

Regular Town Council Meeting

May 09, 2023

Mayor Sulka called the meeting to order at 5 P.M. Council members present were Larry Toomer, Bridgette Frazier, Fred Hamilton, and Dan Wood. Town Manager Stephen Steese, Assistant Town Manager Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager Chris Forster, Chief of Police Joe Babkiewicz, Interim Town Clerk Kerry Guzman and Town Attorney Terry Finger were also present.

The pledge and invocation were given by Larry Toomer.

Adoption of the Agenda

Hamilton made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Toomer seconded.

Adoption of the Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2023

Wood made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2023, as presented. Toomer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Workshop Minutes of April 18, 2023

Toomer made a motion to approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2023, as presented. Frazier seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations, Celebrations and Recognitions

Mayor Sulka acknowledged the Beaufort County School District Student of the Month, Cole Clack, a 6th grader from Bluffton Middle School for the character trait of self control.

Mayor Sulka read and presented the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Global Awareness Day Proclamation.

Mayor Sulka read and presented the National Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention Month Proclamation to Payton Ward with Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth.

Mayor Sulka read and presented the Kids to Parks Day Proclamation.

Mayor Sulka read and presented the Historic Preservation Month Proclamation.

Mayor Sulka read and presented the Building Safety Month Proclamation.

Public Comment

Sharon Brown, 163 Buck Island Road, Bluffton - Ms. Brown expressed her concerns about the Latin Festival taking place at Eagles Field. She thanked Chief Babkiewicz and the Bluffton Police Department for working with her to find solutions for the concerns she has in regard to the festival.

Rachel Pepin, 59 Hager Road, Bluffton - Ms. Pepin spoke in support of putting in the emergency only access gate in the Village of Verdier.

Skip Hoagland, 61 Sparwheel Lane, Hilton Head Island - Mr. Hoagland approached the podium and stated he was reading a statement from Ms. Greeley, who was not in attendance but who had provided a Power of Attorney for Mr. Hoagland. (This document is on file in the Town Clerk's office). After reading Ms. Greeley's statement, Mr. Hoagland stated he would read his own speech for his public comment. Mayor Sulka stated that Ms. Greeley's comments could be put into record but that

according to the Town's public comment rules, time is not allowed to be transferred or donated to others. Public comment time was called to close. Mr. Hoagland was escorted out of Council Chambers by Bluffton Police Department.

Communications from Mayor and Council

Mr. Wood discussed the Volunteers in Medicine event. Mr. Toomer apologized to the audience for the disruption in the meeting. Mayor Sulka read a letter from Representative Bill Herbkersman about the funding for the sewer extension project and he applauded Town Staff for their hard work.

Formal Agenda Items

Consideration of an Ordinance Approving the Town of Bluffton Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Consolidated Budget – First Reading – Stephen Steese, Town Manager

Steese presented the budget including employment trends, economic factors, the Town's four different funds, projected revenues and expenditures. There was discussion about land acquisition, interagency partnerships, the hiring of new School Resource Officers and the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

Toomer made a motion to approve the FY2024 Proposed Consolidated Budget on First Reading. Hamilton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Authorize a Construction Contract to Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. for Phase 5 of the Buck Island/Simmons ville Sewer Extension Project (Fiscal Impact - \$2,412,559.70) - Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

Jones reviewed the history of the project and the next steps once approved. Hamilton asked what the process had been with the Department of Commerce and the Town's bid process.

Hamilton made a motion to following notification of Department of Commerce contract approval, to approve authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an Agreement with Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. for Phase 5 of the Buck Island/Simmons ville Sewer Extension Project for \$2,412,559.70 and a 20% contingency. Toomer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 – Businesses and Business Regulations to add Division 1 – Local Business Licenses and Division 2 – Business Licenses for Insurers, Brokers, and Telecommunication Providers to Article II – Business Licenses and Regulations, Authorizing and Directing the Town of Bluffton to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to South Carolina Revenue Services; to Participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs, to Execute and Deliver One or More Participant Program Supplements, and other Matters Relating Thereto - Second & Final Reading - Natalie Majorkiewicz, Assistant Director of Finance

Majorkiewicz stated that there were no changes from the First Reading. There were no questions from Council.

Wood made a motion to approve an Amendment to Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Business and Business Regulations, adding Division 1. – Local Business Licenses and Division 2. – Business Licenses for Insurers, Brokers, and Telecommunications Providers to add Article II, Business

Licenses and Regulations, Authorizing and Directing the Town of Bluffton to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to South Carolina Revenue Services; to Participate in one or more Local Revenue Service Programs, to Execute and Deliver One or More Participant Program Supplements, and other Matters Relating Thereto. Frazier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of an Amendment to the Master Plan for Village at Verdier within the Village at Verdier Planned Unit Development to Remove a Previously Approved Residential Access Point on Approximately 124.2 Acres Located East of SC Highway 170 at Seagrass Station Road - Kevin Icard, Director of Growth Management

Icard reviewed the project as this was a tabled item from the March 14, 2023 meeting. There was discussion about who would be in charge of building the roads.

Wood made a motion to conditionally approve the request to amend the Master Plan for Village at Verdier consisting of 124.2 acres located east of SC Highway 170 at Seagrass Station Road and zoned Village at Verdier Planned Unit Development subject to the following condition: 1) Replace a previously approved residential road connection between Parcels Y and Z with a gated, emergency access road. Hamilton seconded.

Sulka, Wood, Hamilton and Frazier voted yea. Toomer voted nay. The motion passed 4 - 1.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Monthly Department Reports: Police, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Municipal Court, Projects and Watershed Resilience, Public Services, Don Ryan Center for Innovation, and Growth Management
2. Town Manager Monthly Report
3. May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Recommendation for Town Council Consideration to Include Fiscal Year 2024 Funding to Update the 2004 "Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions in the May River" – Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience
4. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Installation of No Parking and Restricted Parking Signs for Limited Times on Portions of Bridge Street - Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience
5. Consideration of Approval of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Regarding School Resource Officers and a Crime Scene Unit - Chief Joe Babkiewicz

Frazier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Toomer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Hamilton made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 PM. Frazier seconded.