

# TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Meeting  
July 27, 2021

Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers  
2001 Seabrook Island Road, Seabrook Island, SC 29455



## MINUTES

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

The July 27, 2021, Town Council meeting was conducted in person, via Zoom, and was simultaneously made available to the public via YouTube live stream and by conference call, all in keeping with practices adopted to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Mayor Gregg, Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilman Goldstein, Town Administrator Cronin, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting. Mayor Gregg called the meeting to order. The Town Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting was properly posted, and the requirements of the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

2. **Minutes:** Town Council Public Hearing June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Town Council Meeting June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Town Council Special Called Meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Ways and Means Committee Meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous Town Council Public Hearing minutes of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous Town Council Meeting minutes of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous Town Council Special meeting minutes of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

Councilwoman Finke motioned to approve the previous Ways and Means Committee meeting minutes of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

3. **Financials:** For the Month of June 2021

Mayor John Gregg reviewed the financials for June as follows:

- The total fund balance for the period ending June 30, 2021, was \$6,107,865 about \$779,964 more than the balance as of June 30, 2020, and about \$1,222,017 more than for the same period of 2019.
- Unrestricted revenue for June totaled \$327,819 and unrestricted revenue for the year totaled \$942,867, representing about 71% of the 2021 annual budget and being about \$238,520 more than for the same period in 2020.
- Expenditures for June totaled \$96,751 and expenditures for the year totaled \$417,362, representing about 30% of the 2021 annual budget. Expenditures for the year were about \$3,782 more compared to the same period of 2020.
- Excess of revenues over expenditures was \$231,068 for the month of June and excess of revenues over expenditures for the year was \$525,505 compared to an excess of revenues over expenditures of about \$290,768 as of June 30, 2020, reflecting the significantly greater revenue in the period this year as compared to the same period of 2020.

**4. Citizens/Guests Presentations, Comments:**

- David Irwin, Mauldin & Jenkins: Presentation of FY 2020 Audit Report

Mr. Irwin presented the FY 2020 Audit for Council and the findings and recommendations based on this audit.

- No other comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

**5. Reports of Standing Committees, Commissions, Boards:**

- **Public Relations/Communications**

Councilwoman Fox summarized the communications for the month of July as follows:

- Between July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> there were successful practices for the emergency radios.
- There were four to five items posted in Tidelines for the Town.

Council also discussed the email distribution list and reminded all to check the spam settings on their email accounts if the notifications go there. They further discussed how to update the list to encompass as many residents as possible.

- **Public Safety & Special Projects**

- Recommendation for on-call debris monitoring services contractor

Councilman Goldstein summarized the Public Safety Committee meeting of July 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Committee recommended Tetra Tech to be awarded the debris monitoring bid. Town Administrator Cronin summarized the contract for Council and when this service would be used by the Town.

Councilwoman Finke moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Tetra Tech for debris monitoring services based on the Public Safety Committee recommendation; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Tetra Tech will be notified of the award of the contract for debris monitoring services subject to finalization of an “on call” services agreement acceptable to the Town.

- Councilman Goldstein updated Council the ongoing special projects for the new MUSC building and the assisted living facility and suggested to have meetings with all parties involved to consider the impacts these projects will have on the roadway.

- **Beach Administration and Community & Government Relations**

Councilwoman Finke mentioned to Council that the dolphin education program would like additional funding for additional signage about strand feeding on the beach and will update Council during the August meeting.

- **Ways & Means – Mayor John Gregg**

Mayor Gregg summarized the Ways and Means Committee meeting of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and updated Council on any changes since that meeting.

- **Planning Commission**

None.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals**

None.

**6. Reports of Ad Hoc Committees:**

None.

**7. Reports of Town Officers:**

- **Mayor – John Gregg**

- Consideration of resident concerns regarding fishing from beach and sufficiency of existing applicable regulation(s)

Mayor Gregg reminded Council that prior to the last Council meeting the Town had received a resident comment forwarding a photo purporting to show a shark caught via shore-fishing from North Beach. Since then, the Town has received additional comments from residents expressing concern about fishing from the beach and Council was provided copies of relevant emails concerning unrelated incidents together with a copy of the relevant section of the Town Code.

Council discussed an increased beach patrol presence to notify fisherman of safety hazards and ask them to move if too many swimmers are in the area, potentially creating a no fishing zone, similar to the restrictions regulating the presence of dogs on the beach such as specifying specific times for the year to permit fishing, and giving priority to swimmers rather than those fishing. Council will monitor the effectiveness of enhanced enforcement by beach patrol of the existing ordinance to inform its consideration of further restrictions.

- Inquiry from Dana Beach (Coastal Conservation League) concerning enhanced monitoring of birds at Deveaux Bank (outreach to POA, Club and SI birder group)

Mayor Gregg summarized an inquiry from Dana Beach of the Coastal Conservation League concerning proposed enhanced monitoring of shorebird activity on Deveaux Bank, in particular, to install a camera on Deveaux Bank and place a radio transmitter nearby to facilitate remote monitoring of the activity. Mayor Gregg added Council received a copy of the inquiry and has shared this with representatives of SIPOA, the Club and Seabrook Island Birder Group. Mayor Gregg also added that he informed Mr. Beach the Town is not involved in South Carolina Department of Natural Resources management of Deveaux Bank, and the if installation of a radio transmitter within the Town would require erection or modification of a tower or antenna, the Town's regulations under the Development Standards Ordinance would apply.

- Expected SIPOA commencement of "beta test" of use of location of former NV Realty to expedite issuance of gate passes; test is to determine effectiveness of "remote" location to relieve traffic back-ups on Seabrook Island Road.

Mayor Gregg summarized discussions between the Town, SIPOA and the Club, representatives of SIPOA regarding the "beta test" of use of the location of the former NV Realty business as a site for "remote" issuance of guest passes and acknowledged the Town's cooperation with this test. He further reminded Council the underlying objective for this "test" is to gage effectiveness of the remote site to reduce traffic back-ups on Seabrook Island Road that result from issuance of guest passes at SIPOA's security gate.

- Creation of "special committee" to consider potential designations (expenditures) of the Town's County Greenbelt Program allocation

Mayor Gregg reminded Council of the Town's opportunity to designate "projects" for use of the Town's allocation under the Charleston County Greenbelt Program and discussions with the Lowcountry Land Trust of potential projects on Johns Island for participation by the Town. Mayor Gregg indicated his intention to create a "special committee" of Council to seek to identify suitable projects within the Town was encouraged. It is expected the committee will consist of representatives from SIPOA, the Town, and others within the community. Mayor Gregg appointed Councilwoman Finke to the committee and will search for others to be a part of it.

- **Town Administrator/Zoning Administrator – Joe Cronin**

- Beach Patrol Update

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the beach patrol report for the month of June and compared it to the previous year.

- Short-Term Rental Ordinance Update

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the number of Short-Term Rental permits issued in 2021 since the effective date of the ordinance, the number of violations issued, and the tracking for occupancy limits.

- DSO “Open House” Meeting – August 23, 2021, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Town Administrator Cronin summarized the DSO “Open House” Meeting for Council and what the “Open House” will consist of.

- Council discussed with Town Administrator Cronin about a status update for the following: new Zoning Administrator/Chief Code Enforcement Officer, the PGA temporary parking to be removed, and when the signs will be replaced on Seabrook Island Road leading up to the gate.

- **Town Council Members**

None.

- **Utility Commission**

- Chairwoman Smith summarized the Utility Commission meeting of July 21<sup>st</sup>, the June financials, and the water usage and distribution for June. The next Utility Commission Meeting will be on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Chairwoman Smith also added the Utility Commission decided to table the holding pond project and will no longer need to obtain a bond for this project. Council discussed why the project was tabled, why the project is needed, and the timeline for the project in the future with regards to the DHEC permitting process.

**8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of:**

None.

**9. Miscellaneous Business**

- Resolution 2021-21: A resolution to appoint and commission Joseph Masneri as a Code Enforcement Officer for the proper security and general welfare for the Town of Seabrook Island

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve Resolution 2021-21; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Resolution 2021-21 was approved.

**10. Public Comments**

Annie Smith-Jones, 3340 Seabrook Island Road, commented in favor of Council's comments about fishing with regards to public safety.

**11. Adjourn**

Councilwoman Finke moved to adjourn; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42PM.

Date: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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