

TOWN COUNCIL
Municipal Center Council Chambers
April 2, 2024, 1:00 pm

Minutes

I. Call to Order: *Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.*

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call:

Present at the Meeting: Michael Heidingsfelder, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Brad Belt, *Council Member*
Russell Berner, *Council Member*
Madeleine Kaye, *Council Member*

Also Present: Stephanie Tillerson, *Town Administrator*
Boone Aiken, *Town Attorney*
Ross Appel, *Attorney*

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of February 6, 2024
- B. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2024

The approval of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

V. Presentations & Updates:

A. Trident Medical Center – Landon Smith, Chief Operating Officer

Landon Smith, the Chief Operating Officer for Trident Medical Center in North Charleston, addressed the Town Council, thanking Council Member Belt and the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Smith provided a comprehensive presentation and discussion about the development of a new Trident Medical Center free-standing emergency department, medical office building, and future hospital on a 56-acre site along Maybank Highway on John's Island. The presentation covers the history of Trident Medical Center, its existing facilities, and the plans for the new John's Island Emergency Department, including its features, investment details, and anticipated construction timeline. The project aims to enhance healthcare accessibility for the John's Island community and surrounding areas. The presentation included the services that would be provided as part of the hospital and also highlighted Trident Medical Center's achievements and its commitment to serving the community. The council and audience engaged with questions about the project's specifics, including construction timelines, healthcare services, and community benefits. Additionally, there are discussions about traffic management, community integration, and the broader healthcare services planned for the area.

VI. Citizens' Comments (Agenda Items Only):

Chad McDonald, an architect who has worked on Kiawah since 1992, expressed concerns about the workability of the proposed tree ordinance. He suggested that any live oak or specimen tree over eight inches needing to be approved for removal is largely impractical due to trees' growth and development patterns. He proposed adjustments for better integration with the landscape and development, suggesting making it more part of the landscape ordinance versus a stand-alone ordinance.

VII. Updates:

A. Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder provided updates as follows:

- The renewal and improvement of the marking on Betsy Kerrison approaching the roundabout, addressing community concerns that the road was dangerous at night
- Resolution of many of the concerns related to the leisure trails between the first gate and Freshfields
- By the end of the month, the Town will begin the project to audit the ten largest contributors to the Town's business license revenue to make sure that their documentation proves that they are paying the right amounts.
- The Town will start a pilot project to improve or avoid contamination by putting stickers on the trash bins, explaining in more detail what is allowed to go into your household trash and recycling bins, and what should be dedicated to our hazardous waste quarterly pickup events.
- A meeting with Berkley Electric to discuss the frequent power outages on the island, specifically the events in November and December, as well as ongoing events were held. Provided was an explanation of the challenges and how they have fixed them, along with a promise to at least be more forthcoming with communication to the community if something like this happens.
- Recent incidents relating to the misuse of the marshes, where fishermen were observed walking about half a mile through the marsh, have prompted a focus on marsh protection in the coming weeks and at the upcoming May Retreat
- A Beach Litter Sweep will be organized on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder encouraged the community to vote in the election on April 23rd, in person at the Sandcastle or by absentee ballot. He noted that usually, only about 30% of the eligible voters actually cast their vote, and even worse, 20% of eligible voters have not voted in any election, federal, state, or local, for the last 8 to 10 years.

B. Council Members

Council Member Belt provided updates as follows:

- The presentation from Trident Health Care System followed an earlier update on the MUSC project at the Ways and Means Committee meeting.
 - The MUSC representative indicated that site plans had been filed and were available on the Town's website.
 - An outcome of the move to the new site was a reduction in the planned footprint of a new facility. Most of it would not be removed from the emergency room facilities but instead taken from doctors' offices, underscoring that programs like what Trident is planning are that much more important to have easier access to primary and specialty care physicians.
- A community forum/town hall meeting is planned for Thursday, April 11th, at Berkeley Electric to discuss various issues, including traffic and trying to build a community center core around the Trident Health Care facility, with possible updates on the Main Road Corridor C project and other regional concerns.
- A new video promotional campaign focusing on Kiawah Island's ecosystem and wildlife, rather than traditional golf and tennis, is being developed by Ms. Pomrenke in partnership with Explore Charleston (CVB) to encourage respectful visitor interaction with the island's natural environment.
- Planning Updates:
 - Site Plans are currently being reviewed for three Beachwalker development projects, the MUSC project and the Night Heron Project.
 - Work continues on the Tree ordinance, rezoning, and the Comprehensive Plan.
 - The importance of ensuring community members have the opportunity to look at documents, scrutinize them, and raise issues on development projects early in the process.
 - The Planning Director submitted a new comment letter in March for the Upper Beachwalker Parcels, which was followed by a newly revised plan from the applicant.
 - In both the Beachwalker development projects, the community has raised a number of issues that have not yet been addressed in the comment process, and we need to make sure that all these are being taken into consideration in the review process.
 - Ensure that the recommendations from Weston and Sampson regarding flooding risks are considered and possibly imposed as conditions of site plan approval, and make sure as a

community that we are imposing the most rigorous requirements in order to best protect every community member from known risks.

Council Member Berner provided updates as follows:

- Observations at the pull-off spot adjacent to the Kiawah Island Parkway Bridge.
 - Commercial parking,
 - two distinct locations having significant damage to the habitat and vegetation destroyed by kayaks being dragged up and down the area
 - footprints are seen walking back and forth to the water
 - damage to the large rip-rap stones there to protect the abutments of the bridge
- Based on the observations, discussions about putting a pier at the location in the hope of channeling people to one location are not going to work. For the record, Council Member Berner stated that he supported taking out the parking area and not allowing any parking along the Parkway Bridge.
- Meeting with Mr. Elder (KICA) to address the safety concerns on Surf Song Road related to blind corners and the risk of accidents.
- Follow-up on the Kiawah Island Utility presentation on PFAs; specifically, there has been no response to the request to test Kiawah's water to ensure community health and safety.
- The Northern Pitchfork, located at the new traffic light on Maybank Highway, is now open and a potential traffic solution to alleviate congestion at a problematic intersection of Maybank and River Road.
- A new urgent care facility will be opening in the KJs supermarket location on John's Island.

Council Member Kaye provided updates as follows:

- Marsh Management
 - Ms. Pomrenke has been working on a very aggressive and comprehensive plan to improve marsh management communication. This plan aims to educate the community on the importance of marshes and mitigating flooding and storm issues through more dynamic and interactive communication methods, including videos and podcasts.
 - Large trampling of the marshland in the bridge area, with kayaks and paddle boards going in and out
 - Complete the project with Nicole Elko, who will do a full assessment of the marshland area near the bridge and review the results of her analysis at the May retreat.
 - Protection of the marshland is hugely important, a big priority, and at this point, she was inclined to agree with Council Member Berner.
- The Pervious Surfaces Sub-Committee
 - The Sub-committee has been working hard on a number of initiatives,
 - mapping the percentage of properties that are actually covered by impervious surfaces to determine whether efforts to go from impervious to pervious will have any measurable, discernible impact.
 - Explore potential neighborhoods for pervious surface projects
 - Research grants or alternative financial incentives for the installation of pervious surfaces.
 - Research the cost of different materials that can be used for these projects.
 - Formulation of a strategic plan for pervious surfaces
- Bridge Walkway Sub-Committee has a slightly altered timeline
- Environmental Committee
 - initiative to create an ordinance for covering contractors' work trucks to minimize littering, which affects the marshes negatively.

Chairman Heidingsfelder provided additional comments on the updates provided.

- Encouraged the community to report any commercial wrongdoing in the marshes to the beach patrol or code enforcement team.
- The upcoming May retreat will be a significant opportunity to address these concerns, including the potential removal of parking areas near the parkway before the bridge to manage human impact on nature.

C. Administrator

Ms. Tillerson stated that Senior Staff meetings are typically held on the Monday before a Town Council meeting and provided the department updates as follows:

- *Public Safety – Craig Harris*
 - Five proposals have been received for the Request for Proposals (RFP) released for the Law Enforcement Feasibility Study. A subcommittee will evaluate them, and then the Public Safety Committee will review them and make a recommendation.
- *Public Works - Brain Gottshalk*
 - Demolition work began on Beachwalker Drive, with project completion by the first week of May.
 - initiatives to improve trash management along the beach,
 - Community survey received feedback requesting the return of trash bins.
 - ten trash receptacles have been reintroduced to the active areas, with 28 more being constructed and placed in small groups when available
 - increasing collection frequency to prevent overflow and environmental damage
 - Vehicles illegally parking on the shoulder along Beachwalker Drive
 - More signage to be installed by the end of the week
 - the Town has contracted Moore’s Towing to tow illegally parked vehicles, if necessary.
- *Environmental/Wildlife – Jim Jordan*
 - The Bobcat collaring project has been completed for this season, with six bobcats having been trapped, along with a female and transient male coyote.
 - In addition to over 200 Bluebird boxes already out, there are 50 new bluebird boxes that volunteers help check weekly during the nesting season.
 - Three potential ordinances for the Environmental Committee to consider at the April 10th meeting.
 - Beach walkover amendment
 - Leash law amendment
 - Ordinance requiring contractors to cover debris on trucks
 - The deer harvesting program was completed, and 40 deer were harvested. The 1200 lbs. of ground venison was donated to local churches, providing about 4800 meals.

Ms. Tillerson stated that the business license renewal season was underway, and of the 3500 licenses, 1800 had already been renewed. She also acknowledged the volunteer members of the Arts and Cultural Events Council for the fantastic “A Tribute to Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin” program presented for the community.

VIII. Old Business:

A. To Consider Approval of **Ordinance 2024-01 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12 - Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance to Establish Tree Preservation and Landscaping Standards– **Second and Final Reading****

Mr. Taylor summarized the changes made to the tree ordinance since its last reading. Key points included the rationale behind exempting single-family residential properties from the ordinance, as provided by the Planning Commission. Despite no substantive changes in this area due to the council's indecision, other amendments were highlighted: a discussion on focusing on grand tree removal instead of specimen trees, a reduction in the Tree Preservation Board membership from seven to five, and clarifications on mitigation criteria. Mr. Taylor indicated that an open house was scheduled for April 10th to discuss the ordinance and its processes further with the community and the Tree Preservation Board.

Council Member Belt made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2014-01 to amend Chapter 12 - Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance to establish Tree Preservation and Landscaping Standards. Council Member Berner seconded the motion.

The Council discussed the inclusion of single-family homes in the tree preservation ordinance. Initially, single-family homes were not exempt from the ordinance, which aimed to regulate tree removal in commercial and residential developments, including for grand trees. However, after reviewing the implications and the effectiveness of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) in handling tree preservation in single-family home developments, the council decided to exempt single-family homes from the

ordinance. This decision was based on findings that the ARB's current process effectively protects trees without the additional administrative burden the new ordinance would impose.

Council Member Belt made a motion to amend the current draft of the ordinance by exempting single-family properties from its scope. Council Member Berner seconded the motion.

Following further discussion, the motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2014-01 as amended was unanimously approved.

B. To Consider Approval of Resolution 2024-01 - Landscape and Tree Preservation Board Charter

Mr. Taylor stated that the resolution presented would formally establish the new Tree Preservation Board, which would have purview over tree removal with the approval of the Board's charter. Once the new members are vetted and appointed to the Board, they will formally establish their rules of procedure in preparation for receiving applications that require their approval.

Council Member Berner made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 - to approve the Tree Preservation Board Charter. Council Member Belt seconded the motion.

The Council discussed the composition of a Tree Preservation Board, initially proposing five members but considering reducing it to three: one design professional and two community members. Ultimately, they agreed on a five-member board with a majority of community members.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to amend the Tree Preservation Board charter to five members, including three community members and two industry experts. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Following further discussion, the motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 was unanimously approved as amended.

C. To Consider Approval of Ordinance 2024- 05 – Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission Term Limits – Second and Final Reading

Mr. Taylor stated there were no substantive changes from the previous reading, with the exception of the effective date and the duration, which were modified to reflect that this is essentially being retroactively applied.

The council addressed an ordinance regarding term limits for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission, clarifying that current and past terms, including partial terms, would count towards the proposed term limits.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2024- 05 – Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission term limits. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

D. To Consider Approval of the Revised Proposal from EAS Professionals for Beachwalker Drive/Kiawah Island Parkway Consulting, Engineering, and Inspection Services

Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder noted that this item had already been discussed and recommended for approval in the earlier Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Mr. Gottshalk stated that staff recommended entering into a contract with EAC Professionals for CE&I (Consulting, Engineering, and Inspection) services. The original offer from EAS was felt to be expensive, so it was renegotiated to a "not to exceed" contract of \$40,000 for the same scope of services in the original bid proposal.

Council Member Belt made a motion to approve the revised proposal from EAD Professionals for CE&I services. Council Member Berner seconded the motion.

The Council discussed the current proposal, which is now approximately 20% of the construction cost and aligns with industry standards. Using the current engineering firm, Kimley Horn, for additional cost savings was also considered, but it was determined that Kimley Horn lacked the necessary staffing capabilities.

Following the discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

E. Discussion of the Beachwalker Drive/Kiawah Island Parkway Intersection Construction

Mr. Gottshalk stated that when the construction proposal was presented at the last meeting, there was a question about the design and potentially extending that median further out.

Mr. Dylan Turner from Kimley Horn explained the design decision regarding the median, emphasizing safety concerns related to weaving distance and the potential for head-on collisions. Despite the explanation, the Council sought to understand the rationale behind not extending the median as initially proposed.

Further discussion focused on traffic management and safety measures for a specific area, with participants expressing concerns and suggestions about lane separation, merging distances, and signage. Council Member Berner suggested installing large hemispherical buttons to extend the island by 5 to 10 feet to improve lane separation. Members debated the effectiveness of this measure versus the need for better signage to facilitate merging. Additionally, accommodating truck drivers by adjusting curves and using non-abrasive curbing to prevent damage was mentioned.

The discussion concluded with an emphasis on the need for further data and consideration of the proposed traffic safety measures.

IX. New Business:

A. To Consider Approval of Ordinance 2024-06 – An Ordinance to Amend Article 2, General Government and Administration, Chapter 5, Office And Departments, Section 2-504, Town Attorney - First Reading

Ms. Tillerson reviewed the proposed changes, including removing the requirement that the town attorney be appointed, allowing either an individual or a law firm to serve as the town attorney, and reworking the roles and responsibilities section.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-06 to amend Article 2, General Government and Administration, Chapter 5, Office And Departments, Section 2-504, Town Attorney. Council Member Berner seconded the motion.

Council Member Belt raised concerns about the inclusion of Town Prosecutor language and the authority of the Town Attorney to retain, appoint, or hire without merely recommending to the Council.

The discussion revolved around clarifying the roles and authorities of the Town Attorney and the Town Prosecutor within municipal operations. It was emphasized that the town attorney is not the prosecutor, and there is a need for a separate prosecutor to handle issues related to the municipal court. The conversation also touched upon the process of hiring independent contractors, with suggestions to ensure the Town Council retains the final authority on such decisions rather than the Town Attorney having direct hiring power. The idea of creating a separate ordinance or amending the current one to clearly distinguish between The Town Attorney's and the Town Prosecutor's roles was discussed. Additionally, there was a proposal to split a paragraph in the ordinance to make the distinction clearer and to consider the Town Council's role in the approval and hiring process. The Council Members agreed

on the importance of these clarifications and planned to make the necessary changes for the second reading.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-06 to amend Article 2, General Government and Administration, Chapter 5, Office And Departments, Section 2-504, Town Attorney with the proposed changes. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

B. To Consider Approval of Ordinance 2024-07 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12 – Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance Article II. Zoning, Division 1. Generally, Sec. 12-20. – Authority and Purpose, Sec. 12-23. Planning Commission, and Sec. 12-25 – Planning Director to Modify Provisions of Zoning Permit Applications - Public Hearing and First Reading

Mr. Taylor stated that Ordinance 2024-07 aimed at amending sections of the Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance related to zoning permit applications. This included amendments to sections 12-20 - Authority and Purpose, 12-23 - Planning Commission, and 12-25 - Planning Director. The proposed amendments, recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on March 6th, sought to clarify the intent of certain sections, formally connect the Planning Commission to the site plan review process, and establish a tree preservation board for administrative review.

Council Member Belt made a motion to move into a public hearing for Ordinance 2024-07. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Berner made a motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-07. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Council Member Belt made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-07 to amend Chapter 12 – Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance Article II. Zoning, Division 1. Generally, Sec. 12-20. – Authority and Purpose, Sec. 12-23. Planning Commission, and Sec. 12-25 – Planning Director to modify provisions of zoning permit applications. Council Member Berner seconded the motion.

Council Member Kaye asked about the Planning Commission's role in the site plan review for single-family residences and requested that some parameters be set around what gets reviewed. Mr. Taylor indicated that the amendment of section 12-62 was not part of this ordinance and that the Planning Commission would review those particular parameters and make a recommendation at their meeting tomorrow.

Council Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the 45-day application approval timeline being considered, expressing concerns that it may be a very tight schedule, especially with a large-scale project. Following confirmation by the Town Attorney that state law requires that a time limit not to exceed 60 days must be set forth for action on plans or plats or both submitted for approval or disapproval, Members discussed exactly when that time limit starts or restarts during the plan review process ultimately agreeing to change the 45 to 60 days.

Council Member Belt made a motion to amend the language of Ordinance 2024-07, replacing 45 days with 60 days, and amend 12- 20(3) to add “ use” to read “establishing a density and intensity of land use.”

Council Members discussed the Planning Commission's elimination of the reference to noise in 12-20(2) and agreed that it should be included.

Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder amended Council Member Belt’s motion to include the addition of the noise component in 12-20.

Following discussion, the amended motions were unanimously approved.

The motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-07 as amended was unanimously approved.

C. To Consider Approval of Ordinance 2024-08 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12 – Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance Article II. Zoning, Division 3. Use Regulations, Sec. 12-106. – Temporary Uses to further refine temporary uses - Public Hearing and First Reading

Council Member Belt made a motion to move into a public hearing for Ordinance 2024-08. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Berner made a motion to close the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-08. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Council Member Berner made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08 to amend Chapter 12 – Land Use Planning and Zoning Ordinance Article II. Zoning, Division 3. Use Regulations, Sec. 12-106. – Temporary Uses to further refine temporary uses. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor stated that the intent was to look at the temporary use of the section and how pre and post-conditions for a site are managed. The change being recommended provides that if a development is using temporary buildings or a temporary storage area, the site needs to be returned to its predevelopment condition. It also adds some discretion to the Planning Director's purview to require additional material or vegetation to satisfy that particular requirement. This also formally connects or clarifies that this would be in conjunction with the site plan review process.

Council Member Belt expressed concerns about the ordinance language and proposed revising it as previously drafted. Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the concerns, situation examples, and proposed revisions to the current language.

Council Member Belt made a motion to amend the language of Ordinance 2024-08, adding a new subparagraph (b) stating “The site may not be permanently altered in any manner, by, e.g., removal of trees or vegetation” and changing “pre-development” to “pre-existing.”

Following the discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder amended Council Member Belt's motion to request the noted changes and make the appropriate language changes in the ordinance for the second reading. Council Member Belt seconded the amended motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08 as amended was unanimously approved.

D. To Consider Approval of the Solid Waste Fees

Mayor Pro Tem Heidingsfelder noted that the item was discussed at length during the earlier Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Ms. Szubert stated that the approval of a new contract for solid waste collection will result in about a 50% increase in the cost. With the increase in the cost, there will be a slight increase in the customer fees and, if approved, an increase in the amount that the town subsidizes those services.

In the past, the Town subsidized the full cost of curbside service, and 50% of that cost was applied to the different services. This recommendation is to apply 100% of the subsidized cost of the curbside service (\$288) to all services, with a \$25 administrative fee deduction to cover billing and mailing. Rental properties and all businesses will continue to bear the full cost of their waste collection.

Council Member Belt made a motion to approve the proposal for the solid waste collection fees. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

E. To Consider Approval of the Air-Med-Care Contract Extension

Ms. Tillerson stated that the Public Safety Committee and then the Ways and Means Committee recommended the approval of the extension of the longstanding contract Air-Med-Care has with the Town for helicopter transport services from Kiawah. The contract has been in place since 2016 and is a recourse benefit the Town offers to all residents. Also available is the option to purchase a full membership that would cover transport from locations outside of Kiawah.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the contract extension with Air-Med-Care Network. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

F. To Consider Approval of the Arts and Cultural Events Council Appointment

Council Member Belt, on behalf of the Arts and Cultural Events Council, recommended Mr. Rob Cushman's appointment. He brings an extraordinary professional marketing and communications background, along with having been involved in event planning, recruiting artists, and staging that could benefit the Arts Council and its programming activities.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Cushman to the Arts and Cultural Event Council. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

G. To Consider Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Charitable Grants Funding Amounts

Chairman Heidingsfelder stated that the Ways and Means Committee reviewed all applications for charitable donations from the Town, using revised guidelines from 2023, and recommended approval for all but one application, which did not meet the requirements due to its focus on athletics rather than the prioritized areas of hunger, housing, and health.

Council Member Berner made a motion to approve the Ways and Means recommended Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Charitable Grants Funding Amounts. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion.

Council Member Belt said the staff recommendations were extensively discussed, explaining that staff spent a lot of time reviewing the applications, meeting with the applicants' representatives, and sometimes going on-site. All are extraordinarily worthy projects, focused on Johns and Wadmalaw Islands, and align with the Town's guidelines.

Following the discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Heidingsfelder expressed pride in the community's commitment to supporting local charities, highlighting the allocation of nearly \$200,000 to help those in need on John's Island and Wadmalaw Island, aiming to improve hunger, health, and housing conditions.

H. To Consider Approval of the Proposal for the Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

Chairman Heidingsfelder said the Ways and Means Committee discussed in detail, the proposal for the purchase and installation of EV charging stations. The fee rates and potential different fee structures for residents versus visitors and tourists, along with safety, are topics still to be discussed at the May Retreat.

Mr. Nardelli stated that the decision to propose the project was based on survey results indicating a high demand for charging stations on the island, the chargers' compatibility with existing infrastructure and emergency power sources, and alignment with the Kiawah Island Goes Green initiative. He reviewed the staff request for the purchase of two dual Blink Series 7 electric chargers for \$14,300 and the selection

of APEX Solar Tech LLC for the installation at a cost of \$88,590, with a grant of \$25,000 from Burke Electric Cooperative reducing the total expense to \$77,890.

Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the proposal for the purchase and installation of two Electric Vehicle charging stations. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

I. To Consider Approval of the Proposal from Artigues for Landscape Enhancements on Kiawah Island Parkway

Chairman Heidingsfelder stated that the Ways and Means Committee declined to approve Artigues' proposal because it prioritized other areas needing attention.

J. To Consider Approval of the Truck Rental for Solid Waste Services

Chairman Heidingsfelder stated that the Ways and Means Committee recommended approval of the rental with the condition that staff ensures that no double payment occurs due to existing amortization costs.

Mr. Gottshalk stated that the contract for solid waste services with Trident Waste would commence early, requiring a one-month truck rental to perform the services for the May 1st start date. The total cost for the one-month truck rental is \$12,900, including the truck itself and transportation to and from the rental company.

Council Member Belt made a motion to approve the truck rental for solid waste services. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

K. Discussion about Charleston County EMS Service Enhanced Partnership with the Town of Kiawah Island

Ms. Tillerson began the discussion by stating that the Town has been working with Charleston County Emergency Medical Services (CCEMS) for nine years, focusing on improving response times, which were not ideal. Efforts included the introduction and later removal of a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) and discussions with CCEMS on managing response times by full-time staffing Medic 10 and also by having a vehicle stationed on the island full-time, which currently depends on availability and overtime. The Town is considering a partnership similar to the one with the sheriff's office to provide enhanced services to have a dedicated EMS vehicle on the island. The first data point has been provided, and discussions have taken place on the Town contributing to start-up costs and certain operating costs with an agreed-upon amount funded partly by State ATAX.

Following an in-depth discussion, the Council expressed support for negotiating a contract with CCEMS for a 24/7 EMS vehicle on the island, emphasizing the importance of quick response times for the community's safety. Additionally, the discussion included enhancing the fire department personnel's EMS training and the potential construction of a new fire station at the new Kiawah River, pending certain conditions being met.

X. **Citizens' Comments:**

None

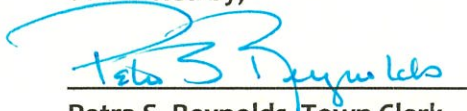
XI. **Council Member Comments:**

Council Member Berner requested that an answer to the water testing results be provided by the next meeting.

XII. Adjournment:

Council Member Kaye made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4 pm. Council Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

6-19-2024
Date