

Affordable Housing Committee Meeting

June 1, 2023, Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fred Hamilton called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Town Councilman/Chairman Fred Hamilton

Commissioner Dan Wood

Commissioner Grace Staples

Commissioner Doug Magill

Commissioner Gwen Chambers

Commissioner Meg James arrived at 10:06

Victoria Smalls, Workforce and Affordable Housing Manager

Charlotte Moore, Principal Planner

ABSENT

Commissioner Denolis Polite

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion for adoption made by Commissioner Magill, Seconded by Commissioner Chambers

Voting Yea: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Staples

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

April 13, 2023

Motion made by Commissioner Wood, Seconded by Commissioner Magill.

Voting Yea: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioner Chambers, Commissioner Staples

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Neighborhood Assistance Program Budget Update

As of May 25, 2023, a total of 45 homes have been serviced for home repairs such as roofing, wet and damaged floors, septic pump outs and private road repair totaling \$306,420.25. The remaining budget for the 2023 Fiscal Year is \$3,579.75.

Each repair service is outlined in the budget that is attached. You will see that the home repair line has exceeded the initial budget for that service, but it has not exceeded the overall Neighborhood Assistance Budget.

To date 13 applications have been approved by Lowcountry Council of Governments. Of the 13 applications, five will be scheduled for home visits by myself and Building Safety to look at the requested work.

The 2023 Fiscal Year ends on Monday, June 5, and Fiscal Year 2024 will begin on July 5. No repair services will start until July 5.

Commissioner Magill asked if staff had an idea of how many homes are potential candidates for the next few years?

Chairman Hamilton stated that we can track that information because residents from previous years could wait a year and reapply for assistance.

Smalls gave a snapshot of the local agencies that provide repair services or financial assistance for repairs. Those agencies are Bluffton Self Help, Lowcountry Council of Governments, Deep Well of Hilton Head. Smalls let the committee know that the Town has received calls from out of the service area and repair services that we do not provide, and these other sources are also able to help residents.

Smalls let the committee know that she has met with Stephen Combs, Bluffton Township Fire District Public Information Officer and Terry Sheriff, Bluffton Township Fire District Battalion Chief and the idea of a smoke detector blitz event is being planned. When residents apply for help through the Neighborhood Assistance Program Building Inspector Richard Spruce checks for working smoking detectors. The fire department can install smoke detectors with no cost to the homeowner.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Danny Mullins, 20-year Town of Bluffton resident and Hargray employee.

Shannon Green, Town of Bluffton employee

VIII. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.