

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Meeting

February 28, 2023

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MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Roll Call – Freedom of Information – Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gregg called the February 28, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 2:30PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox (virtual), Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, Zoning Administrator Newman, Communications & Events Manager Ochoa, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act had been met.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2023
- Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of January 24; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of January 24 were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of February 14; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of February 14 were approved.

3. Presentations:

None.

4. Public Hearing Items:

None.

5. Executive Session:

- Discussion of Personnel Matters (S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1))
 - *Please Note: Town Council may take action on Executive Session Items listed on the agenda when they come back into Public Session.*

The Executive Session was postponed.

6. Citizens Comments:

Town Clerk Watkins listed the individuals who submitted public comments prior to the meeting.

A copy of the comments is available with these minutes and upon request.

7. Reports of Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees:

- **Advisory Committees**

- Community Promotions and Engagement Committee

Councilwoman Fox reminded all the Community Promotions Grant Program, and the first round of applications will be reviewed on the March 16th meeting.

- Environment and Wildlife Committee

Councilwoman Finke summarized the February meetings of the Environment & Wildlife Committee.

A discussion was had on a public comment received regarding dogs on the beach.

- Public Safety Committee

Councilman Kortvelesy summarized the Public Safety Committee meeting on February 21st.

Councilman Kortvelesy noted the upcoming Disaster Recovery Council (DRC) will be held on March 21st at 10:00AM in lieu of the regular Public Safety Committee Meeting.

- Public Works Committee

Councilman Goldstein updated Council on the proposed Town Hall Annex and Garage.

A discussion was had on the timeline for the proposed Town Hall Annex and Garage.

A discussion was had on where the bid for the proposed project will be posted.

- **Special Committees**

None.

- **Ad Hoc Committees**

The Short-Term Rental Ad Hoc Committee noted the report should be presented to Council during the March Town Council Meeting.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals**

None.

- **Planning Commission**

None.

- **State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

None.

- **Utility Commission**

None.

8. Reports Town Officers:

- **Mayor**

- Update Concerning Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor Gregg summarized the first 2023 meeting of the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee that was held on February 23rd.

Mayor Gregg noted that the 2023 Plan Update will be a five-year cycle update and subject to FEMA approval and summarized the Town's responsibilities for the Regional Update.

- Update from Recent Information Discussion with Representatives of the Club, Marina, and SIPOA

Mayor Gregg updated members of Council from recent informal discussions had with representatives for the Seabrook Island Club, the Marina, and the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) that was had on February 15.

- **Town Administrator**

- Introduction of Robin Ochoa, Communication & Events Manager

Town Administrator Cronin introduced Robin Ochoa as the new Communications & Events Manager.

- **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

- Report of Financials for the Month of January 2023

Town Clerk Watkins summarized the January Financials as follows:

- Total fund balance ending on January 31, 2023, was \$8,297,487 an amount about \$1,339,490 more than the balance as of January 31, 2022.
- Unrestricted revenue for January totaled \$69,873 representing about 4.0% for the 2023 annual budget and being about \$36,049 more than for the same period in 2022.
- Expenditures for January totaled \$115,767 which is 6.3% of the 2023 annual budget. Expenditures for the year were about \$31,396 more compared to the same period of 2022.
- Excess of expenditures over revenues was \$45,894 for January compared to an excess expenditure over revenues of \$50,549 in the same period of 2022, representing an increase in revenue from this year compared to last.

Town Clerk Watkins reminded members of Council to file their Statement of Economic Interests by March 30th to the State Ethics Commission to avoid penalties.

- **Town Attorney**

None.

- **Zoning Administrator**

- Code Enforcement Summary

Zoning Administrator Newman summarized the code enforcement summary since the previous Council meeting.

Zoning Administrator Newman updated Council on the status of hiring additional part-time code enforcement officers before the summer season starts.

A discussion was had on how the Town classifies a decal infraction to a business.

9. Ordinances for Second Reading:

None.

10. Ordinances for First Reading:

- Ordinance 2023-01: An ordinance amending the zoning map of the Town of Seabrook Island so as to change the zoning designation for Charleston County tax map number 149-06-00-003, containing approximately 0.25 +/- acres located at 2754 old forest drive, from the moderate lot single-family (R-SF2) district to the conservation (CP) district.

Zoning Administrator Newman summarized Ordinance 2023-01.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approved Ordinance 2023-01 for first reading; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2023-01 passed first reading.

- Ordinance 2023-02: An ordinance (“FRANCHISE ORDINANCE” or “AGREEMENT”) to grant to Dominion Energy South Carolina, INC. its successors and assigns, the limited non-exclusive right, power, and authority to erect and install, maintain, and operate on, along, across, in over, above, upon and under the streets, alleys and other public places of the Town: (1) electric lines, poles, wires, guys, push braces, transformers and appurtenant facilities and (2) communication lines and facilities for use by the company or any designee under the terms set forth in this agreement, together with any necessary right of access thereto, for such period as the same is needed by the company to render service to its customers in the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina from those facilities; to set the amount of franchise fee to be paid by Dominion Energy South Carolina, INC. to the Town; If so required, to levy franchise fees on third parties selling electricity using the company’s electric systems; to allow for the establishment of a fund and underground Utility Districts for electric non-standard service; be it ordained by the Mayor and Council of Seabrook Island in Town Council assembled.

Town Administrator Cronin summarized Ordinance 2023-02 and how it relates to the franchise agreement with Berkeley Electric Cooperative ordinance.

The council clarified the redline version from the Town Attorney is the first reading ordinance.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve Ordinance 2023-02 for first reading; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2023-02 passed first reading.

11. Other Action Items:

- Beach Patrol Contract: Request to approve the first addendum to the Beach Patrol Services Contract with Island Beach Services LLC (d/b/a Barrier Island Ocean Rescue)

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the first addendum to the Beach Patrol Services Contract with Island Beach Services LLC DBA Barrier Island Ocean Rescue.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the Beach Patrol Contract; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The Beach Patrol Contract was approved as presented.

- eGroup Contract: Request to approve the second addendum to the Emergency Preparedness Services Contract with eGroup Holding Company LLC

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the second addendum to the Emergency Preparedness Services Contract with eGroup Holding Company LLC.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the Emergency Preparedness Services Contract; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The Emergency Preparedness Services Contract was approved as presented.

- Dolphin Education Program Contract: Request to approve an agreement with the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network for services related to the 2023 Seabrook Island Dolphin Education Program

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the proposed agreement with Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network for services related to the 2023 Seabrook Island Dolphin Education Program.

The council thanked the Lowcountry Marine Mammal Network and volunteers for what they do for the Dolphin Education Program.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the Dolphin Education Program Contract; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The Dolphin Education Program Contract was approved as presented.

12. Items for Information or Discussion:

None.

13. Citizen Comments:

None.

14. Council Comments

None.

15. Adjournment

Councilwoman Finke moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Kortvelesy seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29PM.

Date: March 24, 2023

Prepared by: *Katharine E. Watkins*
Town Clerk/Treasurer