

The Town of James Island held its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, December 18, 2014. 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, Jane Hale, Senior Finance Clerk, Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator, Attorney Brandon Reeser, Wilson & Heyward, 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.

Public Hearing: Charleston County Community Services – Urban Entitlement Program, 2015 Allocation: Mayor Woolsey announced the Charleston County Community Services public hearing on the 2015 Urban Entitlement Program.

Johnna Murray, Community Development Director, welcomed the Town as the newest jurisdiction to join the Urban Entitlement Program. She explained that every five years a strategic plan is conducted and citizens provide input on what they want HUD (Housing and Urban Development) money spent on. Based upon information the County receives and HUD’s eligibility criteria, grants are then issued. Ms. Murray said this is the end of a cycle and another five year plan will begin next year. She said the projects that communities often request include: rehabilitation for substandard housing; well and septic system upgrades; clean water/access to clean water, and, depending on the area, some sidewalks. Grant applications are received from towns or non-profits; individuals do not qualify. Ashley Kellahan, the Town’s Administrator, has been appointed to serve on the Community Development Advisory Board. The Board evaluates the staff executive summaries and recommends the projects they approve for funding to County Council. Ms. Murray said Community Services receives grant applications from grass roots non-profits and neighborhood associations. This program is federally funded and the same rules apply to non-profits and neighborhood associations. Applications are available on-line at the County’s website at: www.charlestoncounty.org and are due by the end of February.

Public Comments:

Alan Laughlin, Lawton Bluff: commented on the James Island PSD installing sewer connections at the end of Folly Road. He said the PSD has gotten partial grants and the support of a Homeowner Association; however, there are people who are not eligible under the grant program. He asked if grants have to come from the Town or a neighborhood organization.

Ms. Murray said that the PSD has been a recipient for grants and is eligible to apply; they have applied for sewer and septic grants in the past. In order for an individual household to qualify for a grant, the income eligibility has to be in the low to moderate income bracket. A family of four earning more than \$49,000 a year exceeds the income level. She noted that because of the donut holes in zoning and planning on James Island, a property in the City of Charleston is not be eligible to receive the County HUD funds because the City also receives HUD funds. Mr. Laughlin said it would be good if the Town gave its support for the sewer connections; to which Ms. Murray commented that there is an opportunity for support in the application process if the Town desires to do that.

Modification to Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for Harbor View Road Improvements Project: Molli LeMin, Project Manager for Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax Project, presented an Amendment to the Harbor View Road Municipal State Highway Agreement. Ms. LeMin said that the amendment is for the Town to consider adding a dedicated left turn lane on the westbound

approach of Harbor View Road at Mikell Drive. She said complaints were received about traffic congestion in these areas and a dedicated left turn lane would significantly improve traffic operations and safety at a signalized intersection by separating left turning traffic from through traffic. This improvement would also reduce the potential for rear-end collisions and would prevent vehicles turning left from impeding through traffic. Ms. LeMin noted that the footprint, if approved, would be widened by 12'. She showed a drawing and noted that seven (7) trees would be impacted; none of which are grand trees; all are gum trees, with the exception of one 9" Hackberry. Five of these trees are located in the City of Charleston and two are in the Town of James Island. Ms. LeMin said Council has the opportunity to disapprove the agreement and the plan would continue as it is. She said the changes are minor and would benefit the flow of traffic and safety.

Presentation of Town Emergency Plan: Scott Cave, Atlantic Business Continuity Services was unable to attend.

Public Comments: None

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of November 20, 2014 Regular Town Council Meeting
- b. Approval of 2015 Town Meeting and Holiday Schedule

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Finance Clerk, Jane Hale, presented the November Budget Report. 42% of the fiscal year has been completed; revenues are at 26% and expenditures year-to-date is 19%.
- b. Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, shared highlights from the Administrator's Report: Greenbelt Application for the Town Park at 461 Fort Johnson Road was given final approval by County Council on December 9. An Environmental Assessment of the property is scheduled for January 5 and we hope to close in January. Mrs. Kellahan thanked Lyndy Palmer, the Town Realtor, for her service. Landscaping work has been done on Dills Bluff and Camp Roads and at the Dock Street Park. The Encroachment permit to move the sign on Harbor View Road has been received. We are waiting to receive the encroachment permit for the landscaping. The staff is undergoing the testing phase with the IT Company (VC-3); we hope to have new equipment installed by January 2nd. James Island Youth Sports Program will begin in January. Mrs. Kellahan reminded Council of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Charleston for sports activities at the City Recreation Center. Registration for soccer, softball, and baseball will begin on January 5th. Town residents will receive a discount when they sign up for these sports. Budget Request Forms: Mrs. Kellahan asked Council to return the forms to her as soon as they can and she will submit the completed forms to the chairperson of the respective committee. Departmental Report: provided.
- c. Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report: Sergeant Shawn James reported that the homicide on Honey Hill Road has been solved. He also presented the crime report and thanked the Island Sheriffs' Patrol for the presence they provide to James Island.

Requests for Approval:

Town Hall Sign Estimate: Mrs. Kellahan presented a request for the replacement of the current Town Sign. Mrs. Kellahan commented that the company, Outside the Box Signs & Design, made the signs for Smokey Oak, the future Paisano's sign and O'Neill Liquors; the new Town sign will have a similar look to those signs. Councilman Blank moved to approve the cost estimate of \$5,150, Councilman Stokes seconded. After Mrs. Kellahan answered Council's questions, the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilman Blank reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals at its last meeting approved a request for a Special Exception for the sale of alcohol for “The Break”, a bar/lounge opening on Folly Road (the Old Oasis Night Club). Councilman Blank said there will be no outside music or activities. The building is currently being renovated.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported on the Arbor Day Celebration held on December 5th. He thanked the Mayor, Council, and Town staff, James Island Middle School, James Island Pride, Kathy Woolsey, and Principal David Parler, for making this a successful event. The 10,000 Trees planting event was held today and Mayor Woolsey joined Mayor Riley in discussion of the new project to plant trees along the Folly Road corridor. Nominations are being received for next year’s Community Hero Award. Please see Councilman Milliken for a nomination form. The nomination period has been extended to January 31st and will be considered at James Island Pride’s February meeting. Island-wide litter pick up is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th. James Island Art Auction will be held on February 28th at the Town Hall. This is a Silent Auction and the monies raised will go to James Island’s art teachers for the Arts. The James Island PSD was recognized for including information about the auction in their upcoming newsletter. Councilman Milliken hopes this will boost attendance since the newsletter is distributed to most James Islanders. Advocacy Group: some members of James Island Pride are working with an advocacy group about public transportation issues on James Island. A workshop will be held February 19-22. Persons interested in attending may contact Councilman Milliken. Former Councilwoman Berry and Councilman Milliken attended the CARTA Board meeting. They both recognize a need for representation from James Island and hope there is a plan to put someone on the Board. Councilman Milliken attended the City of Charleston’s Planning Commission meeting and reported that the City approved the Mungo subdivision, consisting of 92 homes to be built on the Mikell tract (off of Harbor View Road). The City also has a request to build two office buildings at 521 and 525 Folly Road (across from Publix) and 48 apartment units at 1559 Folly Road. Councilman Milliken reminded everyone about the SCE&G Tree Trimming Public Workshop on January 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Public Safety Committee: The James Island Neighborhood Council meeting will be held on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Councilman Mullinax requested to nominate Ashley Blythe, to represent McCall’s Corner, on the James Island Neighborhood Council. He motioned for the nomination, Councilman Milliken seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax announced the funeral services for Irvin Green, (victim of the shooting on Honey Hill Road), on December 20th at 11:00 a.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Folly Road.

Children’s Commission: Councilman Stokes thanked everyone involved in the first Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. He said the event went very well and he appreciated having the James Island Charter High School String Quartet, the Charleston Performing Arts Studio performance, and Reverend Bernard Gadsden as a part of the ceremony.

Councilman Stokes requested to nominate a member to the Children’s Commission. He then nominated Erin Brandon, to represent James Island Charter High School, Councilman Milliken seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Milliken announced a nominee to the Children’s Commission. He moved for the nomination of Angie Bellinger; Councilman Mullinax seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

*it was later discovered that Councilman Milliken in error nominated Angie Bellinger to the Children's Commission. See documentation provided by Councilman Milliken for the nomination of Ms. Bellinger to the Business Development Council.

Business Development Council: Councilman Stokes announced that he had asked Council at the last meeting to nominate someone to serve on the Business Development Council.

Councilman Stokes moved to nominate Reeves Tinkler, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax moved to nominate Marilyn Clifford, seconded by Councilman Stokes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Woolsey moved to nominate Fred Whittle, seconded by Councilman Stokes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

- a. Resolution #2014-32: Amendment to Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for Harbor View Road: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Blank moved, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Councilman Stokes asked how long the turn lane will be, and how many cars will it allow. Ms. LeMin said the required storage by DOT standards is 150' and will begin at the intersection of Mikell Drive. The number of cars it will store was not readily available, but will be researched. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution #2014-33: Resolution to Name the Town Park- Pinckney Park: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Mullinax moved, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Councilman Milliken commented that he doesn't particularly like the name Pinckney Park because it is a little vague and there are a horde of Pinckney's' of great historical significance from the low-country. He named the Charles Pinckney National Park in Mount Pleasant; Charles Coatesworth Pinckney, also known as C.C. Pinckney, who was also a Colonial giant here in the low-country. He said both of these men were slave holders, which is interesting because the Pinckney Park we are referring to is probably, not necessarily, though it is controversial that the man who it is spinning back to is a man by the name of Simeon B. Pinckney, and that seems to be the consistent name that is associated with the person who originally owned the land. He said this man, according to world tradition, was not a slave; but a freedman from Manning by way of Spain. He said the fact of the matter is, it would be nice to have that name in the Park and if we can't do that, we can have it in the history, or perhaps in the signage at the park. He said this would differentiate this Pinckney line from the other Pinckney. And, the major reason is because of reconstruction and events that happened after the civil war on James Island; a very important component of history. Councilman Milliken said he would like to recognize that Pinckney appropriately and not confuse people into thinking that it is something Colonial when it isn't. He said ideally the signage might reflect the true nature of the Pinckney line.

Mayor Woolsey said he and the Town Administrator has discussed after owning the Park, to develop a historical plaque to honor Simeon B. Pinckney. Councilman Blank asked if the family that owned the property had requested the Park to be named Pinckney Park; to which Mayor Woolsey replied yes. A family member in the audience stated that they are a part of Simeon B. Pinckney's family, that he was her father's great grandfather. Councilman Milliken asked if a donation or financial incentive was associated with the naming rights of the park. Mayor Woolsey said 'no'; the Town did not offer to name the Park after someone if they made a donation. He said

the Town agreed to purchase all of the land and the buildings at the appraised value. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading: None

New Business: None

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk