TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, SC
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, November 6, 2023
9:15 a.m.
Municipal Complex, Council Chambers
100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

MINUTES

Members Present: Laura Hyatt, Chair; Howard Chapman; and John Iacofano

Members Absent: MPW Liaison, Rick Crosby

Staff Present: Eric DeMoura, Town Administrator; Matt Brady, Economic Development Manager

1. Call to order
   ▶ Ms. Hyatt called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from the October 2, 2023 meeting
   ▶ Mr. Chapman moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Iacofano. All present voted in favor.

3. Public Comments
   ▶ Brian Jones, stated that he is a resident of McClellanville, but represents the South Carolina Shrimpers Association. He stated that they are in support of Agenda Item #4 in support of declaring an economic disaster in the shrimping industry. He stated that Mount Pleasant would follow several other municipalities throughout the gulf coast region in the South Atlantic from Texas to South Carolina.

4. Consideration of a resolution seeking an economic disaster declaration due to the dumping of imported shrimp into United States markets
   ▶ Mr. Chapman moved for approval; seconded by Mr. Iacofano.
Consideration of Resolution - Shrimp Dumping

SSA Urges Commerce to Initiate Trade Action Against Unfair Shrimp Imports
On September 12th, SSA directors met with Department of Commerce officials to request that the agency issue an antidumping and countervailing duty investigation of unfairly traded shrimp. The vast majority of shrimp imports come from countries that Commerce previously found to engage in unfair trade.

SSA members have demonstrated that dumped and subsidized shrimp imports injure the U.S. shrimp industry. After meeting with SSA, Commerce and the International Trade Commission considered other petitions with shrimp-industry members on September 20th and with local, municipal, and state government officials on September 29th.

LOCAL NEWS
Lowcountry shrimpers say area restaurants buying shrimp from other countries is putting a strain on the industry

Consideration of Draft Resolution

A RESOLUTION FOR THE DECLARATION OF DISASTER—SHRIMP DUMPING

WHEREAS The Town of Mount Pleasant accounted for at least .03% of the total amount of state landed wild-caught South Carolina Shrimp; and

WHEREAS the recent influxes of imported shrimp into the United States markets have affected the ability to market and sell wild-caught domestic shrimp, also known as Shrimp Dumping; and

WHEREAS the Mount Pleasant shrimp fleet and fleets throughout the region cannot sustain these troubling trends. Many are squeezed out of the market and forced to keep their vessels docked; and

WHEREAS the magnitude of political damage and the rapidity with which the continuation of the decrease of the marketability of domestic shrimp is an imminent threat to the economy of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Coastal Communities, and the entire American Shrimping Industry; and

WHEREAS the declaration of such disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on the activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

WHEREAS such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of preventing the complete destruction of the economy upon which the Town of Mount Pleasant relies upon; and

NOW THEREFORE be it therefore proclaimed by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Mount Pleasant that the economic hardships resulting from imported Shrimp Dumping is a direct threat to local economies and recognize that action to protect local shrimping industries be taken.
Mr. Iacofano asked about cost and how much less expensive is imported shrimp.

Mr. Jones stated that this is a difficult question to answer. He said there are many factors affecting the price of shrimp. He stated that since 2015 they have seen the proliferation of shrimp farms and extra production, which makes it difficult for the local shrimpers.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the resolution is great; however, what can the Town actually do.

Mr. Jones stated that the Town’s resolution is not symbolic but important and impactful. It raises awareness of the issue that shrimpers are facing, and the shrimpers will then present this support to the different governors of these states. He stated that this will not change imported shrimp, but it will allow them a foothold to be competitive. He said wild domestic caught shrimp because the taste is better and there are no antibiotics and chemicals used. He said residents should buy and ask for domestic wild caught shrimp.

Mr. Iacofano suggested taking this to the Chamber also.

Ms. Hyatt stated that it is important to support the local shrimpers.

▶ All present voted in favor.

Ms. Hyatt stated that this resolution will go to full Council for approval.

5. Adjourn

▶ There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ashe MacDonald
November 6, 2023