TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Conference Room | 323 Myrtle Ave | Pawleys Island SC 29585
9/21/2026 – 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Henry, Paul Groce, Sarah Zimmerman, Mark Hawn, and John LaMaster (Virtual)

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Newquist, Corey Higdon, Chief Fanning, and Jono Fairfield

ADDITIONAL PRESENT: Stacey Moree (Auditor), Wade Warr (Pawleys Pier Village), Clint Roberson (Pawleys Pier Village), Jen Groce (PICA)

ABSENT:

1) **CALL TO ORDER / OPENING REMARKS**
   - **Mayor Henry called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.**

2) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
   - Gerald: Gerald presented a comment regarding the Town's golf cart ordinance. He noted that he lives off-island, outside of the Town's 2-mile radius requirement for golf cart permits. He recommended that Town Council consider extending the radius to 4 miles to align with the state regulation. Gerald added that this would produce more revenue for the Town.
   - Barbara Cobb: Ms. Cobb submitted a written public comment before the meeting. This comment was dispersed to all Town Council members. **For the full comments, please see them attached below.**

3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 8-10-2026
   - **Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve or amend the 8-10-2026 Regular Town Council minutes. Mr. Hawn moved 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 explained that it was slow August compared to previous years. He noted that traffic was down and there were no major incidents. Chief Fanning added that there were several dog-related incidents, such as leash and barking complaints.

      Mayor Henry honored Detective Jono Fairfield for going above-and-beyond during several water incidents over the past few years. He specifically acknowledged a recent incident in which a group became distressed in the ocean. Detective Fairfield entered the water and rescued all that was in distress, with every person involved surviving the incident. Jen Groce presented an award on behalf of the Pawleys Island Civic Association (PICA) to Detective Fairfield, noting that the PICA board voted to honor Detective Fairfield with the Award of Distinction.

   b) Building Report

Mr. Higdon presented the building report for August, highlighting that 4 new permits were issued during the month, continuing the trend of low permit volume during the summer/on-season months. He added that this brought the total permits on the year to 51, which makes it a slow year overall. Mr. Higdon highlighted that a new single-family home permit was issued for 106 Atlantic.

c) Financial Report

Mr. Newquist presented the financial report for August, first noting that the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) disbursements have been ahead of budget for 2026. He explained that accommodation tax revenues are slightly below the 2025 year-to-date numbers, but are still well over the budgeted revenue. Mayor Henry added that the decreased revenue could be due to the earlier start date for many school districts. Mr. Newquist updated that Town staff will kick off the budget process in the coming weeks. Lastly, he highlighted that the Town is continuing to pursue grant opportunities, such as a possible grant from the Bunnelle Foundation to replace the police department's defibrillators.

5) BUSINESS

a) 2025 Annual Audit Presentation

Mayor Henry introduced the Town's auditor, Stacey Moree, with Poston, Moree, and Moree, P.A. He highlighted that the firm has been with the Town for over 30 years. Ms. Moree presented the Town's audit for 2025, outlining the net balance sheet, income statement, governmental fund type revenues and expenditures, and various charts. The full audit report can be found on the Town's website (townofpawleysisland.com).

b) Pawleys Island Pier Permit Review

Mayor Henry expressed appreciation for the contractors and property staff at Pawleys Pier Village for their coordination with the Town during the permitting process for their proposed pier replacement. Mr. Newquist stated that he had a successful meeting with several stakeholders regarding the project. He noted that a thorough plan for parking in the complex and the staging of the materials and equipment for the project has been established. All equipment will be staged on site at Pawleys Pier Village, with additional space being created by residents of the condos being limited to one car per unit during the construction process. Mr. Newquist updated that a state and Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit has been approved for the project. Lastly, he emphasized how important communication will be throughout the construction process.

Wade Warr, the property manager at Pawleys Pier Village, indicated that all Bureau of Coastal Management (BCM) and USACE criteria were met with their proposal to both entities. He explained that the pier will be rebuilt in the same footprint as the existing pier (12ft x 196ft). Mr. Warr noted that the contractor for the project is S&C Construction and introduced Clint Roberson of S&C Construction. Mr. Roberson updated that the Town's building official, Robert Cox, approved the plans as presented, and that the permit is only awaiting Town Council approval. He outlined the anticipated schedule of work, with the demo of the pier in November 2026 and the new pier being completed by

Spring 2028. Mr. Groce questioned when the construction over the beach should be completed, which Mr. Roberson stated should be completed by May 2027. He added that the beach will be closed off while construction is occurring on the beach, but after the work over the beach is complete, there will be minimal closures. Mrs. Zimmerman inquired about what time construction will begin and end, which will follow the Town's ordinance of 7am-6pm. Mr. Warr explained that there is a requirement from the South Carolina Sea Turtle Enthusiasts (SCUTE) that requires a survey to be done each morning to ensure that no nests are in the area during turtle nesting season before work can begin. Mr. Hawn emphasized the importance of communicating with rental agencies. Mr. Warr encouraged the Town to upload the schedule of work to the Town's website and the local newspaper. Mayor Henry seconded this and stated that an email should be sent to all property owners in the next few weeks. Mayor Henry indicated that no vote is needed by Council members, but the Council expressed satisfaction with the proposal.

c) Swimmer Safety Discussion

Mr. Hawn suggested that the Town establishes a group of volunteers who monitor the beach, similar to how SCUTE operates. He explained that similar groups exist in other beach communities and can help reduce incidents or more efficiently respond to incidents. Mr. Hawn also proposed the idea of staging a water rescue drone or jet ski at the new pier. Mr. Warr supported the idea and noted that he will talk to the pier project's engineer. Mr. Newquist updated that additional rip current signs have been ordered to place at the South End, as the rip current risk could increase with the inlet relocation. Lastly, he highlighted that the Town would propose to present at the SC Beach Advocates meeting, possibly regarding the swimmer safety initiative.

d) Inlet Relocation / Prince George Restoration BCM Permit Update

Mayor Henry explained that he presented the inlet relocation topic at the PICA Labor Day meeting, and since the meeting, the state permit had been issued. He added that there is a time constraint for the work to be completed, so the contractors are looking to have the work done by the end of November. Mrs. Zimmerman questioned if the south end parking lot will need to be closed, to which Mr. Newquist stated that it will not need to be closed. Mr. Newquist further explained that the parking lot will likely only be utilized in the first few days of construction, and then after that the equipment staging and access will be exclusively on the Prince George side of the inlet. He added that Robert Collins is the contractor for the project. Mr. Newquist elaborated that the work will likely start next week. He noted that the permit requires 3-years of annual monitoring following the completion of the project.

e) 2nd Reading – Ordinance 26-02 Historic Preservation

Mayor Henry explained that there are expectations for what Pawleys Island should look like, and the inception of the Architectural Review Board was a huge step towards this. He noted that the next step is preserving the historic homes on the island. Mayor Henry stated that the passing of the ordinance will make the Historic Preservation Board (HPB)

official and fulfill the requirements for the Town to become a Certified Local Government (CLG). He commended Mr. Groce and Jerry Lieberman for their efforts to expedite the historic preservation initiative. Mr. Hawn commended the two as well and emphasized the need for the HPB to be staffed with dedicated individuals, as there will be lots of work to be done in the early stages of the board. Mr. Groce updated that an RFP has been submitted for a consultant to assist the Town with guidelines and staff/board member training. He added that the Town is aiming to receive its CLG approval in summer 2027.

Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve the ordinance 26-02 Historic Preservation. Mr. Hawn moved to approve the ordinance. Mr. Groce seconded the motion. No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

f) Resolution 26-05 PEBA Retirement System Enrollment

Mayor Henry indicated that it was discussed in the previous meeting for the Town to possibly enroll in the PEBA retirement system. He noted that Mr. Newquist and Mr. Higdon would enroll in the retirement system if approved, with the police department not enrolling at this moment. Mr. Newquist explained that the retirement system would begin on January 1st.

Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve Resolution 26-05- PEBA Retirement System Enrollment, enrolling the administrative staff in the program. Mr. Hawn moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Groce seconded the motion. No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

g) Personnel Police Update Discussion

Mayor Henry commended Mr. LaMaster for his effort in reviewing and proposing updates to the Town's personnel policy. Mr. LaMaster indicated that he met with Mr. Newquist and Chief Fanning to discuss issues in the existing policy. He updated that he created a chart with recommended changes. Mr. LaMaster explained that the changes to the policy will require two readings as an ordinance amendment, so if the process kicks off now, the changes can be approved by the beginning of 2027.

h) Resolution 26-06 MASC Impact Grant- Town Hall Generator Proposal

Mr. Newquist explained that the Town's generator proposal aligns with a Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) grant opportunity. He highlighted that the grant could fund the Town Hall generator project with a required $1,250 match from the Town. Mr. Newquist stated that the deadline for the grant application is September 25th, with applications being reviewed in October.

Mayor Henry requested a motion to approve Resolution 26-06, allowing Town Staff to apply for the MASC grant. Mrs. Zimmerman moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hawn seconded the motion. No further discussion. **All voted in favor.**

6) COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mrs. Zimmerman suggested the possibility of implementing a 4-way stop at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and the North Causeway. Mayor Henry explained that this change would have to be proposed to DOT.
- Mr. Groce requested an update on the Frontier fiber optic work on the island. Mr. Newquist updated that work has restarted on Springs Avenue where Frontier left off after the last Town Council meeting.
- Mr. Groce updated that he and Mrs. Zimmerman met with Town Staff to begin the process on establishing an emergency management plan. He noted that there is nothing to present at this point.
- Mayor Henry highlighted that Congressman Russell Fry will be visiting the Town of Pawleys Island on September 23rd and encouraged all councilmembers to join the visit.

7) ADJOURN

APPROVED — **DATE** 10/14/22

ATTEST — **DATE**

Gmail

Corey Higdon <chigdon@townofpi.com>

Fwd: Sailboat problem email 2026 edition

Daniel Newquist <dnewquist@townofpi.com> Mon, Oct 12, 2026 at 11:48 AM
To: Corey Higdon <chigdon@townofpi.com>

Daniel Newquist
Town Administrator
Town of Pawleys Island
843-237-1698
www.townofpi.com
www.onlypawleys.com

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Barbara Cobb** <domesticatedkraken@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 10, 2026, 6:49 PM
Subject: Sailboat problem email 2026 edition
To: Daniel Newquist <dnewquist@townofpi.com>

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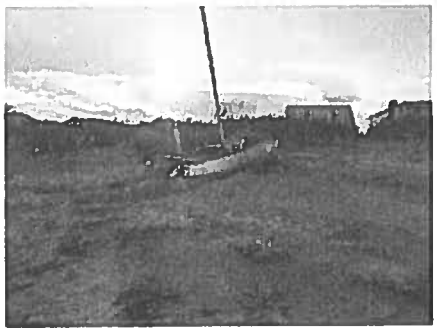
Hi Dan.
Every year I point out that the sailboats that are stored on the beach are doing damage to the dunes. The one parked at Third Street has been pulled up into the growing dunes and is both creating and has left huge grooves in the sand. It is pulled directly into growing dune grass. During turtle season, there were several more sailboats right around turtle nests. If we had a ban against this, as most other municipalities, do, we would not have this problem. If we required registration, with a sizable fee that could help with dune nourishment, maybe we could offset the damage done, but that would not help the turtles. It would also allow us to find the owners should their boat be causing damage or endangering wildlife. Please share my concerns with council.
Thank you. Barbara Cobb.
Sent from my iPhone

5 attachments



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