

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Kiawah Island Municipal Center

Council Chambers

December 5, 2017; 2:00 PM

Minutes

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Present at the meeting: Craig Weaver, Mayor
John R. Wilson
Diana Mezzanotte
Jack Koach
Chris Widuch

Also Present: Stephanie Monroe Tillerson, Town Administrator
Dwayne Green, Town Attorney
Petra Reynolds, Town Clerk

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing of November 7, 2017

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2017 Town Council Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of November 7, 2017

Mr. Widuch made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2017 Town Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte and the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

IV. Mayor's Update:

Mayor Weaver reported that the permit for the second phase of the beach sand scraping project has been approved and received by the Town. Work is expected to begin next week with the intent of completion the week before Christmas.

Mayor Weaver stated the former Town Administrator and Treasurer were arraigned last week, Monday, in Federal Court. Both were charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and entered pleas of "not guilty." No court dates have been set at this time.

V. Citizens' Comments (Agenda Items Only):

Wendy Kulick – 38 Marsh Edge Lane

Mrs. Kulick indicated that since there were three candidates for the position as St John's Fire Commission. She questioned when there was a public vote to recommend the one candidate.

Mrs. Kulick referenced the item list under the Executive Session and questioned if it was Ms. Tillerson's performance appraisal for the year.

Mayor Weaver indicated Mrs. Kulick's questions would be addressed as the individual items are discussed.

VI. **Presentation:**
None

VII. **Old Business:**

A. Town of Kiawah Post Employment Retirement Health Contribution

Dorota Szubert, Town Treasurer stated that staff is requesting Council to consider approval of a policy on the Town's contribution to the retiree insurance premiums. She explained that currently, the Town as a participant in the State Health Plan, pays an employer's portion of the health and dental insurance premiums and supplements employee only portion of the premium for all active employees. The Town's retirees are eligible to enroll in the retiree health, dental and vision insurance through the State Plan, however the Town has no formal policy on the Town's contribution to the retirees' insurance premiums.

Mrs. Szubert reviewed the employee eligibility requirements for the SC Retirement System and the State Health Plan for retiree group insurance and stated that Staff recommends approving a policy for funding up to 50% of retiree and dependents insurance coverage up to age 65. To be eligible for paid insurance benefits, the individual must be a full time regular employee with at least 5 years of service with the Town and meet the requirements for retirees as defined under the South Carolina Retirement System. The percentage amount of the monthly insurance payment to be paid by the Town of Kiawah shall be based upon the actual number of years of continuous employment with the Town as follows:

Years of Service with the Town	Employer Share	Retiree Share
Less than 5 years of service	0%	100%
6-10 years of service	15%	85%
11-20 years of service	30%	70%
More than 20 years of service	50%	50%

Mr. Wilson motioned to adopt the retiree medical cost sharing policy as recommended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte.

Mr. Wilson indicated that if not implied, made the recommendation the policy language include that in order to be eligible for this benefit the employee must have left the Town in good standing with no disciplinary actions, suspensions or debt to the Town.

Mr. Widuch stated he was opposed to the policy and did not think that putting a long-term liability on the balance sheet was in the best interest of the Town in the long run. Members engaged in discussion of the proposed policy, legality of the incorporation of language and evaluation of employee benefits in the future.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to modify his motion to approve the retiree medical cost sharing policy with the additional requirement that the employee should be in good standing at the time of their separation and a clean-up of the years of service. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte. The motion was passed by a 4 to 1 vote. Mr. Widuch voting "No."

Following the discussion the motion was passed by a 4 to 1 vote. Mr. Widuch voting “No.”

VIII. Consent Agenda:

- A. Ordinance 2017-23** to rezone the property located at 1 Kiawah Beach Drive from the Commercial Zoning District to the RST-2, Resort Zoning District – **Second Reading**

Mr. Widuch made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2017-23 to rezone the property located at 1 Kiawah Beach Drive from the Commercial Zoning District to the RST-2, Resort Zoning District. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte and unanimously passed.

IX. New Business:

- A. Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Widuch motioned to accept and approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule Dates. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte and the motion was unanimously approved.

- B. Public Works Committee Appointment**

Mr. Wilson stated that it was the intent to have Will Connor, Director of Major Repairs for the Community Association as a member of the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to appoint Will Connor to the 2017 Public Works Committee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Weaver and the motion was unanimously passed.

- C. Recommendation for St Johns Fire District Commissioner**

Mr. Widuch stated that following the announcement of an opening on the St. John’s Fire Commission, three highly qualified applications were received. Commission Chairman Connolly, along with other members of the Commission, reviewed the applicants and recommended Stephen Rolando, who has the extensive IT experience lacking on the Commission.

Mr. Widuch made a motion to nominate Stephen Rolando for recommendation to Charleston County Council for appointment to the STJFD Fire Commission. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mezzanotte and the motion was unanimously passed.

X. Other Business:

None

XI. Town Administrator’s Report:

Ms. Tillerson introduced and welcomed the new Administrator for the Town of Seabrook, Mr. Joe Cronin.

XII. Council Member:

- a. Committee Updates
- b. General Comments

Mr. Koach stated there is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals to be filled. At this time there was one interested candidate and asked if a reminder of the opening would be sent out.

Mr. Wilson stated he attended the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee (CHATS) meeting in hopes of getting clarification on the status of 1526. He indicated it was mentioned on the list of priorities but no information was forthcoming. He noted the flyover on Hwy 17 and the widening of Main Road seemed to be live issues even though the completion of 1526 on Johns Island would alleviate a lot of the need for the flyover which is due to the permitting process.

Mrs. Mezzanotte indicated there had been 552 responses to the Arts Council survey which was released. A summary will be included in Town Notes, with the entire questionnaire and answer being posted to the Town's website.

Mrs. Mezzanotte stated the College of Charleston Madrigal Feast was sold out and a wonderful program. She noted that the last event of the year is Burning River Brass on December 18th at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Mrs. Mezzanotte stated the Coastal Science beach erosion annual report should be issued in February.

XIII. Citizens' Comments:

Scott Nelson – 65 Persimmon Court

Mr. Nelson asked that with the repair of the recent storm damage, the signage at Captain Sam's Spit be replaced. He noted a constant issue with dogs on the beach harassing the strand feeding dolphins and the owners who express a lack of awareness of the dog restrictions in that area. He also requested the Beach Patrol be more active in the area to help with violations.

Mayor Weaver stated that the Town will follow up on his concerns.

Virginia Abbott – 304 Sea Forrest Drive

Mrs. Abbott indicated her concern with the Post Employment Retirement Health Contribution Policy asked for clarification on the age at which an individual can retire.

Mr. Tillerson referred her to the analysis section of the Memorandum in the packet which states the South Carolina State minimum statutory requirement of 28 years of service; Age 65; or Age 55 with 25 years of service (early retirement); or Age 60 with 20 years of service (early retirement).

Wendy Kulick – 38 Marsh Edge Lane

Mrs. Kulick also express her concern with the dogs running loose on the Spit disturbing the dolphins but has noted more distain than ignorance of the dog owners.

Mrs. Kulick read comments on behalf of **Diane Lehder – 306 Palm Warbler Road** in reference to an article in the Post and Courier referencing the Miss South Carolina USA Pageant and Miss Kiawah. She noted that the selection of Miss Kiawah did not receive any on-island publicity and questioned if the Town was

involved in the selection, when was the selection publically discussed, who was involved and did the contestant need the Town's permission and did the Town give it.

Mayor Weaver, along with Council indicated they had no knowledge of a Miss Kiawah competition and requested a copy of the article.

Mrs. Kulick commented on the Town decision to discontinue the Town's Resident Exchange and requested reconsideration stating that it lessens the possibility of two-way communications between property owners and the Town.

Mrs. Kulick indicated that previously when asking about using a civil suit to recover funds allegedly embezzled by the former Town Administrator and Treasurer it was stated that the Town was awaiting for any charges to be filed. She questioned that now that charges have been filed by the US Attorney does the Town have any plans to pursue a civil suit to recoup any monies not covered by insurance.

Mayor Weaver stated that the Town's position is to wait and allow the legal process to carry its way through. The Town Attorney is monitoring the process and date by which a decision has to be made on the options of filing a civil action to recover funds is being watched.

Mrs. Kulick also commented on the lack of public transportation on Johns Island and asked Mr. Wilson in his work with CHATS and other governmental agencies for any help to get them to look at the issue.

Mr. Wilson indicated that CHATS looks very closely at ridership and potential ridership to determine their routing and it is difficult to make changes when there is no perceived ridership.

As an additional remark to the signage comment, Mayor Weaver assured everyone that the Town is aware of all the signage lost in the storm and staff is working on taking an inventory to replace the lost or damaged signage once ARB approval is obtained. He also indicated that Beach Patrol has been asked to be more vigilant on some of the dog issues.

Mayor Weaver clarified the Executive Session item was not a personnel assessment of the Town Administrator by Council but an upward assessment and/or feedback from her management team using an external resource having worked with the Town and the Community Association in the past. He also noted that no votes will be taken and no decisions would be made that would bind the Town during the Executive Session.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Town Administrator Leadership Assessment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Widuch and unanimously passed.

XIV. Executive Session:

A. Town Administrator Leadership Assessment Discussion


Mr. Widuch made a motion to return back to Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koach and unanimously passed.

Mayor Weaver stated that no votes were taken and no decisions were made that would bind the Town during the Executive Session.

XV. Adjournment:

Mr. Koach motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mezzanotte and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

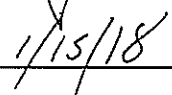


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Craig E. Weaver, Mayor



Date