

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, March 19, 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, Jane Hale, Senior Finance Clerk, Attorney Bo Wilson, Wilson & Heyward, Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator, Kristen Crane, Senior Town Planner, 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 persons addressed Town Council:

Samantha Siegel, 64 Avondale Avenue: Ms. Siegel is the Southeast Campaign Organizer for Oceana. She thanked Council for considering the resolution to oppose seismic testing and off-shore drilling off the coast of SC. The International Game Fish Assn; Shellfish Foundation; SE Fisheries; and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council opposes this as well as municipalities in Beaufort, Port Royal, Isle of Palms, Edisto Beach, and Folly Beach; a total 39 entities with the Town of James Island potentially being the 40th. The City of Charleston and Myrtle Beach will consider similar resolutions at their upcoming meetings. Ms. Siegel said public comments and resolutions are important because they become a part of the record for the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (the federal agency responsible for off shore drilling); and South Carolina has a chance to get out of the draft for a five year plan for oil and gas leasing.

Katie Zimmerman, 328 East Bay Street: Ms. Zimmerman who directs the Air, Water and Public Health Program for the Coastal Conservation League thanked Council for the resolution. She stated that from an economic perspective; if seismic testing is done on our coasts the results will not be disclosed to SC; it will be done between the federal government and those companies. South Carolinians and our elected officials will not have an opportunity to understand the data behind this research and we will not receive any direct benefits from off shore drilling. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s data show that over 130,000 marine mammals will be harmed by seismic testing, including the fishing population. A letter was provided for the record.

Ryan Dodds, 1338 Ronald Lane: has lived on James Island for four years and enjoys our beaches. She does not want to see the beaches ruined and thinks that seismic testing and off shore drilling may do that. She agrees that off shore drilling may indirectly kill marine animals and interfere with their reproduction. A big draw to the low country, and what we pride ourselves on, is our local seafood, and seismic blasts will affect our shrimping and fishing economy. She would like for the Town to be the 40th municipality to pass resolutions opposing it.

Sara Bell, 1107 Lighthouse Boulevard: Ms. Bell is an Environmental Major with a Bachelor of Science Degree. She commented having done research on both sides; the pros for jobs, and the cons for the potential of environmental calamity. She said the jobs this will bring will be temporary and after a couple of years there will be a large population that moved here and are now out of work. Also, South Carolina is drawing many companies here and she doesn’t think that our state is hurting so badly to gamble with this.

Melissa Dority, 753 Grimsley Drive: asked Town Council to approve the resolution. She has called Senator Tim Scott and asked him to reconsider his position on this. She has also called Senator Lindsay Graham and is waiting to hear back from him. Mrs. Dority also addressed Council about having representation on the CARTA Board and encouraged them to do this for James Island’s future plans.

Jess Lempeisis, 1010 Freedom Peak, Mr. Lempeisis, a member of the Eaglewood Retreat Board of Directors, spoke about the Communications Tower proposed on the James Island Youth Soccer Club property and read a letter from the Board. Letter attached.

Michelle Lee, 1522 Ocean Neighbors, a James Island resident of 15 years read and provided a letter for the record.

Marty Morganello is the Bluewater Taskforce Coordinator of the Charleston Chapter Surf Rider Foundation read and provided a letter for the record.

J. Warren Sloane, 755 Waterloo Street: represented the James Island Youth Soccer Club asked Council to grant the request to waive the one year waiting period for the resubmission of the application for the Oyster Point Amendment. He said the Soccer Club has been in communication with the neighborhoods and have been looking at different locations at their request on the property. Mr. Sloane said it was that drive that caused them to delay the public meeting, which turned into a withdrawal. He asked Council to approve the waiver because it is not a vote for the tower, it is a vote to allow them to continue the process, to continue conversations with the neighborhood, and to continue to look at alternate locations that may be more suitable to everyone involved.

Brook Lyon, 669 Port Circle: asked Council to support its resolution to oppose seismic testing and off shore drilling. Mrs. Lyon said she is an Insurance Adjuster and has worked in the Gulf on different catastrophes. She commented that the culture surrounding the drilling communities is not like anything that we enjoy here. This is very dangerous, dirty, and she doesn't know if oil will be found on our coast because our waters are much deeper than the Gulf - her opinion is that it would be more dangerous. She hopes every community in SC passes a resolution to oppose this we need to call our congressmen and senators to let them know that we do not want it done.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of February 19, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting
- b. Proclamation; Shatter the Silence, Stop the Violence Day

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Blank and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Finance Clerk, Jane Hale, presented the February 2015 Budget Report. She reported that 67% of the fiscal year has been completed; revenues are at 42% and expenditures year-to-date for all departments is 27% of the budget.
- b. Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan presented highlights from the Administrator's Report: closing on Pinkney Park has been delayed due to another appeal; the real estate attorneys expects a 6-9 month delay before the Town receives title on the property. We remain confident that we will still close. Building Services: 120 new building permits have been issued; Code Enforcement and Safety: 12 cases were open and 11 have been closed. Planning and Zoning: 12 permits issued. Public Works: Charleston County Public Works has begun clearing blockages on outfall ditches and marsh outlets for the Ocean view-Stone Post-Sea Aire drainage basin.
- c. Island Sheriff's Patrol: Sergeant James complimented the Island Sheriff's Patrol for their hard work in the Town. He reported low crime analysis and collisions are down. 25 deputies works in the Town when they are off duty from Charleston County.

Presentations:

Recognition of Jane Hale, Senior Finance Clerk: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan recognized Jane Hale, Senior Finance Clerk, and thanked her for her service to the Town. Mrs. Hale will be retiring on March 27th. Mayor Woolsey presented a plaque in appreciation. Mrs. Hale worked for the Town in the third and fourth incorporations.

Requests for Approval:

Request for waiver of one year waiting period for resubmittal of Application for Oyster Point Amendment: A motion to approve the request by the James Island Youth Soccer Club, Inc. for a waiver of the one year waiting period was made by Councilman Stokes and seconded by Councilman Blank. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No Report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported a successful Art Auction was held on February 28th. The monies raised will be totaled and divided among the art classes at James Island schools. The Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup will be held on May 2nd. Charleston County Recycling will be collecting items that are hard to discard; (paint, tires, etc.) from Town Hall on May 2nd. Councilman Milliken thanked the members of James Island Pride for all the work that they do.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced that the Children's Commission will meet on April 14th at 5:30 p.m. Meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Neighborhood Council will meet on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Appointment of Chairman of the History Committee: Mayor Woolsey acknowledged that he does not chair a committee of Council and volunteered to be the chair for the History Committee with the assistance of Mayor Pro-Tem Blank. Mayor Woolsey motioned to serve as Chairman; Councilman Milliken seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

As Chairman of the History Committee, Mayor Woolsey moved to appoint the following persons to the James Island History Commission:

Doug Bostic
Eugene Frazier
Paul Hedden
Inez Brown-Crouch
Donald Hollingsworth
Ashley Welsh
Willis (Skipper) Keith
William (Cubby) Wilder

Councilman Stokes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Annual Budget: Mrs. Kellahan presented the draft budget and reported that it represents a 6% increase over last year's budget. Highlights include: funding a Town Hall; full-time position for a Facilities Maintenance staff; funds for Pinkney Park, 3% cost-of-living increase for staff; Public Works Projects for paving Jeffrey and Lemon tree Roads; design for Dills Bluff, Lighthouse

Point and Quail Drive sidewalks and the construction of the Camp Road sidewalk. A public hearing and first reading of the budget will be held at the April 16th Town Council meeting. A copy of the draft budget is on the Town's website at: www.jamesislandsc.us and at the Town Hall.

Resolutions:

- a. Resolution #2015-04: Representation of the Town of James Island on the CARTA Board: Mayor Woolsey said a decision on this resolution was postponed at the last meeting so Council is now in discussion and a motion is not required. Councilman Stokes said he would like to make an additional motion, and moved to table the resolution. Mayor Woolsey seconded the motion. Councilman Stokes said he met with some CARTA Board Members and while he is supportive of the Town having representation on the Board, his understanding is that CARTA is not in a position at this time for the Town to have representation. He said our representation would require a significant process; a process that would involve a significant investment that will not result in additional service to the Town. He believes there are other ways that we can work towards representation, but he does not think having a seat on the Board now is the right time. Councilman Milliken asked out of curiosity, what the significant investment is; to which Councilman Stokes answered that his understanding is that it would be in excess of \$1 million. Councilman Milliken commented about an excess of \$1 million, with no expanded service. Councilman Stokes spoke to this and explained that CARTA is currently facing a large financial deficit. After discussion, the motion to table passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution #2015-09: Resolution Opposing Seismic Testing and Off-Shore Drilling Activities: A motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading:

- a. Ordinance #2015-03: An Ordinance to Amend Article 4, Finance and Taxation, Section 4.410, Emergency Procurement: A motion to approve was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Mayor Woolsey moved to amend the current draft; to remove the words that were added at the last meeting; for such emergency response and change the word response to purpose (Section 8 (a)). He said as he read the ordinance, he did not think the word response was a problem, however; response is used in the lingo of emergencies as response vs. recovery and that would cause confusion. The sentence will now read: the maximum amount of the emergency purchase will be limited to \$150,000 for such emergency purpose. The amendment was unanimously approved. The vote on Ordinance #2015-03 with the amendment passed unanimously.
- b. Ordinance #2015-04: An Ordinance to Provide for Emergency Powers of the Mayor: A motion to approve was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken and unanimously approved.

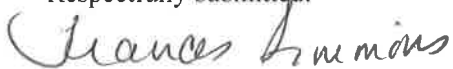
Ordinances up for First Reading: None

New Business: None

Executive Session: Not needed

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk



COASTAL
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

March 19, 2015

James Island Town Council
1238-B Camp Road
James Island, SC 29412

RE: Agenda Item 9.b. Resolution #2015-09—Resolution Opposing Seismic Testing and Off-Shore Drilling Activities

Dear Mayor Woolsey and members of Town Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. The Coastal Conservation League wholeheartedly supports your resolution opposing seismic testing and offshore drilling activities, and asks that you vote in favor of it. As you are aware, the recent federal proposal to allow offshore oil and gas development along the South Carolina coast is threatening the people, wildlife, and natural resources that make our state such a special place to live and work.

Along South Carolina's coast, municipalities including Beaufort, Edisto Beach, Isle of Palms, Hilton Head, Port Royal, and Folly Beach have voted in opposition to seismic testing and offshore drilling. Based on how much the Town of James Island cares about coastal resources, it makes sense to join those ranks. As my colleague Hamilton Davis recently pointed out, "To invite the oil and gas industry to the waters off of South Carolina would represent one of the great moral failures of our time."

Marine scientists, including leading experts in the fields of marine biology and bioacoustics, agree that airgun surveys have an enormous environmental footprint, with impacts on marine mammals and fish. The existing science raises concerns about potentially massive impacts on fish populations. The scientists agree that the activity is likely to have "significant, long-lasting, and widespread impacts on the reproduction and survival of fish and marine mammal populations in the region, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, of which only 500 remain."

"Nature and Community in Balance"

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www.CoastalConservationLeague.org • info@sccl.org

March 19, 2015

Dear James Island Town Council,

We understand that American Tower Company is asking for permission at Town Council tonight to come back with their proposal submitted and withdrawn a few weeks ago for a cell tower to go on the JIYSC in their original location or in another proposed location. As board members representing an immediately adjacent neighborhood, Eaglewood Retreat, we want to convey to you that we do not want the tower located on the property due to a number of reasons.

If Town Council decides that a tower is allowed on the JIYSC property (which we hope that you won't) we are extremely concerned about the fall radius of the tower, and that it should not be located near residences as it is currently proposed.

Thank you for your consideration of our request,

Eaglewood Retreat Board

*Concerned with property
values, health risks,
and destroying views.*

As a marine scientist, science teacher, and steward of the environment, I strongly oppose this project.

Our coastal community relies on the offshore ecosystem. Many individuals in our community rely on fisheries as a source of income and/or food. The natural and artificial reefs offshore support local and migratory species of vertebrates and invertebrates, many of which are consumed through recreational or commercial fisheries. Marine mammals, such as the endangered Northern Right Whale, migrate through these waters—often with newborn calves. Seismic testing causes severe damage to marine mammals—interrupting their natural foraging behaviors, breeding activity, displacement from the habitat, or injury to their hearing. Several endangered sea turtle species reside in or migrate through these waters also, including leatherbacks, loggerheads, and green sea turtles. Loggerhead sea turtles also nest on our beaches—another activity which will likely be altered due to seismic testing disorienting or forcing the turtles out of the habitat. Adult sea turtles return to nest on the beach where they emerged as a hatchling 30-40 years prior. Charleston’s sea turtles NEED to nest on Charleston’s beaches—it’s that simple. They may not successfully find nesting grounds due to the habitat disruption caused by this project.

What’s most astounding to me is that preliminary geologic data suggest that the regions offshore South Carolina are unlikely to be extensive or profitable for drilling due to the low volume of oil and gas found here. The exploratory drilling is dangerous—reminding me of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf from 2010. The costs to our local community as well as the ecological community are not worth the incredible risks of this project.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these risks,
Michelle Lee

M.S. Marine Biology, College of Charleston

National Board Certified Science Teacher, James Island Charter High

Adjunct Professor, Trident Technical College

Hello,

My name is Marty Morganello and I'm a board member with Charleston Surfrider and serve as the Blue Water Taskforce coordinator. Charleston Surfrider is a non-profit grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the lowcountry's waterways, beaches, and oceans. And that means protecting our coast from seismic testing and offshore drilling. Surfrider is strongly opposed to the expansion of drilling off of the Atlantic coast. It is a dirty and dangerous practice that threatens the health of our oceans and coastal communities. Oil and gas development would require seismic surveys, drilling operations, oil transport by tankers and the installation of platforms, pipelines, and other infrastructure. These activities would significantly damage both the environment and related economies, while exposing the East Coast to the risk of a catastrophic oil spill. Instead of advocating for transient and environmentally harmful ways to meet America's oil needs, we should seek a comprehensive and environmentally sustainable energy plan that includes energy conservation. Ultimately we believe that America cannot drill our way out of an oil consumption problem. We must look toward sustainable solutions that protect our natural resources. It is in the best interest of our environment and economy to develop a sustainable energy portfolio that includes renewable sources and conservation. The answers for sustainable energy are already in front of us—and offshore drilling is not part of the answer. Thank you.

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Marty Morganello, ARCSEA AP

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