

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, May 19, 2016. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Pro-Tem Leonard Blank, Garrett Milliken, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, Joshua P. Stokes, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, who presided. A quorum was present to conduct business. Also present: Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bo Wilson, Town Attorney, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Sergeant Shawn James, Island Sheriffs’ Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order. He opened in prayer and followed with the Pledge to the Flag. FOIA: This meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Proclamations: Mayor Woolsey acknowledged the following persons:

Appreciation to Representative Peter McCoy, Jr., Haley Musser, and Gary Brisbane, community heroes; aided victims in an accident on April 14th on Grimball Road. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Eugene Frazier, Sr. 80th Birthday: Motion to approve resolution was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Recognition of Sergeant Shawn James, for Chief Carroll B. Gordon Award: Motion to approve resolution was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Blank and passed unanimously.

Recognition of Reverend Doctor Charles Heyward, Sr. Retirement: Motion to approve resolution was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Edward Greene, 1115 Seaside Lane, appeared before Council to request the placement of sidewalk on Seaside Lane. Expressed concern for children safety walking to/from school in the street. Asked Council to give this request first priority.

Heath Patterson, 1648 Battalion Drive: spoke against the 2% Hospitality Tax. He believes the tax will place a burden on James Island residents as well as restaurants and bars in the winter months. Because other municipalities have passed this tax doesn’t mean we should. He agrees with Councilman Milliken that the tax should be voted on by the people through referendum, not an ordinance. Mr. Patterson appeared also at the April Town Council and spoke in opposition.

Melissa Dority, 753 Grimsley Drive: spoke against the Hospitality Tax. She agrees with the comments expressed by Mr. Patterson and has spoken to a few small restaurant owners and they echoed that a burden will be placed on patrons and on the backs of James Island.

John Simpson, 1648 Secessionville Road: asked for an update on the annexation process. He lives on Secessionville Road and would like to annex to the Town.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of April 21, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken made a correction under Public Works Report, to change the word *spaying* to spraying. Minutes approved with the correction.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Provided to Council. Mrs. Kellahan commented 83% of the year has been completed.
- b. Administrator's Report: In addition to the Administrator's Report, Mrs. Kellahan reported that she and Councilman Mullinax met with Robert Clark (SCDOT) regarding the Town taking ownership of some residential streets. They also discussed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) to perform work in the State's right-of-way (ROW). Seaside Lane Sidewalk Project: Stantec has nearly completed the Concept Plans, (mostly drainage than sidewalk). A community meeting will be held with the residents next month to give update. The Concept Plan will come to Council in July to approve the Engineering Phase; and apply for matching funds for the construction. Mayor Woolsey gave a brief update on the annexation legislation proposed by Representative Peter McCoy to change the definition of contiguity.
- c. Public Works Report: Provided to Council. Additionally, Mr. Johnson answered Mayor Woolsey's question that the Speed Humps have been installed on Willow Lake along with proper signage.
- d. Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report: Sergeant James gave an update on the security camera installed on Folly Road and its effectiveness. April statistics: hours worked 313; vehicles stopped 384; tickets issued, 57; warnings issued 332; calls/service 59; field interviews 8; and 7 arrests. A map of burglaries in the area was passed around for information.

Requests for Approval:

Dills Bluff, Phase I: Mrs. Kellahan presented a fee proposal from JLA Architects for planning, design, implementation, and construction for Phase I of the Dills Bluff Sidewalk. The sidewalk will connect from the new sidewalk at the Preserve at Dills Bluff and connect to the intersection at Dills Bluff and Seaside Lane. The fee proposal is presented with and without the boardwalk portion of the project. The cost is \$34,000 with the boardwalk and \$24,000 without. A motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken posed the question Councilman Blank asked at the May 16th James Island Intergovernmental meeting -- who will pay for this? He said a number of properties along the road is in the City of Charleston. He asked if we could get a breakdown of the cost that each municipality would contribute. He said a boardwalk is a nice feature; however, it is expensive and he understands that a major portion of the boardwalk is in the City. Councilman Blank said the City does not own the property; it was used for annexation. Councilman Milliken asked Mr. Wilson, the Town Attorney, if the City owned the property. Mr. Wilson said he was uncertain, but would look into it if requested. Councilman Milliken said he would like for the City to pay their fair share for what is in their jurisdiction, and would move to defer the item until we receive the estimate. Mayor Woolsey said the request is for design and the actual cost of the project is close to a half million dollars. We are looking for the City to pay for the sidewalk across the area (between Midvale and Julian Clark) in their jurisdiction; the boardwalk will not be in the City. Councilman Blank discussed briefly a boardwalk, or a sidewalk vs. a seawall and his opinion is a seawall would give better protection for the road; but he would like to look at both options. Councilman Stokes asked if the reason for the cost with/without the boardwalk is for permitting and what OCRM will allow - if wetland credits are available; and, if we cannot do a sidewalk or something less expensive, we have the boardwalk option. Mrs. Kellahan answered yes. She is recommending JLA for their success in getting the engineering and construction rates done in time for us to apply for the CTC and TST funding we have gotten good matches for. She noted that the City was responsive at the JI Intergovernmental meeting to put in money for the construction phase. Councilman Milliken asked if we could make an effort to get this information solidified; perhaps Mayor Woolsey could send a letter to the City. Councilman Blank noted that Mayor Tecklenburg has agreed to put this on the City's agenda and we should give him the opportunity to do that. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee: No report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported on James Island Pride's Adopt a Highway litter pickup on May 7th. The turn-out was great; over 30 volunteers of all ages participated by collecting 45 bags of trash. The Norris family and a passerby helped to put out a fire at Thomas Johnson Park during the clean-up. The next event is Saturday, September 10. The Mamie Williams Award was presented to James Island Pride for achievement of excellence in environmental improvement for 2016. The award is given by Charleston County Community Pride, Inc.

Children's Commission: No report

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the JI Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. He announced that County Councilman Joe Qualey has been successful in obtaining funding to renovate the Camp Road Library to remain open.

History Commission: Historical Market Submission for Simeon Pinckney: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Commission has recommended applying for a historical marker for Simeon Pinckney. Simeon Pinckney was the owner of the property that we purchased for a park. A motion in favor to apply for the historical marker was made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Stokes. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

a. Resolution #2016-07: Harbor Master's House and Two Accessory Buildings at Fort Johnson Site: Mayor Woolsey presented the resolution passed by the Historical Commission regarding the Harbor Master's House and two accessory buildings at Fort Johnson. The Historical Commission recommends, if possible, that the properties be saved and properly researched before any effort is made to demolish or move them. Councilman Blank asked who would do the research. Mayor Woolsey said MUSC is the current owner, but the Historical Commission's resolution does not specify who would do the research. Councilman Milliken asked if the Historical Commission could specify or offer an outside source for the assessment. He expressed concern about MUSC conducting its own research as they are the ones wanting to take the buildings down. Mayor Woolsey said MUSC is looking to apply to demolish one of the accessory structures and that will be before the BZA in July. Councilman Milliken said he would like to pass a resolution with more specificity of the historical significance of the buildings. No action taken.

Resolutions:

- b. Resolution #2016-08: Support of FY 2017 CTC Requests: Quail Drive Sidewalk and Rembert Road Paving: Mrs. Kellahan reported that the Town is requesting \$108,700 in funding through the CTC Allocation Program for the completion of the Quail Drive Sidewalk and Rembert Road Paving. The Town will match these projects with a 50% match, totaling \$108,700 through its Capital Improvements Plan Budget. A copy of a petition to pave Rembert Road was provided to Council. A motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Resolution #2016-09: To Amend Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance Section 153.334, Tree Protection and Preservation: Councilman Mullinax said the resolution is being brought forth as a balance to preserve homeowner rights and to save some 18" trees. The resolution is patterned after the City of Hanahan ordinance. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. The motion was made by Councilman Mullinax; seconded by Councilman Milliken. As discussion ensued, Mayor Woolsey said the resolution will go to the Planning Commission for consideration. Mayor Woolsey shared the process that Folly Beach Council uses when referring amendment changes to their Planning Commission. He thought this was a good approach for us to use and shared it with Councilman Mullinax. He told Councilman Mullinax that he would vote in favor to send the resolution to the Planning Commission; though personally he is skeptical about this approach to managing trees. Councilman Blank said he keeps hearing from Council that we don't want to place a burden on residents; yet we continue to add amendments to the tree ordinance. Councilman Stokes said the resolution is an opportunity for the Planning Commission to consider

with any other proposals to see if it is redundant, duplicative or could be changed in some way. He said it makes sense to send it to the Planning Commission for an overall review. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading:

- a. Ordinance #2016-02: An Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code of the Town of James Island to Provide for a New Sub-chapter to be Known as "Hospitality Tax": Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes. No discussion. The motion passed; Councilman Milliken voted 'no'.
- b. Ordinance #2016-03: Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Budget: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Blank. Councilman Milliken said if we are passing a Hospitality Tax we should mention how the money will be spent in the budget. Mrs. Kellahan said it has been accounted for in the Capital Improvement Plan, which also includes Re-think Folly Road and improvements for Pinckney Park (specified as Corridor Improvements and Park Improvements). She also addressed the question regarding the status of improvements on Folly Road. After discussion, the motion passed; Councilman Milliken voted 'no'.
- c. Ordinance #2016-04: Authorization of Lease Purchase Financing for Town Hall: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Blank. No discussion. Motion passed. Councilmembers Milliken and Mullinax voted "no".

Ordinances up for First Reading: None

New Business: None

Executive Session: Not needed

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk