

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Municipal Center Council Chambers**  
**January 7, 2025, 1:00 pm**

**Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order:** *Mayor Belt called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call:**

**Present at the Meeting:** Bradley Belt, *Mayor*  
Russell Berner, *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Luke Farrell, *Council Member*  
Madeleine Kaye, *Council Member*  
Lance Spencer, *Council Member*

**Also Present:** Stephanie Tillerson, *Town Administrator*  
Mac McQuillin, *Town Attorney*  
Dorota Szubert, *Finance Director*  
Brian Gottshalk, *Public Works Manager*

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 3, 2024

Mayor Belt stated that Council Members had been provided with a copy of the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 3, 2024, in advance. He asked if there were any additional comments or changes to the minutes.

Council Members Spencer and Kaye noted that their two minor changes had been made directly to the Town Clerk.

***With no other comments, the minutes were accepted.***

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

VI. **Updates:**

A. Mayor

Mayor Belt stated that he encouraged attendance at the following upcoming meetings:

- The Town Council strategic planning meetings on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The Quarterly Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - State of the Town Presentation
- The Charleston County Planning and Public Works Committee meeting on Thursday at 5:00 pm
  - Consideration of the proposed Health And Wellness Village on Besty Kerrison Parkway.

Mayor Belt discussed the joint meeting that he hosted with Mayor Kleinman. At this meeting, there was a packed chamber and a lot of community input, most of which was strongly opposed to the proposed development. He noted that this meeting was originally supposed to take place a month or so ago but was deferred, which he believed was due to the developer trying to influence County Council Members' votes on the proposed Health and Wellness Village.

Mayor Belt stated that concerns had been raised directly and on iKiawah about coyotes on the island, pointing out that the Town Biologist had discussed issues related to coyotes at a prior

meeting. While coyotes are part of the island's ecosystem, legitimate concerns have been raised about public health and safety, so he has directed staff to develop and present to the Council a comprehensive plan regarding coyote management. He indicated it was a complex issue to address, noting there are state regulations on engaging with coyotes and permitting requirements when not on private property.

## **B. Council Members**

*Mayor Pro Tem Berner* stated that while he had no updates, he wanted to express his concern about the ordinance that was passed regarding the covering or not covering dumpsters. He indicated that he was considering rescinding the ordinance due to the numerous complaints he received in the past two weeks, claiming that the absence of a cover on the dumpsters has resulted in trash all over the road. After witnessing the trash on the road, he felt the appearance of trash was unacceptable and suggested revisiting the stricter ordinance.

*Mayor Belt* stated that the littering complaints received had been discussed, and while it is not clear whether the tarps themselves are the issue, there is no question that littering was unacceptable. He mentioned a separate ordinance against littering and explained that while he was unsure if Code Enforcement staff issued a citation or warning, there was a question as to the application of the ordinance in that particular set of circumstances.

*Council Member Kaye* provided updates on the permeable surface issue, noting the need for more data on the types of permeable services and cost estimates to provide a more complete picture before bringing it back to the Council.

*Council Member Kaye* discussed reworking the objectives for the Marsh Management Workgroup, finishing the interviews of prospective Environmental Committee members, and reinvigorating the Bobcat project with better communication and coordination with other island entities.

On behalf of KICA (Kiawah Island Community Association), *Council Member Kaye* spoke about the amendment that would grant KICA the authority to operate as an architectural control authority. She had been involved for two years in the transition plan that has been put forward, and while not perfect, as it stands now, it is at a good starting point.

*Council Member Farrell* talked about the restaffing of Town committees, expressing excitement about the high-quality and great skill sets of the volunteers. He stated that he had been mainly working as an advisor to the Planning Commission and that throughout the month, there would be interviews for the Audit and SATAX (State Accommodations Tax) Committees, as well as other committees.

*Council Member Spencer* stated that pending approval of the charter for the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee, he and Mr. Gottshalk would interview the five great candidates who have offered to serve on the Committee.

*Council Member Spencer* stated that he felt it was time for some public awareness and public information on coyotes to be shared and asked that in that education, community members be educated on what they could and should do. He shared his personal experiences with coyotes and emphasized the importance of personal responsibility.

*Mayor Belt* stated that he had neglected to mention the Arts Council programs: Caleb Borek, an extraordinary young pianist, on Sunday, along with the sold-out performances from Judy Carmichael and Liquid Pleasure.

*Mayor Belt* also thanked *Council Member Kaye* for addressing the ARB issue. He stated that at the KICA Board meeting, they approved the phase three report to affect a transition of the ARB functions from current developer control to the Community Association's control. He discussed the

lengthy process and the extraordinary time and effort required to transition architectural control functions.

### C. Administrator

Ms. Tillerson provided updates on the following:

- Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive Leisure Trail Project
  - The Town received County C funds for the project
  - RFP (Request for Proposals) is expected to go out this week.
- The Town is currently searching for a new Communications Director, and information is available on the Town's website.

### VII. **Old Business:**

None

### VIII. **New Business:**

#### A. To Consider Approval of the Purchase of Traffic Monitoring Devices

Mayor Belt stated that the Ways and Means Committee considered purchasing traffic monitoring devices and related devices.

Council Member Farrell stated that to improve our speed and traffic control, staff has proposed devices that display traffic speed, which will be placed at three proposed locations. He indicated that approximately three-fifths of the money has already been allocated through SATAX funding, and about two-fifths of the money is being requested here. The attempt here is to improve our speed and traffic control.

Mr. Gottshalk clarified that the first devices are three projection signs that flash once you reach a certain speed threshold to alert drivers that they are going over the speed limit. The second piece of equipment is a message board trailer that will be used to post messages about various advisories. The third is stealth boxes, small boxes that can be attached to an existing post and record traffic data on vehicle volume and speed.

Council Member Farrell added that the devices are solar-powered and will also gather traffic monitoring data, eliminating the need to pay a contractor annually. He indicated that the Ways and Means Committee recommended that the purchase be approved.

***Council Member Kaye made a motion to approve the purchase of the traffic monitoring devices. Council Member Farrell seconded the motion.***

Mayor Pro Tem Berner commented that in addition to the devices, enforcement was needed to ensure compliance. He also raised concerns about competitive bidding, the need for a five-day notice on the Town's website, and the exclusion from sales tax.

Council Members discussed the placement of the devices, along with an in-depth discussion of compliance with the competitive bidding process, sole sourcing, and cooperative purchasing, which piggybacks on other governmental agencies' competitive processes.

***Mayor Pro Tem Berner made a motion to amend the approval of the proposal, subject to receipt of advice and counsel as to whether 4-409 can be relied upon for this purchase or whether we need to subsequently provide notice for 4-412. Council Member Farrell seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.***

***The motion to approve the purchase of the traffic monitoring devices as amended was unanimously approved.***

**B. To Consider Approval of the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Charter**

**Council Member Farrell made a motion to approve the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee Charter. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion.**

Mayor Pro Tem Berner asked for clarification on the committee's specific focus. Mayor Belt indicated the committee would examine issues related to work on the Town's public roads and leisure trails, as well as issues related to public facilities (Municipal Center) and public services.

The discussion included a further explanation of the items in the focus categories and an in-depth discussion of the reappointment process included in the charters being considered.

**Following the discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**

Mayor Belt stated that all the other committee charters being considered are existing charters. Minor modifications have been made to reflect the fact that Council Members will chair it, some modifications were made to the number of members, and the residency requirement was eliminated.

**C. To Consider Approval of Revisions to the following Charters:**

- a. Arts and Cultural Events Council
- b. Audit Committee
- c. Environmental Committee
- d. Public Safety Committee

**Mayor Pro Tem Berner made a motion to approve the revisions to the Arts and Cultural Events Council, Audit Committee, Environmental Committee, and Public Safety Committee charters. Council Member Farrell seconded the motion.**

In response to Council Member Kaye's question, Mayor Belt stated that the chair of the Council Member was the chair of the Arts Council Board, with a member of the Arts and Cultural Events Council recognized as the chair of that entity.

Council Member Farrell also called attention to the additional revisions made to the Audit Committee charter, which reduced the number of members and enhanced the language regarding auditing internal controls. Council Members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the charter.

**Following the discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Berner made a motion to move into Executive Session to receive legal advice protected by the Attorney-Client Privilege (S.C. Code Ann. 34-4-70-(a)(2)) concerning the settlement of claims in Case No. 2024-CP-10-00451. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

**IX. Executive Session:**

- A. Executive Session to receive legal advice protected by the Attorney-Client Privilege (S.C. Code Ann. 34-4-70-(a)(2)) concerning the settlement of claims in Case No. 2024-CP-10-00451.**

Mayor Belt stated that during the executive session, no decisions were made, and no actions were taken.

**Council Member Farrell made a motion to exit the Executive Session and return to the regular session. Council Member Kaye seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

The Council may take action after the Executive Session.

*Mayor Pro Tem Berner made a motion to approve the settlement agreement and authorize the mayor to sign that said agreement. Council Member Farrell seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.*

**X. Citizens Comments:**

**David DeStefano – 31 Burroughs Hall**

Mr. DeStefano commented on the traffic monitoring devices, including a recommendation to send direct notices to everyone, including contractors, of any changes as well as the suggestion to place speed control devices near speed limit signs.

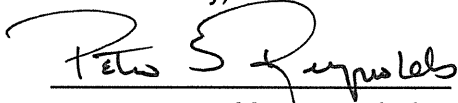
**XI. Council Member Comments:**

Council Member Farrell indicated that the Town did a good job promoting the open committee slots and expressed satisfaction with the interest in the positions and the quality of the applicants.

**XII. Adjournment:**

*Mayor Belt adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.*

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

2/6/2025

Date