

The Town of James Island held a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC on Wednesday, January 13, 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: Bo Wilson, Town Attorney, 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 compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Stokes moved, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Alan Laughlin, 847 Darwin: apologized to Mayor and Council for the actions of the James Island PSD. He is unsure if it was planned, or if it just happened. He was personally insulted that 4 of the 7 Commissioners were not at the PSD meeting on Monday night; and these are the same four that has been hindrances to any kind of action about the PSD land.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to enter into executive session in accordance with 30-4-70 (a) Code of Laws of SC to discuss Contractual Real Estate matters. Councilman Stokes moved, Councilman Blank seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Council entered the executive session at 5:03 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 5:54 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that Council took no action or vote during the executive session.

Discussion and action to authorize the acquisition of real property for the public purpose of constructing a Town Hall facility located near Dills Bluff Road and Camp Road: Mayor Woolsey asked if there is a motion to move forward to pursue the purchase of the PSD property. Councilman Milliken moved and Councilman Mullinax seconded for discussion.

Councilman Stokes said we have, through different folks inside each one of these organizations, have done quite a bit of negotiating back and forth over a long period of time, and we have given full disclosure that there are other alternatives that we are looking at. He said without having something in place more concrete than what we have now, he does not see the purpose of continuing to pursue that avenue when we have other things before us that we can pursue right now. We have to choose a path and go down that.

Councilman Blank stated that he hasn’t seen any real indication that the property was for sale.

Councilman Milliken said he would like to continue to pursue the PSD property. His reason for expressing interest in the motion is he feel it is a better piece of property. He knows that we have had difficulties in negotiating a clear offer, but he would like to believe that the PSD would do that. We have no evidence that they have yet, but he would like to hold a candle for that property. He does not want to reject it at this point but feel it is important to move forward with the purchase of the other property; and, if in fact, the PSD property becomes available for the next meeting, perhaps we can make a move for that property. This is his reason for expressing interest in the PSD property.

Councilman Mullinax said he agreed with Councilman Milliken’s comments but he is worried about the timeframe and from what happened at the last PSD meeting, they do not seem to have any interest. And, if

by their next meeting whether anything would change. He agrees with the general theory but worry about the timetable.

Mayor Woolsey said he likes the PSD property and the conceptual plan; but he is very concerned about the time issue. He expressed disappointment; that there was this perfect storm where they did not show up to have a meeting when it was on the agenda. There were no further discussion.

Mayor Woolsey said a “Yes” vote would be to pursue the PSD property; and a “No” vote, we would not. YES: Councilman Milliken. NO: Councilman Blank, Councilman Mullinax, Council Stokes, Mayor Woolsey. Motion failed 4-1.

Mayor Woolsey offered the following MOTION: Mayor Woolsey moved to authorize the Town Administrator and staff to pursue acquisition of real property for the public purpose of constructing a new Town Hall facility. The Town Administrator and staff are authorized to negotiate the purchase of necessary property and, if necessary, take all necessary steps to acquire necessary property by use of the Town's eminent domain powers. The Town Administrator is authorized to negotiate acquisition subject to monetary limits as discussed in executive session. The following properties shall be acquired:

1120 Dills Bluff Road
James Island, SC 29412
Tract 1, Cocked Hat
TMS# 428-03-00-055

1126 Dills Bluff Road
James Island, SC 29412
Tract 2, Cocked Hat
TMS # 428-03-00-054

Councilman Blank seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Frances Simmons
Town Clerk