

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Town Council Work Session

January 11, 2022

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

[Watch Live Stream \(YouTube\)](#)



MINUTES

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

The January 11, 2022, Town Council Work Session was conducted 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, Councilmen Goldstein and Kortvelesy, Town Administrator Cronin, and Town Clerk Watkins participated in the meeting.

Mayor Gregg called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. 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. Guest Presentations

- Kathryn Basha, BCDCOG– One Region Roadmap Presentation

Ms. Basha was unable to make the presentation. Scott Barhight from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce presented the One Region Roadmap to Council and updated them on the status of the overall project. This project, begun in 2016, is an outgrowth of the One Region Strategy.

Council discussed sharing the presentation with the public on Tidelines and on the Town's website.

- Mark Andrews – Seabrook Island Birders Presentation

Mr. Andrews presented Council a summary of activities undertaken by the Seabrook Island Birders on Seabrook and some of the projects they are working on to gather research on shorebirds.

Council clarified how the organization recruits' volunteers, and where their information is publicized on what they do on the beach.

Council discussed a potential resolution to endorse the Seabrook Island Birders program, as they have done in previous years.

3. Mayor John Gregg

- Request by the Seabrook Island Utility Commission (SIUC) for funding (ARPA distribution)

Mayor Gregg summarized a request dated 20 December 2021 by Seabrook Island Utility Commission (SIUC) for funding from the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distribution. The total funding request is \$605,000 and the items of the request all fall within the scope of projects that are "eligible" under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund guidelines to which ARPA funding is aligned. While the amount of the SIUC request exceeds the distribution received by the Town in 2021, it is less than the total ARPA distribution the Town expects (\$928.5K). Mayor Gregg noted Commissioner Vancini informed him that the SIUC will be considering additional project proposals at its January meeting.

- Request by the Seabrooker for increased funding from the Town

Mayor Gregg summarized the correspondence from Mike Morris which informed the Town of a recent increase in printing costs for The Seabrooker. Mayor Gregg added the Town has a longstanding commitment to pay for publication of monthly articles authored by members of Council and staff. The cost of publication of those articles is reflected in the 2022 budget at the same rate as existed throughout 2021. Mayor Gregg noted the avenues Mr. Morris could pursue to get increased funds to offset the increase in printing.

Council clarified if the Community Promotions and Engagement Committee has reviewed this request, and that it will be discussed at their next meeting.

Council discussed potentially absorbing the increased cost of production in the Town's FY 2022 budget.

4. Town Council Members:

- **Jeri Finke**

None.

- **Patricia Fox**

None.

- **Barry Goldstein**

Councilman Goldstein updated Council on the road improvement project with regards to the final design for Seabrook Island Road being completed by ESP. Councilman Goldstein mentioned in order to complete the road design for Seabrook Island Road, ESP would need to know the following:

- Final survey for the turn lane put in by Seafields
- Where each of the entries are on Seabrook Island Road
- The pavement used to be consistent as the current pavement is not consistent

Councilman Goldstein also noted that the current elevation used was not the County minimum benchmark and is off by at least a foot. In order to proceed with the design process, Councilman Goldstein suggested to have the engineers redo the elevations to meet the County minimum benchmark and have a meeting with everyone involved (i.e., Bohicket Marina, MUSC, Seafields, etc.) to notify them of this change.

Councilman Goldstein mentioned the PGA temporary encroachment has still not been fully restored and suggested in the future, the Town collect funds upfront to fix the temporary encroachment or deny permission for it to be made.

Councilman Goldstein informed Council the first Public Works Committee Meeting will be held on February 7th at 12:00PM.

Town Administrator Cronin summarized for Council the costs associated with the changes suggested by Councilman Goldstein to keep the road improvement design.

Council clarified that the items mentioned are the final items needed to complete the road improvement design and the next steps in the process.

- **Dan Kortvelesy**

Councilman Kortvelesy informed Council that the Public Safety Committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10:00AM.

5. Town Administrator Joe Cronin

- **Buildings & Grounds Manager Update**

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the status of the Buildings & Grounds Manager and what the next steps are. Town Administrator Cronin added that the Town has an agreement with the Greenery during the transition period of hiring this position for up to three months.

- **Council Chamber Upgrades Update**

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the upgrades to Council Chambers that has been completed this morning and the next upgrades to Council that hopefully will happen in 2022.

- **COVID Update**

Town Administrator Cronin updated Council on the mask requirement in Town Hall and on the COVID cases with staff.

- **Potential Amendment to Town Code regarding appointed positions in the Town**

Town Administrator Cronin discussed with Council changing the Town Code with regards to the appointment of positions in Town Hall, that they do not need to be done every

year. Specifically, to amend the appointment of the Town Clerk/Treasurer and the Zoning Administrator to mirror the language of the Town Administrator.

Council noted there was no objection to making these changes and will be discussed further during the next Council meeting.

6. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.

Date: January 18, 2022

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