

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, July 9, 2015. 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, Attorney Bo Wilson, Merrell Roe, Senior Finance Clerk, Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator, 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 Comments: The following individuals addressed Town Council:

Edward Navarrete, 802 Bruce Street:

Ike Allred, P.O. Box 1058: both appeared before Town Council to request a donation in support of the James Island Football Club. The donations they receive will go towards the purchase of equipment for the teams. There are three levels of memberships and sponsors will have a custom made sign displayed at the stadium. After Council’s questions were answered, Mayor Woolsey said a special meeting will be held in two weeks regarding the donation as he understands they need a decision before the first game.

Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes of June 18, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting:

A motion to approve was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Senior Finance Clerk, Merrell Roe, presented the budget report for the period ending June 30th. The report shows 100% for the fiscal year being completed; revenues at 79%, and expenditures year-to-date for all departments is 35%.
- b. Town Administrator’s Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan gave an update on the recent court ruling for Pinckney Park. The plaintiff has 30 days to appeal to the SC Supreme Court; however, the likelihood of it being heard is minimal according to the Town’s closing attorney. The Town anticipates closing on the property the first week of August. RFQ for design of Town Hall: 15 RFQs for architectural services has been received. Copies of the submissions were provided to Town Council for them to evaluate. A meeting is scheduled to rank the firms on Tuesday, July 28th at 3 p.m. at Town Hall. Mrs. Kellahan asked Council if they are unable to attend the meeting, to evaluate the firms and send that information to her. Code and Safety: 37 cases for the month; 13 were abated. Building Services: 49 permits issued. Planning and Zoning 21 permits were issued. Public Works: Public Works Coordinator, Mark Johnson has attended the Quarterly SC Association of Stormwater Managers meeting in Columbia. Mr. Johnson and intern George Pittas-Giroux, has surveyed street and traffic signage in various neighborhoods in the Town. A spreadsheet has been developed to identify the type of sign, where it is located, its condition and it is tied to a Google Map system.

- c. Island Sheriffs' Patrol: Sergeant James presented the June crime statistics: ISP Deputies worked 382 hours; made 563 stops; issued 94 tickets, 499 warnings, and made 9 arrests. The National Night Out event will be held on Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot at the Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Committee Reports:

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced a James Island Pride trash pick-up on Saturday, July 11th at 8:30 a.m.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced that the Children's Commission meeting is Tuesday, July 14th at 5:30 p.m.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Neighborhood Council meeting is July 23rd at 7:00 p.m. The Neighborhood Council are working on events for the National Night Out.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey announced that the History Commission met on Tuesday, July 7th and appointed Paul Hedden as Chair.

Committee Nominations: Councilman Blank moved to nominate Jim White and Martha Matthews to the History Commission. Councilman Milliken seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions:

- a. Resolution #2015-13: A Resolution in Support of Removal of Confederate Battle Flag: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. A motion was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken then moved to amend the resolution by substitution; Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilman Milliken spoke in favor of his amendment. He said Councilman Blank had asked him to remove some of the language in the resolution that was presented last week pertaining to the actual events that happened at Emanuel AME Church. Councilman Milliken said he has done that and a second copy of the resolution has been placed before Council. Councilman Milliken shared that late Wednesday evening the House passed the Resolution to remove the flag and today at 4:15 p.m. Governor Haley signed the bill to remove the flag from the Statehouse grounds to a place of in oration or a museum. Councilman Milliken said you might think that a resolution at this point is moot, but he does not believe that it is; and, because of that, he is removing the language that reads: *we urge the SC General Assembly to act swiftly and accordingly to support the removal of the Confederate Flag from the SC Statehouse and Capitol Grounds* since that has already happened. Without that statement, the resolution stands. He said it is important that we stand behind our elected officials. Senator Thurmond courageously came out in favor of removing the flag very early in discussions; and Representative Peter McCoy voiced his support also for removing it. Councilman Milliken said he feels these gentlemen are soon up for re-election and he knows there are a number of people on the island who would not support their re-election based on their vote to have the flag removed. He feels as an elected body that we can do wonders in standing behind them for their courage to have the flag

taken down. He said this is why the resolution is still relevant and the Town could still offer its support to our local elected officials.

Councilman Mullinax said he has always supported the removal of the flag; he thought it was something that should be done; however, he was bothered by the way it was done. He said there were no committee or public hearings and that could set a precedent; not only about the flag, but also about other types of legislation. If something is short circuited and skipped over, public hearings and sunshine laws become darkened and less transparent. He was also bothered because there were no efforts to have a referendum so the taxpayers could decide. Councilman Mullinax said the bottom line is the flag was removed and he supports that; but not the way that it was done. After discussion. The motion to amend by substitution passed unanimously.

Mayor Woolsey announced that we are now at the main motion with the amended version. He then moved to amend by substitution, a shorter version of the resolution for adoption, which reads:

Whereas, James Island's representatives in the South Carolina Legislature voted to remove the confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds; and

Whereas, various confederate flags were flown on James Island during an important period of its history;

Therefore, let it be resolved:

The James Island Town Council supports the considered judgement of Senator Chip Campsen, Senator Paul Thurmond, Representative Peter McCoy, and Representative Leon Stavrinakis regarding the removal of the confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds.

The Town of James Island may from time to time sponsor or endorse special events that include flags appropriate to the history of our island.

Councilman Blank seconded and agreed with Councilman Milliken to go on record (not to send the resolution to anyone), as a governing body to show that we support our elected officials' decision to remove the flag.

Mayor Woolsey reiterated the motion is to amend the resolution with the substitute language that he presented. Councilman Milliken said he think the resolution is a very succinct statement; well written, and to the point; but it misses some of the history and the purpose of what caused the original resolution to be written; and that is the events that happened at Emanuel AME Church. He said to him, that is an oversight and if someone looks at the history of any resolution that the Town passes, it may be lost to them. Councilman Milliken said he would like to see language about why we are passing the resolution and what we stand for. The other issue he has with the resolution is what does time-to-time means - -it could mean raising a Confederate Flag from time-to-time over a

24 hour period. He would like the resolution to be specific about what time-to-time means in this context. He said this is a major concern because he does not want the flag to end up over our Town Hall. Councilman Blank said he thought time-to-time is meant for reenactments; and he certainly hope we never fly the flag over Town Hall. He said the engine has been running for a long time to take the flag down but the terrible events that killed nine people at Emanuel AME put it in gear. He said there are a lot of people that are offended by the flag; not only the families of those who were killed. He said we should not take the flag down for nine people when thousands of people are offended by it. Councilman Stokes said he agreed and he understands the event that spurred the removal of the flag; but he doesn't think it is the only reason to support removing the flag. Councilman Stokes said he is not so concerned that the language is not specifically in the resolution. He mentioned that he did not see anything in the first part of the amendment that prevents the Town from sponsoring or endorsing a special event that might have other flags at it. He said by way of a friendly amendment he doesn't see why we couldn't take out the last line because it does not have much of a function, otherwise he liked the amended version. He said not having the statement in the resolution would not prevent us from doing something down the road.

Mayor Woolsey said the best way to proceed is to vote either for or against the substitution, and if it passes, it could be amended further. Councilman Milliken said he could not vote for the amendment with that last sentence in it and will have to vote no. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote on the amendment. The amendment passed 4-1; Councilman Milliken voted no.

Councilman Stokes moved to amend the resolution to remove the last sentence; Councilman Milliken seconded. Mayor Woolsey said the reason it was included is because the Battle of Sol Legare reenactment will be held next week and he suspects that the Confederate re-enactors will have some sort of Confederate Flag. Councilman Milliken said the resolution affirms what was done in Columbia at the statehouse; it does not have anything to do with the Sol Legare re-enactment; Councilman Blank agreed. The amendment to remove the last sentence of the resolution passed unanimously. Main motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading:

- a. Ordinance #2015-07: An Ordinance to Update the Town of James Island Comprehensive Plan, 2015: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor of second reading. Councilman Blank moved, seconded by Councilman Milliken. No discussion. The Ordinance passed unanimously.
- b. Ordinance #2015-08: An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinance for the Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor of second reading. Councilman Stokes moved, seconded by Councilman Blank. No discussion. The Ordinance passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked to move up the executive session on the agenda and for a motion to enter. Councilman Stokes moved and Councilman Mullinax seconded. Mayor Woolsey stated the purpose of the executive session is to obtain legal advice on a saltwater lake,

real estate negotiations regarding Town Hall, and legal advice regarding the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). The motion passed unanimously and Council entered at 7:33 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 9:00 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that no votes were taken while Council was in executive session.

Ordinances up for First Reading:

- a. Ordinance #2015-06: An Ordinance to Establish Procedures to Levy and Collect Ad Valorem Property Tax in the Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes, moved seconded by Councilman Blank. No discussion. The Ordinance for first reading passed 4-1; Councilman Milliken voted no.
- b. Ordinance #2015-09: An Ordinance to Amend Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Budget for the Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes, moved seconded by Councilman Blank. No discussion. The Ordinance for first reading passed 4-1; Councilman Milliken voted no.

New Business:

- a. Camp and Folly Intersection Improvements Project: Councilman Milliken asked if a letter could be to be sent to Charleston County to repair the intersection at Camp and Folly since we do not know the timeline that the intersection improvements will begin. He said Eugene Gibbs is also in pretty bad shape. He asked if the holes could be filled and temporary paving could be done. Mayor Woolsey said the project will be sent to bid next month and that routine maintenance is done by the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT). The Town had the DOT make some improvements on the shoulders on Camp and Folly a year ago and we will make a request for service to be done on both of these roads.
- b. Donation of Town Funds to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund: Councilman Milliken moved for the Town to donate \$2,000 to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund; Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Blank said he had given thought to contributing to a scholarship fund at James Island High School in honor of Tywanza Sanders to help people on James Island. Mayor Woolsey said he thought a scholarship would be a good use of Town funds. Councilman Milliken postponed the motion and asked to have it placed on the next agenda at the next meeting with a fixed amount to include information about scholarship. The agenda item will be listed as: Donation of Funds Related to the Mother Emanuel Tragedy.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk