

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Virtually Meeting Via Zoom

January 5, 2021; 2:00 PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: *Mayor Labriola called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.*

~~II. Pledge of Allegiance~~

Present at the meeting: John D. Labriola, Mayor
Dan Prickett, Councilmember
Maryanne Connelly, Councilmember
John Moffitt, Councilmember
Dr. Scott Parker, Councilmember

Also Present: Stephanie Tillerson, Town Administrator
Joe Wilson, Town Attorney
Petra Reynolds, Town Clerk
Stephanie Braswell Edgerton, Communications Manager

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 1, 2020

Councilmember Prickett made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of the Special Call Town Council Meeting of December 4, 2020

Councilmember Prickett made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2020 Special Call Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

C. Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of December 14, 2020

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Town Council Workshop. Councilmember Moffitt seconded the motion.

Councilmember Parker questioned if Seabrook and Johns Island made an official comment on the Main Road Corridor Project. Ms. Tillerson indicated that she was not aware of any comments but would follow-up and forward any comments Councilmembers. Mayor Labriola also requested a copy of any response from the Community Association.

Following the discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Mayor's Update:

Mayor Labriola commented on the passing of former Mayor Piet and thanked him for all the contributions he made to the Town and for setting the framework of today's Community.

Mayor Labriola stated earlier in the day, there was a meeting with Berkeley Electrical Cooperative (BEC) to discuss the outage that occurred on December 26th. He indicated there were lessons learned on the part of BEC. Discussion of a need for communication improvement highlighted their use of social media as the primary platform to disseminate information. To better communicate BEC's long-range plans, a representative would be requested to attend one of the Town's monthly committee meetings.

Mayor Labriola reported on the meeting he and Ms. Tillerson had with Clemson on the issues with the use of Second Generation Anticoagulants (SGAs). He felt that they were committed and that progress had been made to eliminate the use, but much more work would be required with continual vigilance and monitoring. Mayor Labriola also indicated that he and Ms. Tillerson met with Senator Chip Campsen, Chairman of the Fish, Game, and Forestry Committee. He expressed his interest in the issue Kiawah is having with the use of SGAs, and while hope is that voluntary efforts would be successful, he would do what he could from a legislative perspective.

Mayor Labriola stated that the Council Retreat would be held in January and would be an opportunity to work with staff on ideas to lay the framework for 2021.

V. Citizens' Comments (Agenda Items Only):
None

VI. Old Business:

- A. To Consider Approval of *Ordinance 2020-14* - An Ordinance to Amend Article 14, General Regulations, Chapter 1, Flood Damage Prevention, Division 1 - General Standards, Division 2 - Administration and Enforcement, and Division 3 - Provisions for Flood Hazard Reduction - *Second and Final Reading.***

Mayor Labriola stated Ordinance 2020-14 was approved on the first reading by the prior Council and was modifications to the language were made for the second reading.

Mr. Spicher stated the first reading included a definition, the correction of typographical errors, and an exception that dealt with the adoption of the new flood insurance rate maps. The exception is being recommended to be omitted for the second reading of the ordinance.

Councilmember Prickett made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2020-14. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to amend Ordinance 2020-14 to adopt the changes recommended by Mr. Spicher. Councilmember Prickett seconded the motion.

Mr. Spicher explained that the new flood maps will become effective on January 29th and will reduce base flood elevations across the entire island. The reductions have adversely affected how homes are currently designed with roof height elevation and the ability to park under homes. He presented a demonstration of the calculations and the effects of home design. To resolve the issue, the exception was added to use the current flood maps in new construction projects. The intent was to use the current flood maps to develop roof height elevations and use the new flood maps to establish base flood elevations. After the first reading of the ordinance, it was discovered that FEMA would not allow a design to utilize two different flood maps, thereby requiring the omission of the exception. He noted an alternate resolution requiring a zoning amendment will be presented to the Planning Commission for approval.

Following the discussion, the motion to amend Ordinance 2020-14 was unanimously passed.

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-14 as amended. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

B. Approval of the Amended Dates for the 2021 Ways and Means Committee and Environmental Committee Meetings

Mayor Labriola stated that the Ways and Means Committee meeting would be moved to the fourth Monday of the month, and the Environmental Committee meeting would be moved to the second Wednesday of the month.

Councilmember Moffitt made a motion to approve the amended dates of the 2021 Ways and Means and Environmental committee meetings. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

VII. New Business:

A. Discussion of Building Base Height Elevation and Roof Heights

Mr. Spicher stated that a full presentation of the recommended zoning change, terminology, and determining factors would be given at the Planning Commission meeting taking place via Zoom on January 6th at 3:00 pm.

Ms. Tillerson indicated if the Planning Commission recommends approval of the text amendment to the zoning ordinance, it will come to the Council for the first of two readings at the February meeting.

B. Discussion of the Town's COVID Emergency Ordinance

Ms. Tillerson began the discussion by stating that she attends the bi-weekly COVID calls with the Charleston County Emergency Management team, which may include a representative from DEHC and MUSC. She reviewed the current rise in the COVID statics for the State and the Lowcountry, noting that while there was a rise, the statistics for Charleston County numbers were not as high as reported in the early part of the pandemic. Those statics are expected to rise in the coming weeks due to the holidays. She also reviewed the information recently released on the protocols for the disbursement of vaccines available on the DHEC website. Councilmember Prickett added that one of the local providers, MUSC, has indicated that they can only be distributed to two locations due to the Pfizer vaccines' storage requirements. It is expected that testing will begin in late January with public notices released.

Councilmember Connelly stated that currently, there are 2000 people hospitalized with the COVID virus, and local hospitals are at 78% occupancy. She noted that 30% of tests administered are positive, a number that should be five to eight percent. The virus is far from over and requires continued education.

Councilmember Parker questioned why the Town is not holding businesses accountable for enforcement of the current emergency ordinance requirements. Ms. Tillerson stated the business owners were willing to help with enforcement but unwilling to put their employees in a possible confrontation or argument with customers. Councilmembers further discussed the ordinance and the need for continued monitoring by Town code enforcement staff.

C. To Consider Approval of the Amendment to the Town of Kiawah Island Employee Handbook

Mayor Labriola stated that the amendment to the employee handbook to provide maternity leave benefits includes compensation percentage levels based on years of service. While in favor of the

addition of the benefit, he was not in favor of tiering relative to time. He suggested that the benefit be consistent with the existing policies and available to full-time employees after one year of service and full salary benefits for the eight-week maternity leave term. Councilmember Prickett agreed to the amendment.

Councilmember Prickett made a motion to approve the amendment to the Town of Kiawah Island Employee Handbook, as noticed. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion.

Councilmember Moffitt made a motion to amend the maternity leave amendment to the Town of Kiawah Island Employee Handbook to remove the tier requirement only reflecting a one-year employment requirement. Councilmember Prickett seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

Councilmember Parker made a motion to approve the amendment to the Town of Kiawah Island Employee Handbook as amended. Councilmember Moffitt seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

D. Appointment of Mayor Tempore

Mayor Labriola made a motion to appoint Councilmember Prickett as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

E. Appointment of Town Attorney

Mayor Pro Tem Prickett made a motion to appoint Mr. Joe Wilson as Town Attorney. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

F. Appointment of Town Treasurer

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to appoint Ms. Dorota Szubert as Town Treasurer. Councilmember Moffitt seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

G. Appointment of Town Clerk

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to appoint Ms. Petra Reynolds as Town Clerk. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

H. Appointment of Municipal Judge

Mayor Labriola recommended the appointment of Sanford Ain as the Municipal Judge. He noted that Mr. Ain was selected after interviewing the four candidates recommended by Mr. Wilson and Judge Strauch.

Mayor Labriola made a motion to appoint Mr. Sanford Ain for a three-year term as the Municipal Judge. Mayor Pro Tem Prickett seconded the motion.

Ms. Tillerson stated that Judge Strauch would be continuing as the Municipal Court Judge until the end of February when his term expires.

Following discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

I. 2021 Committee Appointments

— Arts Council & Cultural Events Council

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to reappoint the members of the Arts and Cultural Events Council as presented. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

— Audit Committee

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to reappoint the members of the Audit Committee as presented. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

— Environmental Committee

Councilmember Parker made a motion to reappoint the members of the Environmental Committee as presented. Councilmember Moffitt seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

— Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to reappoint the members of the Public Safety Committee as presented. Councilmember Parker seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

— Public Works Committee

Ms. Tillerson recommended the reappointment of the current member of the Public Works Committee.

Councilmember Connelly made a motion to reappoint the members of the Public Works Committee as presented. The motion was seconded and was unanimously passed.

— SATAX Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Prickett changed the representative of the Arts and Cultural Events Council to Mr. David Wahl.

Mayor Pro Tem Prickett made a motion to reappoint the members of the SATAX Committee as amended. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

J. Council Committee and Liaison Assignments

Mayor Pro Tem Prickett made a motion to approve the Organizational Chart and assignments. Councilmember Connelly seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

VIII. Town Administrator's Report:

Ms. Tillerson gave an update on the Parkway Landscaping project by stating that the project is progressing with some of the trees being planted. Mr. Gottshalk and Outdoor Spatial Design, the landscape architect, have been monitoring the project anticipated to be completed by the first or second week in February. Delays in completion have been due to additional work on the irrigation system.

Ms. Tillerson stated there had been a long-standing issue with the Sora Rail waste disposal area. There has been a more frequent issue of trash being left on the ground not just during holidays but year-round. Despite signage giving a secondary location, installing cameras, and citations being issued, the issue has not been resolved.

Ms. Tillerson indicated that the Town does not own the land where the compactor and recycle bin are located. There is no room for expansion or to make improvements, and she suggested closing that site and working with the Public Works Committee to possibly move the facility to an alternate location at the Municipal Center location.

Mayor Labriola added that as a matter of health and safety, the issue could not continue. He noted the Municipal Center was designed with an area to expand the garage that can be used to have a monitored, maintained, and controlled facility.

Councilmembers discussed and agreed to support moving forward with the project.

- IX. **Council Member:**
- a. Committee Updates
 - b. General Comments

- X. **Citizens' Comments:**
None

- XI. **Adjournment:**


Mayor Pro Tem Prickett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 pm. Council Member Connelly seconded the motion and was unanimously passed.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



John D. Labriola, Mayor

2-5-2021
Date