

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Meeting
December 13, 2022

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MINUTES

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

Mayor Gregg called the December 13, 2022, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 2:30PM. Councilwomen Finke and Fox, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, Zoning Administrator Newman, 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 – November 15, 2022
- Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2022

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of November 15th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of November 15th were approved.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the previous meeting minutes of December 6th; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The previous meeting minutes of December 6th were approved.

3. Presentations:

None.

4. Public Hearing Items:

- Ordinance 2022-07: An ordinance to adopt a budget for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023.

There were no public comments made on Ordinance 2022-07, the public hearing closed at 2:35PM.

5. Executive Session

- Discussion of Personnel Matters (S.C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1))

Councilwoman Finke moved to go into Executive Session; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Council moved into Executive Session at 2:35PM.

Councilman Kortvelesy moved to adjourn Executive Session; Councilwoman Finke seconded. All voted in favor.

Council adjourned Executive Session at 2:52PM.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve a one-time year-end bonus for Town Employees as discussed in Executive Session Councilwoman Fox seconded.

Mayor Gregg noted the one-time-year-end bonuses for staff will be as follows:

- \$2,000 one-time bonus for fulltime employees
- \$1,000 one-time bonus for parttime employees

Council clarified how to classify the Municipal Judge as a full-time employee or a part-time employee with regards to the one-time year-end bonus.

Using the original motion, a vote was taken; all voted in favor.

The one-time year-end bonuses for both fulltime and parttime staff were approved.

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 summarized the communications from the Town for the month of November.

Councilwoman Fox thanked everyone who attended and worked the Holiday Extravaganza.

Councilwoman Fox noted the upcoming Community Promotions and Engagement meeting on December 15th is cancelled.

Councilwoman Fox summarized the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association long range planning meeting.

- Environment and Wildlife Committee

Councilwoman Finke thanked the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee for the Holiday Extravaganza and staff who worked it.

- Public Safety Committee

None.

- Public Works Committee

None.

- **Special Committees**

None.

- **Ad Hoc Committees**

None.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals**

None.

- **Planning Commission**

None.

- **State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

None.

- **Utility Commission**

None.

8. Reports Town Officers:

- **Mayor**

- Update on Towns Request for Public Assistance (Hurricane Ian) if any

Mayor Gregg updated Council that the status of the Town's Request for Public Assistance in consequence of hurricane IAN remains Pending final FEMA review. The Program Delivery Manager for the Town's Request confirmed on December 12 that there is currently no action required by the Town in respect of the request.

- Thanks for extraordinary effort for the Holiday Extravaganza

Mayor Gregg thanked volunteers and Town staff who were on hand the entire evening of the Town's Holiday Extravaganza. Mayor Gregg also thanked all who pitched in to bring about this year's greatly expanded event.

- Update of Johns Island Task Force

Councilman Kortvelesy noted the upcoming public meetings from the Johns Island Task Force.

- **Town Administrator**

- MyGov License & Permitting Software Update

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the status of MyGov thanking Staff's efforts for getting the necessary information to the vendor to building the software.

- Update regarding trash cans on beach

Town Administrator Cronin noted that the Building and Grounds Manager will be able to service the trash cans potentially twice a week once the cans are in place.

- **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

- Report of Financials for the Month of November 2022

Ms. Watkins summarized the financials for November as follows:

- Total fund balance ending on November 30, 2022, was \$8,170,309 an amount about \$1,299,971 more than the balance as of November 30, 2021.
- Unrestricted revenue for November totaled \$100,213 and unrestricted revenue for the year totaled \$1,735,092 representing about 113% for the 2022 annual budget and being about \$325,943 more than for the same period in 2021.
- Expenditures for November totaled \$82,038, and expenditures for the year totaled \$1,070,314 which is 72.1% of the 2022 annual budget.
- Expenditures for the year were about \$198,121 more compared to the same period of 2021.
- Excess of revenues over expenditures was \$18,175 for November and excess of revenues over expenditures was \$664,778 for the year compared to an excess of revenues over expenditures of about \$536,936 as of November 30, 2021, reflecting the increase in revenues in the period this year as compared last years.

- Jury Trial Update

Ms. Watkins updated Council on the status of the upcoming Jury Trials scheduled for January 26th at 9:30AM and 1:00PM.

Ms. Watkins noted that residents should be on the lookout for notices to serve on the jury.

- **Town Attorney**

None.

- **Zoning Administrator**

- Code Enforcement Summary

Zoning Administrator Newman summarized the code enforcement summary between November 15th thru December 12th.

9. Ordinances for Second Reading:

- Ordinance 2022-07: An ordinance to adopt a budget for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023

Town Administrator Cronin summarized Ordinance 2022-07 for Fiscal Year 2023.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve ordinance 2022-07; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2022-07 passed second reading and was adopted.

10. Ordinances for First Reading:

- Ordinance 2022-08: An ordinance to grant to Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc., the non-exclusive right, power, and authority to erect and to install, maintain, and operate in, over, under, and upon the streets, alleys and public places of the Town of Seabrook Island, its electric lines, poles, wires, guys, push braces, and appurtenant electric distribution facilities, whether used to render service to the town or not, together with any necessary right of access thereto, for such period as the same are needed by the Cooperative to render electric service to its customers in the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; ; also to set the amount of the franchise fee to be paid by Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc., to the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina

Town Administrator Cronin summarized ordinance 2022-08 to update and establish a new franchise agreement with Berkeley Electric Cooperative.

A discussion was had as to whether there are any other electric company services available to Seabrook Island and on the terms of the agreement.

A clarification was had on the streetlights under Section 7 with respect to the streetlights behind the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association security gate.

A clarification was had on the necessity to have an agreement with Dominion Energy.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve ordinance 2022-08; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Ordinance 2022-08 passed first reading.

11. Other Action Items:

- Appointments to Town Boards, Committees, & Commissions:
 - Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (7)
 - Board of Zoning Appeals (1)
 - Planning Commission (3)

Mayor Gregg moved to nominate all current members for reappointment to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee as follows: Randall Buck, Joanne Fagan, Joseph Pontuti, Ann Marie O'Rourke, Ronald Schildge, Stuart Spisak, and Susan Leggett; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Buck, Ms. Fagan, Mr. Pontuti, Ms. O'Rourke, Mr. Schildge, Mr. Spisak, and Ms. Leggett were reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee for a two-year term.

Mayor Gregg moved to appoint Elizabeth Palmer to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Councilwoman Finke seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Palmer was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a four-year term.

Mayor Gregg moved to reappoint Stan Ullner and Jim Newton and appoint Tom Hund to the Planning Commission; Councilwoman Finke seconded. All voted in favor.

Mr. Ullner and Mr. Newton were reappointed to the Planning Commission for a two-year term, and Mr. Hund was appointed to the Planning Commission for a two-year term.

- Resolution 2022-40: A resolution authorizing the temporary discharge of firearms by the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) within the Town of Seabrook Island for the purpose of thinning the deer herd

Town Administrator Cronin summarized Resolution 2022-40 for thinning the deer herd.

A discussion was had the purpose of the ordinance to discharge firearms and not the designation which part of the herd is to be culled.

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve Resolution 2022-40; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

Resolution 2022-40 was approved.

- 2023 Town Meeting Schedule

Councilman Kortvelesy moved to approve the 2023 Town Meeting Schedule; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The 2023 meeting schedule was approved.

- 2023 Town Holiday Schedule

Councilwoman Finke moved to approve the 2023 Town Holiday Schedule; Councilwoman Fox seconded. All voted in favor.

The 2023 Town Holiday Schedule was approved.

12. Items for Information or Discussion:

None.

13. Citizen Comments:

None.

14. Council Comments

Councilwoman Finke wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilwoman Fox thanked MUSC for the presentation at the previous Town Council Work Session.

Councilman Kortvelesy wished all a safe and happy holiday.

Mayor Gregg thanked staff for their service to the Town and wished all happy holidays.

15. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:49PM.

Date: January 12, 2023

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