

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Kiawah Island Municipal Center

Council Chambers

January 7, 2020; 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
Chris Widuch, Mayor Pro Tem
Maryanne Connelly, Councilmember
Klaus Said, Councilmember

Absent: Dan Prickett, Councilmember

Also Present: Stephanie Monroe Tillerson, Town Administrator
Joe Wilson, Town Attorney
Petra Reynolds, Town Clerk

Notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance, according to the Freedom of Information Act. All Town Council meetings are recorded for a complete transcript

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of November 5, 2019

Mayor Pro Tem Widuch made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2019, Town Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Connelly, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 3, 2019

Mayor Pro Tem Widuch made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2019, Town Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Connelly, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. **Mayor's Update:**

Mayor Weaver reminded members of Council that the annual Council Retreat would be taking place on January 29th, in the afternoon, and 30th, in the morning. The meeting will be held in the Council Training Room.

Mayor Weaver gave an update on the Hurricane Dorian storm clean-up costs. He stated the Town expenditure was now at approximately \$675,000 for debris removal and disposal both inside and outside the gate.

Mayor Weaver explained that there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the Community Association which, while debris removal inside the gate is the responsibility of the Community Association, the MOU gives the Town the ability to participate both operationally and

financially when and where it deems it necessary. He noted that following the last storm, the cost to the Town had been predominantly for clean up of private property inside the gate. He indicated that there would be initial discussions on the MOU to look at how it is operating, and if it is accomplishing the intent of the parties along with the level of cost the Town is taking on.

Mayor Weaver gave an update on the project to repave the Parkway from the roundabout to the main gate. As one of the year's major spending projects, the two primary goals are to ensure the Parkway remains fully functional and operational into the future and to improve the aesthetics of the roadway. He indicated the members of the Public Works Committee have been working with McCormick Taylor to complete the bid package, which is scheduled to be released next week with submissions to be received by January 30th. He reviewed the scope of the project indicated that the intent is to have construction begin in the spring with completion, the latest, two weeks before the Memorial Day weekend.

Councilmember Connelly questioned if there was any FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement expected. Ms. Tillerson indicated the Town is still in the process of submitting the required paperwork. Any clean up of public property that FEMA deems is eligible for reimbursement is not expected for the next several months.

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

VI. Presentation:

A. Outdoor Spatial Design - Parkway Conceptual Landscaping Plan

Mayor Weaver stated that the Town contracted with Outdoor Spatial Design (OSD) to work with a team of representatives from the Town, ARB, and Environmental Committee to look at options to improve the landscaping portion of the Parkway. The presentation will highlight its designs and considerations.

Mr. Brandon and Mr. Schneidmuller, with Outdoor Spatial Design, presented a Conceptual Landscape presentation for the Parkway. Mr. Schneidmuller began by reviewing the project team, a breakdown of the work process from gathering information and fieldwork to construction observation and the landscape enhancement goals. He reviewed each of the slides which depicted;

1. Study Area
2. Site Analysis – tree canopy cover, wildlife corridors, areas with sun and shade, filtration areas, soil sampling, critical views, vehicular impact, signage, and area of focus.
3. Pollinators
4. Resident survey

Mr. Brandon presented the conceptual plans with enlargements of the areas with pictures of the current landscaping and then the conceptual rendering. The first concept focused on the entrance to the island, and the roundabout was labeled A-1/A-2. The second concept focused on a portion of the Parkway, some of which are closer to the bike path, the entrance to Little Rabbit, and the Main Gate were labeled as B-1/B-2.

Mr. Brandon stated the preferred plan of OSD was Concept A-1, and Concept B-2, reviewing the concept and drivers for their choice. Also discussed was the cost of maintenance and replenishment of the plantings and the safety issues that come with planting to the road edge.

VII. Old Business:
None

VIII. New Business:

A. Approve the Parkway Conceptual Landscape Plan

Mayor Weaver began the discussion by clarifying that Council is not approving a bid or committing to any particular expenditure but rather asking if the Council members are in concurrence with the direction of the design. Ms. Tillerson asked for guidance from Council on their preference of the design concepts presented or if they would like to go a different route, OSD's next step is to draw the design plans for inclusion in the bid package.

Mayor Weaver stated that the Council will still need to consider some of the questions raised like how much the Town is actually willing to spend and the impact of maintenance costs. Ms. Tillerson clarified that presented was a potential cost estimate for the design recommended by the committee. Once designed and bids are received, the costs will go before the Ways and Means Committee for consideration and approval.

Mr. Jordan stated the committee has met several times and has been very involved looking at the conceptual designs. He reviewed the committee's thoughts on the designs for both the roundabout and the Parkway. He indicated that in the discussion of maintenance costs, the use of more native plants would reduce the costs in the long-term but may not initially. He noted that even with an initial increase in maintenance cost, he felt it was worth having a beautiful lush landscape leading the way into Kiawah.

Mayor Weaver indicated that, personally, from an aesthetic standpoint, OSD is on the right track in terms of the magnitude of the change in the look and feel of the Parkway. With that he indicated the need to move forward in a way that allows Council to have decision points to get a better understanding of specifics on the details; the potential future cost of maintenance, the overall cost and the terms of the parallel cost with the bid package on the Parkway paving project. Councilmembers agreed with the Mayor and offered a suggestion on an alternative option to phase the project. Following the discussion, Councilmembers reviewed the design approaches and agreed to proceed with the proposed conceptual designs, A-1 and B-2, recommended by the committee moving on to the next stage of design with more specifics to address some of the questions presented.

B. To consider approval of the Settlement Agreement with former auditors, Webster Rogers

Mr. Wilson, Town Attorney, stated that the settlement is with the former auditors for the Town arising from their alleged negligence in allowing some money to be removed from the Town by former employees. The proposed settlement is for an amount of \$50,000. This recovery, along with the funds from insurance and money received from the perpetrators, will bring the Town close to complete recovery of its losses.

Councilmember Said made a motion to approve the settlement agreement with forme auditors, Webster Rogers. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Connelly and was unanimously passed.

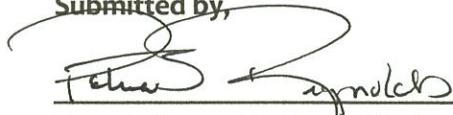
C. 2020 Committee Appointments

Mayor Weaver stated that the members of the Arts Council will be deferred and will be brought forward at the next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment:


Councilmember Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Said and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Craig E. Weaver, Mayor

2/5/2020
Date