Street, and Atlantic Ave. However, Springs Ave would be reassessed in the near future and he would make it a top priority to have it placed on the SCDOT resurfacing schedule. Mr. Newquist noted that while the work is on hold it will be a good time for the Town to be able to assess the current condition of our stormwater infrastructure. He added that representatives from DOT would be available at the December meeting to answer any questions.

E. Request for Bids Proposals – Old Town Hall Repairs

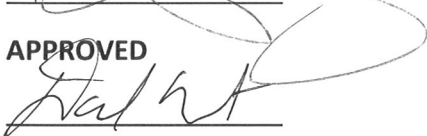
- i. Mr. Newquist shared that there was one bid received for \$6,800 and an additional \$3,500 to complete the bathroom repairs. The total proposed cost would be \$10,300. Mr. Newquist added that there would be additional funds budgeted to upgrade the HVAC system. **Mayor Henry requested a motion for the approval of \$10,300 for repairs to the Old Town Hall. Rocky Holliday motioned to approve the use of funds. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. All in favor.**
- F. FY24 SC State Budget Funds – Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Implementation
 - i. Mr. Newquist had no additional comments as this was discussed at length during the budget discussion.
- G. Georgetown County Sales Tax Referendum Committee Appointment
 - i. Mr. Newquist shared that the County plans to include a County Sales Tax Referendum on the 2024 ballot. He explained that because of this they are putting together a committee of six County residents. Mr. Newquist mentioned that the Town can nominate t an appointee to the board to represent the Town. Mr. Newquist proposed that the Town should appoint Mark Hawn. He suggested that Mr. Hawn would represent the Town well and is already involved in the Town’s operations as a member of the Planning Commission.

6. COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned if there was a plan to update the beach access lots on the Island. She noted that in post Hurricane Ian many of the access lots were missing railroad ties delineating parking spots and fences were in need of repairs. Mr. Newquist added that it was on the list of things to do in 2024. He mentioned that there have been some discussions with adjacent property owners regarding the repairs to the fences at beach accesses.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Henry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rocky Holliday motioned to adjourn. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. All approved. None opposed, and Guerry Green was absent from the vote.

 APPROVED


ATTEST

1-25-24

DATE

1-26-24

DATE