

Town Council Quarterly CIP Workshop

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:00PM

Theodore D. Washington, Municipal Building

Call to Order

Mayor Sulka called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. Council members present were Fred Hamilton, Dan Wood and Bridgette Frazier. Council Member Larry Toomer was absent. Town Manager Stephen Steese, Assistant Town Manager Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager Chris Forster and Town Clerk Marcia Hunter were also present.

Public Comments

Morgan Crutchley – 10 Foggy Bluff Rd – Mr. Crutchley is a representative of the Bluffton Paddle Club in support of the Kayak Launch. Mr. Crutchley has brought his expertise in the field of the sport and would like to offer the services of services o the club. He brought many suggestions and best practices for paddle launch/paddle dock options.

Workshop Agenda Items

Discussion Related to a Kayak Launch at Oyster Factory Park - Pat Rooney, Capital Improvement Program Manager

Pat Rooney began the presentation with a review of the 2016 presentation of the courtesy dock followed by the current accommodations for kayak launching, safety concerns that are currently occurring at the existing Oyster Factory Park Dock.

Frazier asked questions regarding the proposal of an additional dock between the Roe parcel and the Oyster Factory Park Dock. Pat Rooney and Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects, and Watershed Resilience, explained there are many options and reattractions coming off the bluff. Rooney presented the (3) different options of kayak launches being proposed. Finally, a timeline was proposed for the permitting process and for the work to begin in 2025.

Wood made comments supporting this project and the need for the community and citizens. The possibility of coordinating with Beaufort County was also suggested. Kim Jones interjected to advise of a Regional CIP Coordination meeting with the county and other jurisdictions and utilities. Discussions are occurring for future action to best support the citizens and community and to capitalize on each other's efforts.

Mayor Sulka expressed her safety concerns by drawing more people to an area that is already a favorite location. She is in favor of partnering with the County to see what they may be planning for a rowing center and where it may be located. Other options are also an option such as a nearby cove, or crabbing dock. Frazier and Hamilton have also expressed their concerns for the safety of the community and other locations.

Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience suggest the current project be placed on hold allowing for time to meet with the county to further discuss options.

Discussion Regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Drainage Plan Improvements Project – Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watersheds Resilience.

Kimberly Washok-Jones addressed the scope of the Comprehensive Drainage Plan Improvements Project. The presentation is more for information than input in the watersheds of the Town of Bluffton to include storm drain lines, inlets, manholes, structures, ditches/channels, and other stormwater conveyance systems. The inventory assessment is to determine the owner and who has what, what is the condition, does it need to be maintained, upsized, or upgraded and who will be informed of the specific need. Site assessments were conducted by staff members, boots on the ground, this information can then be fed to other municipalities.

The final review of the final review of the Heyward Cove report will be completed for distribution soon to proceed with next steps and proposals in the future.

Adjournment

Mayor Sulka made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Wood. The meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.

Lisa Sulka, Mayor

Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk