The Town of Hilton Head Island

Regular Town Council Meeting

January 16, 2018

4:30 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

5:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

BENJAMIN M. RACUSIN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

AGENDA

****Please note the change in the Executive Session Call to Order. This is for the January 16, 2018 meeting only.**

As a courtesy to others please turn off/silence ALL mobile devices during the Town Council Meeting, Thank You.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **FOIA Compliance -** Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. **Executive Session - None**

4. **Pledge to the Flag – 5:00 p.m.**

5. **Invocation**

6. **Proclamations & Commendations**

   a. **Beaufort County Student of the Month**

      i. **James "Trey" Thompson**, 9th Grade – Hilton Head Island High School - September 2017 – Character Trait "Acceptance"

      ii. **Kevin Slater**, 4th Grade – Hilton Head Island IB Elementary - October 2017 – Character Trait "Courage/Tolerance"

      iii. **Cole Howard**, 4th Grade – Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts - November 2017 – Character Trait "Respect/Gratitude"

   b. **Commendation Honoring Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Mark Martel of the Civil Air Patrol**

   c. **Mayor's Honored Islanders**

      i. Carlton Dallas

      ii. Kathy Cramer

      iii. Margie Smith

      iv. Ruth and Berry Edwards

7. **Approval of Minutes - None**

8. Report of Town Manager

a. Update from the Board of Zoning Appeals – David Fingerhut

b. CAFR and Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017 – Don Mobley, Scott & Company

c. Sustainable Community Designation from Audubon International

d. Items of Interest

i. Town News
ii. Noteworthy Events

9. Reports from Members of Council

a. General Reports from Council

b. Report of the Intergovernmental & Public Safety Committee – Bill Harkins, Chairman

c. Report of the Community Services Committee – Kim Likins, Chairman

d. Report of the Public Planning Committee – David Ames, Chairman

e. Report of the Public Facilities Committee – Marc Grant, Chairman

f. Report of the Finance & Administrative Committee – John McCann, Chairman

10. Appearance by Citizens

11. Unfinished Business - None

12. New Business

a. Consideration of a Resolution – Participation by the Town of Hilton Head Island in Federal Court Litigation by the South Carolina Environmental Law Project

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Authorizing the participation by the Town of Hilton Head Island in Federal Court Litigation by the South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) to challenge the permitting by the Federal government of seismic testing and drilling in Atlantic Coastal waters, including waters off Beaufort County and the South Carolina Coast.

13. Possible actions by Town Council concerning matters discussed in Executive Session

14. Adjournment

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
Student Recognition Award

presented to

JAMES "TREY" THOMPSON

Beaufort County School District
Character Education Student of the Month
for
September 2017 - "Acceptance"

"Acceptance doesn't mean resignation; it means understanding that something is what it is and that there's got to be a way through it." ~ Michael J. Fox

David G. Bennett, Mayor
Town of Hilton Head Island

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
Student Recognition Award

presented to

Keven Slater

Beaufort County School District
Character Education Student of the Month
for
October 2017 - "Courage/Tolerance"

"We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world." ~ Helen Keller

David G. Bennett, Mayor
Town of Hilton Head Island

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
Student Recognition Award

presented to

Cole Howard

Beaufort County School District
Character Education Student of the Month
for
November 2017 - "Respect/Gratitude"

"Knowledge will give power, but character respect." ~ Bruce Lee

David G. Bennett, Mayor
Town of Hilton Head Island

COMMENDATION

A Commendation of the Town of Hilton Head Island Honoring Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Mark Martel of the Civil Air Patrol

***WHEREAS**, Town Council wishes to acknowledge Civil Air Patrol (an Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force) for its 75-year legacy of being a premier public service organization that carries out emergency service missions when needed-in the air and on the ground; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Hilton Head Island Town Council is particularly proud to have in attendance this January 16, 2018, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Mark Martel, who was recently awarded one of the rarest honors a Civil Air Patrol Cadet or Senior Member can receive; and*

***WHEREAS**, Cadet Martel received a life-saving award for his quick thinking and his service to a woman who might have died from a potentially lethal heart rhythm episode if Cadet Martel had not been present; and*

***WHEREAS**, in October 2017, Cadet Martel recognized an emergency situation and did not hesitate to be of service to another human being in need; and*

***WHEREAS**, Cadet Martel's emergency services training and skills that Civil Air Patrol teaches its cadets were evident by how quickly Cadet Martel assessed an emergency situation and provided assistance, thereby allowing EMS easier access the patient upon arrival; and*

***WHEREAS**, Hilton Head Island is a wonderful place to call home and visit due to the fine young women and men, like Cadet Martel, who show a willingness to become involved and selflessly devote their time and energy toward the well-being of Hilton Head Island and its residents; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, David Bennett, Mayor of the Town of Hilton Head Island, on behalf of Town Council and its residents, do hereby commend and honor Cadet Martel for his willingness to become involved to assist another human being in need, his quick thinking, and his exemplary example of what it means to "give back" to our community.*

***IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hilton Head Island to be affixed **Sixteenth day of January,** in the year of our Lord **Two Thousand and Eighteen**.*

_____

David Bennett
Mayor

Honored Islander Award

presented to

Carlton Dallas

In recognition and appreciation for outstanding volunteer service and personal commitment towards the betterment of our community.

Presented this 16th day of January, 2018

Mayor David Bennett

Honored Islander Award

presented to

Kathy Cramer

In recognition and appreciation for outstanding volunteer service and personal commitment towards the betterment of our community.

Presented this 16th day of January, 2018

Mayor David Bennett

Honored Islander Award

presented to

Margie Smith

In recognition and appreciation for outstanding volunteer service and personal commitment towards the betterment of our community.

Presented this 16th day of January, 2018

Mayor David Bennett

Honored Islander Award

presented to

Berry & Ruthie Edwards

In recognition and appreciation for outstanding volunteer service and personal commitment towards the betterment of our community.

Presented this 16th day of January, 2018

Mayor David Bennett

ITEMS OF INTEREST

January 16, 2018

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND MEETINGS

- Planning Commission – January 17, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.
- Vision Project Management Team – January 19, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.
- Public Facilities – January 22, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- Gullah-Geechee Land & Cultural Pres. Task Force – January 22, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.
- Public Planning Committee – January 25, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.
- Intergovernmental & Public Safety – February 5, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.
- Planning Commission – February 7, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- Finance & Advisory Committee – February 20, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.
- Town Council, Executive Session – February 20, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
- Town Council, Regular Session – February 20, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

Additional meetings may be scheduled and all meetings are subject to change and/or cancellation. Please visit the Town of Hilton Head Island website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov for Committee meeting dates and agendas.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND EVENTS

Saturday, January 20, 2018 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	A Walk for Recovery	Coligny Beach
Saturday, January 27, 2018 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Hilton Head Snow Day	Shelter Cove Community Park
Saturday, January 27, 2018 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.	The Chamber Ball	Hilton head Marriott Resort & Spa
Saturday, February 3rd – Saturday, February 10th	Chamber Restaurant Week	https://www.hiltonheadisland.org/restaurantweek/
Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Taste of Gullah	Arts Center Parking Lot
Saturday, February 3, 2018 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	American Heart Assoc. 2018 Heart Ball	The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort and Spa
Saturday, February 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	HHI Marathon, Half & 8k	Jarvis Creek Park
Sunday, February 18, 2018 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	2018 Hilton Head Island Gullah Celebration	Shelter Cove Community Park

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council

FROM: Stephen G. Riley, ICMA-CM, Town Manager

RE: Proposed Resolution Authorizing the Participation by the Town in Federal Court Litigation by the South Carolina Environmental Law Project to Challenge the Permitting by the Federal Government of Seismic Testing and Drilling in the Atlantic Coastal Waters, Including Waters off Beaufort County and the South Carolina Coast

DATE: January 11, 2018

Recommendation: Staff has no recommendation.

Summary: The South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) has proposed litigation to challenge the current actions of the Federal Government in granting of permits in waters off South Carolina for seismic air gun surveying and oil and gas exploration on the grounds of environmental harm, economic damage, and community opposition. SCELP has requested the involvement and support of coastal municipalities to join in this litigation on the basis that SCLEP and its attorneys would represent the municipalities without any expense, attorney fees, or other financial contribution by the municipalities. This Resolution authorizes the Town to participate in this litigation by SCELP to seek to protect our pristine Atlantic coastline and the economic advantages that Hilton Head Island and South Carolina derive from a coastline free from environmental degradation.

Background: At the March 17, 2015 Town Council Meeting, Town Council voted 7-0 to oppose seismic testing off the coast of South Carolina on the grounds of environmental harm, economic damage, and community opposition. The Town joined other coastal states and communities in opposition when the Obama administration considered a five-year plan to permit drilling in the Atlantic from Virginia to Georgia, but as result, the Obama Administration abandoned its plan in the face of public opposition. On January 4, 2018, the Trump Administration released a draft plan that would open nearly all of the nation's coastal waters to seismic testing, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION BY THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND IN FEDERAL COURT LITIGATION BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROJECT (SCELP) TO CHALLENGE THE PERMITTING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING IN ATLANTIC COASTAL WATERS, INCLUDING WATERS OFF BEAUFORT COUNTY AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST

WHEREAS, previously the Federal Government has removed the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from any plans for offshore oil drilling, and has denied drilling permit applications for seismic air gun survey testing, citing environmental harms and coastal community concerns; and

WHEREAS, the seismic testing companies challenged the permit denials to the Department of the Interior, which has recently remanded the permit denials to the Bureau of Ocean & Energy Management (BOEM), effectively reviving the possibility of offshore drilling in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 4, 2018, the Federal Government published a proposal to permit drilling in most U.S. continental-shelf waters, including the Atlantic OCS, effectively opening up the waters off South Carolina, and Beaufort County, to seismic air gun surveying, and oil and gas exploration; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) has proposed litigation to challenge the current actions of the Federal Government, and the granting of permits in waters off South Carolina for seismic air gun surveying and oil and gas exploration on the grounds of environmental harm, economic damage, and community opposition; and

WHEREAS, SCELP has enlisted the involvement and support of coastal municipalities to join in this litigation on the basis that SCELP and its attorneys would represent the municipalities in the litigation without any expense, attorney fees, or other financial contribution by the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hilton Head Island Town Council strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the Town of Hilton Head Island, and its citizens, for the Town of Hilton Head Island and other coastal communities to participate in this litigation effort by the SCELP to seek to protect our pristine Atlantic coastline and the economic advantages that Hilton Head Island and South Carolina derive from a coastline free from environmental degradation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT, AND IT HEREBY IS, RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT the Town Manager is authorized to acquiesce to the entry by the Town as a party in the proposed litigation by the SCELP to challenge the granting of permits in the Atlantic OCS, and other environmentally protected areas, for seismic air gun surveying and other oil and gas exploration, on the basis that such participation will be without expense, attorney fees, or other financial involvement by the Town.

MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY of _____, 2018.

_____
David Bennett, Mayor

<u>ATTEST:</u>

By:_____
Krista Wiedmeyer, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Gregory M. Alford, Town Attorney

Introduced by Council Member:_____