

Regular Town Council Meeting

August 08, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mayor Sulka called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. 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, Town Clerk Marcia Hunter, and Town Attorney Terry Finger were also present.

The pledge was given by Mayor Sulka and invocation by Dan Wood.

Civility Pledge

We pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others, and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the Town of Bluffton.

Adoption of the Agenda

Wood made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Frazier seconded.

Adoption of the Minutes

Wood made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023, as presented.

Frazier seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentations, Celebrations and Recognitions

1. Introduction of New Employees - Anni Evans, Director of Human Resources
2. USCB Sand Shark Welcome Week Proclamation - Mayor Sulka
3. Palmetto Breeze Transit Presentation - Mary Lou Franzoni
4. Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Presentation - Tom Henz

Public Comment

Michael Hughes - 50 Park of Commerce Way, Savannah, GA - Mr. Hughes advised he had a conversation with Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed prior to the meeting. He had his questions answered and does not have anything further to speak about.

Skip Hoagland - 61 Sparwheel Lane, Hilton Head Island - Mr. Hoagland approached the podium and addressed Mayor Sulka. He then proceeded to discuss the previous lawsuit with Mayor Sulka.

Lynne Greeley - Mr. Skip Hoagland began speaking, stating he was there to submit a POA for Ms. Greeley, whom is not in attendance. An exchange occurred between Mr. Hoagland and Mayor Sulka stating that Mr. Hoagland was out of order. Mr. Hoagland was escorted out of Council Chambers by Bluffton Police Department.

Communications from Mayor and Council

Mayor Sulka addressed a group of Boy Scouts in attendance. She proceeded to thank them for their interest in attending the meeting to see how business is conducted within the municipality. The members in attendance stated they were earning a merit badge.

Mayor Sulka shared information regarding the Chris Singleton, the keynote speaker at the 2023 Annual MASC Conference. She spoke of the tragedy that took place, of the adversity and the outcome of utilizing the horrific event to unite and strengthen communities.

Formal Agenda Items

1. Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Bluffton Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21 – Emergency Permitting Procedures to Civil Emergencies to Recodify All Code Requirements Related to Emergency Management to One Consolidated Chapter. Second and Final Reading – Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager

Toomer made a motion to approve the request of the consolidation of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Bluffton Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21 – Emergency Permitting Procedures to Civil Emergencies to Recodify All Code Requirements Related to Emergency Management to One Consolidated Chapter. Hamilton seconded. Town Council unanimously approved.

2. Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances by Authorizing, Establishing, and Adding Section VI, The Economic Development Incentives Program - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Wood made a motion to approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances by Authorizing, Establishing, and Adding Section VI, The Economic Development Incentives Program as presented. Toomer seconded. Town Council unanimously approved.

3. Consideration of a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Millage Rate - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Toomer made a motion to approve a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Millage Rate as presented. Hamilton seconded. Town Council unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda Items

Hamilton submitted a Recusal Statement for item #3 due to a conflict of interest.

Wood made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda item #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Toomer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Frazier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda item #3. Wood seconded. The motion carried. Hamilton Recusal Statement on file.

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. Consideration to Approve an Amendment to the Agreement with the Bluffton Eagles Community Action Committee for the Development and Management of Eagles Field. - Stephen Steese, Town Manager
4. Consideration to Approve the Affordable Housing Public Private Partnership Contract Addendum - Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager
5. May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee Recommendation to Establish a Policy to Reduce and Minimize the Extent of Impervious Area - Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience
6. Consideration of a Proposed Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy for Phase 5 of the Buck Island/Simmons ville Neighborhood Sidewalks and Lighting Project (Fiscal Impact: \$3,290.60) - Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience
7. Consideration of a Proposed Lighting Agreement with Dominion Energy for Phase 6 of the Buck Island/Simmons ville Neighborhood Sidewalks and Lighting Project (Fiscal Impact: \$7,758.80) - Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience
8. Consideration of an Extension for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Bluffton and Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Regarding Collaboration on Projects and Capacity Fee Credits – Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Executive Session

1. Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1])

Action from Executive Session

Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1])

Motions to appoint and reappoint the following to the Town's Boards, Commissions and Committees with all term expiration dates noted with each appointment and reappointment. Reappoint Betty Black to the Municipal Election Commission with term expiring June 30, 2029. ** Correction of expiration date - June 30, 2026. **

Appoint Charlie Wetmore to the Sales Tax Advisory Committee.

Appoint Emmett McCracken to the Military Enhancement Committee.

Reappoint Tabor Vaux, Michael Frazier, Mayra Riveria-Vazquez, and Reginald Howard, to the Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Committee, with term expiring June 30, 2026.

Appoint the following individuals to the Public Arts Committee, Jamie Gall, Maria Hooper, Pearce Scott – Recommended Chair, and Diedre Young, with term expiring June 30, 2027.

Rockelle Henderson, Pamela Davis, and Brevan Brynne Bowler, with term expiring June 30, 2025.

Adjournment

Wood made a motion for adjournment at 6:43 PM. Toomer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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