

**Town Council Meeting
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
March 3, 2009; 2:00PM**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Wert called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

III. FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

IV. Roll Call

Present: William G. Wert, Mayor
Alan L. Burnaford, Mayor Pro Tem
Charles R. Lipuma
G. Steven Orban
Harry M. McHugh

Also Present: Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator
Dennis Rhoad, Town Attorney

Absent: Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

V. Proclamation:

American Red Cross Month

Mayor Wert proclaimed the month of March 2009 as American Red Cross Month.

VI. Mayor Wert motioned without exception to add item XIV, St. Johns High School Inauguration Presentation, to the agenda.

VII. Approval of Minutes:

A. Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2009

Mr. Orban motioned to approve the minutes of February 3, 2009. Mr. Lipuma seconded the motion. Mr. Lipuma made typographical changes to the minutes. With those changes the minutes were approved unanimously.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business:

A. Kiawah Island Parkway Update

Mr. Orban explained that the Town is meeting on a bi-weekly basis with Thomas and Hutton Engineering and KDP and the Parkway and bike path project is moving along well. The Town is currently working with Berkeley Electric to reduce any overlap or delay and to establish proper coordination of both projects. Mr. Orban stated that the current plans are to bid the project in April and start construction in June of 2009.

B. SATAX Budget Revision

Mayor Wert stated that this amendment was recommended because the Town's ATAX revenues are down and the Town has only two sources of revenue; business licenses and Accommodations taxes. The Town does not tax residents on property. The Town receives a portion of the Accommodations tax from the state after both state and local collection. The first quarter ATAX revenues are down 5%. In October-December, the revenues were down 25%. The Town projects around a 30% total decrease in revenue. Mayor Wert explained that the Town cannot legally spend more money than they have and requested that staff make recommendations on possible expenditure cuts. Mayor Wert stated that the Ways and Means Committee reviewed allotted ATAX expenditure line items and that there are three line items that are running below budget: Charleston County Deputies, Equipment for Beach Maintenance, KICA/Conservancy Information Booklet. Mayor Wert stated that the Ways and Means Committee recommended the reduction of the Deputy line item by \$85,187, the Equipment for Beach Maintenance by \$23,546 and the KICA/KINHC by \$10,000 for a total reduction in SATAX expenditures by \$118,733. Mayor Wert stated because it is a change in the budget allocation, a vote of Council is required.

Mr. Burnaford motioned to reduce the SATAX expenditures by \$118,733 from the Deputy, Beach Equipment, and KICA/Conservancy Booklet line items as recommended by the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Orban seconded the motion. Mr. Orban commented that the Town absorbed most of the reduction and did not cut from the Resort, other local businesses or planned events. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Investment Policy Amendment-Resolution 2009-1

Mrs. Rucker stated that Resolution 2009-1 made two changes to the Town's Investment Policy: 1) The term of maturities changes from five years to seven years; and, 2) Language from the policy referring to the required amount of liquidity is removed and replaced with wording that states that cash flow will be matched to investments on an aggregate basis. Mrs. Rucker stated that the Ways and Means Committee reviewed policy changes and recommended approval of Resolution 2009-1.

Mr. Burnaford motioned to approve Resolution 2009-1. Mr. Orban seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. Committee Reports:

Arts Council

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Arts Council has had incredible attendance for the past four events. Those events include: The Charleston Ballet, Yuriy Bekkar and Friends, Sharrie Williams, and the Big Band Event. The Arts Council events are attracting more people from Johns Island, James Island, and Seabrook Islands. Mr. Lipuma stated that a heavy Johns Island presence was felt during the Sharrie Williams event. Mr. Lipuma stated that 25% of the attendees for the Big Band were Seabrook residents. The remaining March events are the Beethoven, Barcino Baroque, and the College of Charleston Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Lipuma stated that events this season have been sold out and that the Arts Council is thankful for the great attendance.

Beach Parking

Mr. Lipuma presented an aerial map of the proposed location for the Ocean Course Clubhouse parking lot. Mr. Lipuma stated that Mr. Jim Jordan took GPS readings of the area and created the aerial image which has been sent to Bill Feller of Thomas and Hutton Engineering. Thomas and Hutton Engineering will create an exhibit, for the Town's review, clearly depicting the parking area along with a 12' wide path to the beach. This information will be included in the license agreement. The exhibit will be forwarded to Dennis Rhoad for review and negotiations will continue with the Resort.

Financial

Mr. Orban stated that business license revenues are down, but not dramatically. He explained that the electricity franchise fee is slightly above the year-to-date, possibly due to the cold weather. The Town's additional revenues, Local Accommodations Tax and State Accommodations Tax, are down. Mr. Orban stated that the Town's expenditures are within budget in all areas and that staff is making efforts to keep expenses down. Mr. Orban reminded those in attendance that the SATAX meeting will be held March 26 at 2:00pm inside Town Chambers. The Committee will review SATAX applications submitted by March 15, 2009. Those submitting an application should be at the meeting on March 26, 2009 to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Environmental Committee

Mr. McHugh stated that the Resort is having an Earth Day party/celebration on April 19, 2009. This event will include a beach run in the morning and other activities in the afternoon.

Mr. McHugh stated that there have been algae found in the lakes but that is normal for this time of year. KICA increases Tilapia populations in the spring to eat the algae away.

Bobcat collaring is underway and seven bobcats have been collared at this time. There are five collars remaining to be deployed.

The beach consultant has completed a beach study which preliminarily shows that the beach is accreting. Also, a compaction study was conducted that tested beach density for turtle nesting. This will be reported with more detail at a later date.

Johns Island Council

Mr. Burnaford stated that the Johns Island Council met on February 12 for a very short meeting and there was nothing to report.

Johns Island Roads

Mr. Burnaford stated that he and Mr. Paul Roberts have met with groups to explain where the Town and Seabrook stand in regards to the roads issue. Mr. Burnaford stated that the Urban Land Institute reviewed the Maybank Road proposal and recommended that the road not be four lanes but that an additional lane should be added from the Stono Bridge to River Road. There was also a recommendation to have an additional road from the Stono Bridge to reduce the traffic on Maybank Road. Mr. Burnaford stated that he and Mr. Roberts met with a major land owner on Johns Island to see if it will be possible to work in coordination. Mr. Burnaford and Mr. Roberts also met with County Council members to give them as much information as possible.

XI. Town Administrator's Report

Mrs. Rucker stated that Town Staff is working on increasing public outreach to the surrounding sea islands and to-date a list of all Johns Island churches has been comprised. Staff is continuing to closely monitor all revenues and expenditures. The Town is applying for the 2009 Palmetto Pride Tree Grant along with the 2009 DHEC Solid Waste Grant. The Town will be holding Brown Trash day on March 6, 2009. On April 22 the Town will host E-Waste and Paper Shredding at Town Hall. The Town is increasing Code Enforcement on island and will be using a new wireless air card which allows for real time business license and Logics system access from anywhere on the island. This will allow instant follow up on code compliance complaints.

XII. Mayor's Report

Mayor Wert stated that any ideas that Town residents have to increase the Town's revenues would be appreciated and that residents could send ideas to Tumiko Rucker. The Mayor stated that the Town has nominated Town Administrator Tumiko Rucker for a Palmetto Fellowship. Mayor Wert stated that this is a very prestigious award and that only 20 recipients will be selected from over 200 nominees.

Mayor Wert stated that a question was asked during the last Town Council meeting about the Town's consideration for the land donated for mitigation purposes for the Parkway and Bike Path Project. Mayor Wert stated that KDP agreed in the 2005 Development Agreement to provide \$250,000 as a donation for the Parkway Project and that the land contribution was considered as payment in kind for the \$250,000 donation. The land will be converted to wetland.

XIII. Citizen's Comments/Questions:

None

XIV. Council Members Comments

Mr. Lipuma

Mr. Lipuma stated that Mr. Paul (Put) Putman passed away on February 26, 2009. Memorial Services were held on February 28, 2009. Mr. Lipuma stated that he was a gentlemen and quite a golf player.

Mr. Burnaford

No Comment

Mr. McHugh

No Comment.

Mr. Orban

Mr. Orban stated that he has asked Mrs. Rucker to seek stimulus funding for the Parkway Project by contacting SCDOT or Henry Brown. Mr. Orban explained that his is a shovel ready project and that it is worth the effort.

XV. St. Johns Inauguration Trip Presentation

The presentation was not recorded.

XVI. Executive Session-Legal Contractual Matters

Mayor Wert motioned to enter into executive session at 3:15pm. Mr. McHugh seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

No votes or actions were taken during executive session.

XVII. Adjournment:

Mayor Wert motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:25pm. Mr. Lipuma seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

William G. Wert, Mayor

Date