BLUFFTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES
MAY 25, 2010

Mayor Sulka called the meting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Brown, Hamilton, Mitchell and Raymond. Town Manager Barrett, Assistant Town Managers Freeman, Fletcher and Orlando and Town Attorney Finger were also in attendance.

Pledge to the Flag and invocation was given.

Adoption of Agenda:
Mitchell moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Raymond seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:
Susan Cato, Executive Director of Child Abuse Prevention Association, stated Waste Management gives back to the community and encouraged Council to name them as the Town's trash provider.
Emmett McCracken, 58 Stock Farm Road, requested for Council to consider including the Streetscape Phase II into the 2011 Budget rather than the 2012 Budget.
June Simoneaux, 123 Myrtle Island, requested for Council to consider providing the Streetscape Phase II sidewalks in the 2011 Budget. She also requested to give the business owners that were affected by the Streetscape project a break on their business licenses.
Chris Marsh, of Lowcountry Institute, commended Council and Staff on their endeavors toward stormwater issues. He stated that Waste Management is a great support for educational purposes on environmental issues.
Carol Weir, 21 Park Circle, encouraged Council to support sidewalks from the new Middle School to Hidden Lakes and Bluffton Parkway.
Aaron Thielemier, 36 Pine Ridge Drive, thanked Council for all that they do. He also stated Waste Management provides great service in their business and personal relationships.
Tina Toomer, Bluffton Oyster Factory, stated her concerns on the 35% leased oyster beds that are closed. The May River Action Plan monitoring needs to be more aggressive.
Sharon Brown, Goethe Road, requested Council to place sidewalks on Buck Island and Simmonsville Roads, as well as the new Middle School connecting to other neighborhoods. She stated her concerns on the speeding by the school. She recommended Waste Management because of how they handle the Bluffton High School dumpsters. She also thanked the Town for honoring her grandfather, Sam Bennett.

Presentations, Recognitions and Celebrations:

a. Recognition of *Design Works*, winner of Okatie Headwaters Sustainability Principles Competition – Rhodes presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Steve Dudash.

ATAX Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Freeman gave an overview of the ATAX by-laws and guidelines revisions that the Committee approved. She stated that a subcommittee will be created to review applications and then report back to the full Committee. She also stated the Committee approved the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's Visitor and Conventional Bureau Marketing Plan. The Chamber is the Town's Designated Marketing Agency. **Hamilton moved to approve the Marketing Plan as presented. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Council made the following motions on the ATAX Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Raymond moved to deny funds of $4,000 for the Hilton Head Island Concours d' Elegance and grant those funds to the Bluffton Village Festival. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hamilton moved to deny funds of $4,000 for The May River Theatre Company. Raymond seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Raymond moved to grant the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society an additional $4,000, totally $22,710. Hamilton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mitchell moved to approve the following funds: 1) Bluffton Historical Preservation Society for $22,710; 2) Bluffton Village Festival for $4,000; 3) Farmers Market for $5,000; 4) Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society for $7,800; and 5) The HanMeDown Gullah Museum for $5,000 pending receipt of 501(3)(c) non profit status. The total funds granted was $44,510. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2009-10 Budget Amendment – Final Reading:

Freeman stated the amendment is to revise the Debt Service Fund to increase the Fund from $1,110,330 to $1,124,100. **Brown moved to adopt the FY 2009-10 Budget Amendment as presented. Raymond seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

May River Waterbody Management Plan Implementation Committee Recommendations:

Jones stated the Committee recommends that Council approve the following:

1) To grant the Committee the authority: a) To create and adopt an attendance policy; and b) Appoint new members to the Committee to replace those no longer able or willing to serve.
2) Grant authority to the Committee to appoint non-May River Waterbody Management Plan Implementation Committee members to subcommittees.
3) Write a letter to Beaufort County to support placing a referendum on the next general election ballot to raise funds for the Rural and Critical Lands program.

Raymond moved to approve the following recommended subcommittee members as follows: 1) Land Access & Land Preservation Subcommittee – Curtis Joyner – SC Department of Health and environmental Control – Ocean and Coastal Resource Management; 2) Outreach and Education Subcommittee – a. Nancy Shilling – Friends of the Rivers; b. Al Stokes – SC Department of Natural resources or other agency-determined member; and c. Barry Connor; and 3) Boating Management Plan and Enforcement Subcommittee – Doug Hancock – citizen. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hamilton moved to approve Committee recommendations no. 1.a; no. 2 and 3 as presented. On 1.b, Council will appoint new members to the committee; not the Implementation Committee. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Presentation:

Dr. Derk Bergquist stated the purpose of the study was to analyze all existing data, develop trends for various water quality indicators over time and to make recommendations for future study/data collections. Data sets from various studies by the Town of Bluffton, Palmetto Bluff, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and DNR were utilized. He gave an overview of the three main questions and DNR's answers: 1) Are significant changes in water quality occurring in the May River; 2) Are developed drainages acting as significant sources of pollutants to the May River system; and 3) What monitoring efforts will be most valuable and feasible to continue in the future.

May River Watershed Action Plan Update:
Jones and Carmark gave an overview. Impervious/Pervious Mapping Project, Watershed Delineation Project, SCDHEC Section 310 Grant Pilot Program, Unified Ordinance Overhaul Project, May River Septic System Identification Project, Old Town Rain Barrels/Rain garden Project, and funding were discussed. The highlights of the Action Plan is the quantifiable, dynamic and adaptable, includes timelines, and estimates cost.

Proposed FY 2010-11 Budget Review:
Barrett, Freeman and Council discussed recommended revisions to the Consolidated Budget of $18,665,810. Revisions will be researched and reported to Council prior to public hearing and final reading that will held on June 8th.

Executive Session:
a. Refuse and Recycling Services
b. Committee Appointments

Hamilton moved for Council to go into executive session to discuss Refuse and Recycling Services and Committee Appointments. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Council entered into executive session at 8:37 p.m.

Action from the result of Executive Session:
Mayor Sulka called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m. and announced no votes were taken.
Raymond moved to award the Refuse and Recycling Services Contract to Waste Management based on the best and final offer, subject to the Town Manager's review of final contract documents, that the Town Manager is hereby authorized to sign a three-year agreement which includes among other things, fixed rate per household of $8.49 for three years, with no CPI increases or fuel adjustment charges and an opportunity for a negotiated two-year renewal option. Hamilton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Hamilton moved to reappoint Josh Tiller to the Planning Commission. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:
Ed Dupuis, ATAX Advisory Committee member and president of The May River Theatre, stated his concerns on The May River Theatre being denied the ATAX grant request when the Theatre brings a lot of business to the Town and only asks for grant funds when they really need it. He also stated the ATAX Advisory Committee recommended funding the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society from the Hospitality Tax and the General Fund Budget to have more funds available for other grant requests.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk