



# TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585

5/12/2025 – 5:00 PM

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Henry, Guerry Green, Sarah Zimmerman, and Rocky Holliday

**STAFF PRESENT:** Daniel Newquist, Corey Higdon, and Chief Fanning

**ADDITIONAL PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:** Ashley Carter

**1) CALL TO ORDER / OPENING REMARKS**

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

**2) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- There were no public comments.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 4-14-2025**

- **Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve or amend the 4-14-2025 Town Council minutes. Mr. Holliday motioned to approve the minutes. Mrs. Zimmerman seconded the motion.** No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

**4) REPORTS AND UPDATES**

a) Police Report

Chief Fanning began the police report by stating that it was a beautiful month, which led to an increase in visits and traffic, but luckily did not bring any significant incidents. He elaborated on a few notable incidents, including a child stuck on a sandbar, fireworks, road rage, burglar alarms, and a mattress on the beach. Mrs. Zimmerman asked for clarification on the child being stuck on the sandbar, to which Chief Fanning stated that the child got trapped on a sandbar on the north end after the tide came in, and Midway Fire & Rescue was able to rescue the child. She continued to ask for more information on the road rage and burglar alarm incidents, to which Chief Fanning elaborated that the burglar alarm was accidentally set off and the road rage suspects were gone upon the police department's arrival.

b) Building Report

Mr. Higdon presented the building report for April, stating that 11 new permits were issued in April, which matches the previous few months' volume. Of the eleven permits issued, Mr. Higdon explained that none were significant renovations or improvements to report on. He continued to update the council that 3 homes that previously received Architectural Review Board approval have moved into the permitting process, noting that the permits for these new home construction projects should be issued in the coming months. Mr. Higdon then expanded on the recent contractor's meeting hosted by the Town on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Newquist continued the updates on the contractor's meeting, explaining that it was well attended. Mr. Holliday questioned how many contractors were in attendance, to which Mr. Newquist stated that there were around 15 contractors in attendance. Mr. Holliday and Mayor Henry stated that they are impressed by the attendance and explained how a similar meeting can become a recurring meeting for the Town.

c) Financial Report

Mr. Newquist began his report by highlighting that Town staff continued to make progress on the 2024 audit over the past month, updating that the Town's auditors have a field visit scheduled for the following week. Moving on, Mr. Newquist stated that he reached out to rental agencies to track the Accommodations Tax projections, which he explained that projections for the peak season look promising. However, he clarified that it is too early to project the summer tourism season, to which Mayor Henry agreed and stated that the Town should revisit the projections after the peak season has ended. Mr. Newquist also highlighted that the year-to-date A-Tax collections exceed the previous year's collections through the first few months of the year.

Mr. Newquist flagged that the Town is anticipating a major charge for the Town Hall's elevator maintenance. He elaborated that the Town's elevator pit had standing water stuck in the pit as the sump pump needed repair. A quote was received for the sump pump repair, but Mr. Newquist stated that the Town would receive several more quotes to adhere to the procurement process. Mr. Holliday explained how his elevator equipment in his house is all elevated, so he does not face any issues with the equipment being flooded. He noted that this could be a possibility for the Town to pursue to mitigate future issues. Mr. Holliday and Mayor Henry suggested that the Town could receive a quote on how much relocating the equipment would cost, which Mayor Henry stated would be a long-term solution.

**5) BUSINESS**

a) Swimmer Safety Film Contract Proposal

Mayor Henry reminded the council of the two unfortunate drownings that occurred in October of 2024. He explained how the Town could take the initiative to educate residents and visitors about swimmer safety, especially about rip currents. He displayed a quote received for the Town to produce a 2–3-minute swimmer-safety film to post on the Town's website and social media accounts, along with dispersing the video to rental companies for them to provide to renters. The production of the video would cost \$5,000. Mr. Holliday questioned Chief Fanning if a majority of the recent drownings on the island were those renting houses or day visitors/residents. Chief Fanning noted that the two drownings in October were renters. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned what initiatives other beaches have taken to educate visitors about swimmer safety. Mr. Newquist explained how Huntington Beach State Park has a flag system, but Chief Fanning added that a flag system is not feasible for the Town's staff and resources. Mr. Holliday asked who the company that would produce the video would be, to which Mayor Henry clarified that it would be MadLab Films, which is led by a nearby Waccamaw High School graduate. The

Town Council expressed interest in the project but wanted to explore alternative options and gain more information about existing resources before committing the funds.

b) Master Flood Mitigation/Drainage Plan Update

Mr. Newquist updated the Council about the new addition of a rain garden and cistern at the Town Hall. He explained how this was a suggestion from Seamon Whiteside for a natural form of flood mitigation and storm runoff reduction using native plants for property owners. He continued to explain how the rain garden was installed at the Town Hall during a workshop conducted by Clemson University Extension and Seamon Whiteside to educate those interested in the process. Mr. Newquist said that the workshop was well attended and consisted of local residents along with individuals travelling from as far away as Edisto Beach. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned how the project is being paid for, to which Mr. Newquist confirmed that the Town received a \$1,200 grant from the Native Plant Society for the project, and a small amount of Town funds was used to cover the rest of the cost. Mrs. Zimmerman also asked if Clemson Extension would take a look at your property to see if a rain garden was feasible, to which Mr. Newquist confirmed that they would aid in that aspect.

Continuing, Mr. Newquist updated Town Council about the surveys scheduled for the Myrtle Avenue creek berm project, which Seamon Whiteside will be conducting in the next month. He explained that he anticipates the Town to be ready to advertise a bid for the contractor for the project by the end of the year. Mr. Holliday expressed concern about the amount of time needed to design the berm, stating that he hopes the bid can be advertised earlier, as this is a critical project for the Town. Mr. Newquist continued to explain that Seamon Whiteside is making ongoing progress on the master drainage plan and noted that they are currently working on specific project recommendation for various areas of the island. Mayor Henry added that a possibility for the Town to reduce flooding impacts around the island is raising the road height, as suggested by Seamon Whiteside. Lastly, Mayor Henry commended Paul Groce, a Town resident who serves on the Planning Commission, for his ongoing assistance with the Master Drainage Plan.

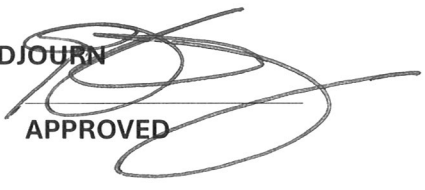
c) Recent and Upcoming Town Events Overview.

Mr. Newquist acknowledged the success of the Town's Easter Egg Hunt event, which had excellent attendance. Moving forward, he updated the Council about the upcoming Memorial Day Summer Kickoff celebration scheduled for Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, he noted that the Town is gearing up for the Fourth of July. He explained how the Town held a t-shirt design contest this year that exceeded his expectations, with almost 25 submissions. Mr. Newquist stated that the Events Committee selected a winner in their last meeting. Lastly, Mayor Henry updated that the Town will kick off t-shirt sales at the Summer Kickoff event.

**6) COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- No additional comments were presented.

7) ADJOURN

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

APPROVED

A smaller handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coey' followed by a flourish.

ATTEST

6/24/25  
DATE

6-24-25  
DATE