



City Council Meeting Summary for February 9th, 2021

Work Session:

Height Limits and New Base Flood Elevations: Staff presented information about the new lower base flood elevations (BFE) now in effect across the island (*if you live anywhere in Charleston County and have flood insurance, please contact your agent!*). Staff proposes an increase in the required elevation above BFE to offset the new lower maps. This would require new homes to be built closer to the old maps and result in insurance savings and increased flood protection.

Beachfront Commercial Uses: Staff presented the recommendations of the Commercial Activity Committee. The Committee began work in 2019 to review commercial uses on the beach that are not franchised by the City. Due to the interruption caused by COVID, the Committee recommended that no new commercial businesses on the beach be approved in 2021, that the two yoga and two surf lesson companies approved in 2020 be reapproved, and that all proposed revisions to the rules be completed in time for the 2022 approval process.

Mayor's Comments:

COVID Memorial Day: The City of Folly Beach joins a list of 60 other communities (and growing) across the nation in declaring the first Monday in March, 2021 as COVID Memorial Day as a way to acknowledge the impacts of COVID 19 on victims, survivors, volunteers, first responders and front-line workers.

The March City Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday March 10th.

Staff Reports:

Kyle Sullivan, Utilities Director: Mr. Sullivan updated Council on the status of the project to convert existing accounts to an automated meter reading system. An RFP has been let by the City for approximately 1200 meters to be installed for quarterly accounts.

Personal Appearances:

Stephanie Dasher, representing Warrior Surf Foundation asked for and received an exemption to the prohibition on using business parking decals at the 3rd West parking lot. Council amended the City policy to allow any registered 501(c)(3) organization who receives permission from Council and purchases one of the 10 available business passes to park in these areas.

Rob DiPrima, of 306 East Erie Avenue received permission from Council to create a driveway on East Hudson that is wider than the allowable 15'. In return, he agreed to abandon the existing driveway on East Erie and place a deed restriction on the property to prevent it from being reestablished.

Pete Girard, of 1541 Oak Island was denied a 2021 residential parking pass. Mr. Girard is not a resident of the City but had received a decal in error in 2020.

Mashall DePass, representing the Eastern Surfing Association presented a request for the City to approve the 2021 surfing contest schedule. The request was postponed until March and Mr.

DePass was asked to make sure he was compliant with SC state rules in effect for approval of large gatherings.

Old Business:

Ordinance 01-21: Passed 2nd Reading. The rules for nonresident parking passes were amended so that passes cannot be used at the 2nd Street East or 3rd Street West paid parking lots. (Council clarified this policy in the work session to allow nonprofits who receive specific approval to use these lots)

Ordinance 02-21: Passed 2nd Reading. This amendment to the business license ordinance explicitly states that each rental unit requires a separate license and that owners are responsible for all gross proceeds being reported.

New Business:

Community Promotions Committee Appointment: Congratulations to Lesley Watson-Miller and thank you for your service!

Ordinance 03-21: Passed 1st Reading. This ordinance would allow berms to be used as an erosion control device and constructed within the critical line buffer. Berms must be designed by a certified professional and planted.

Ordinance 05-21: Passed 1st Reading. The Planning Commission recommended this ordinance after a public hearing on 2/1/21. It clarifies that lot area and max square footage formulas are calculated based on high ground area.

Ordinance 06-21: Passed 1st Reading. This ordinance would make the mask provisions of our Emergency Ordinance permanent until the statewide State of Emergency Expires.

Ordinance 07-21: Passed 1st Reading. This ordinance would prohibit smoking and the use of all types of smoking materials on the beach and at beach accesses.

Ordinance 08-21: Remanded to the Planning Commission for Public Hearing. This ordinance would allow non-conforming uses in the IC, DC, and RMF districts to be substantially improved. These uses are already exempt from the substantial damage limits.

Resolution 06-21: This resolution reapproved non franchise businesses on the beach from 2020 and prohibited the addition of any new businesses in 2021.

Resolution 07-21: This resolution named March 7-March 13, 2021 as National Women in Construction Week.

Resolution 08-21: This resolution adopted the 2021 revisions to the 5 Year Strategic Plan. The plan and supporting documents will be available on our website soon!