

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, November 17, 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, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Senior Finance Clerk, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Sergeant Shawn James, Island Sheriff’s Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order. Boy Scout Troop #44 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. FOIA: This meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Presentation: FY 2015-2016 Financial Statement: Presentation of FY 2015-2016 Financial Statement was given by Henry Wilson, Wilson & Quirk CPA. Mr. Wilson reported that the Town received a clean audit opinion and financial status for the period ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Wilson complimented Mrs. Kellahan, Ms. Roe, and Mayor Woolsey on internal control of the Town’s finances.

Presentation: 2017 Urban Entitlement: Johnna Murray, Director, Charleston County Community Development, presented the 2017 Urban Entitlement program. Charleston County Urban Development (HUD) funds provides programs for affordable housing, community assistance, and infrastructure improvements. Applications for program year 2017 will be accepted through the end of December.

Public Comment: The following persons addressed Council:

J. Eric Stewart, 1133 Lansdowne Drive: Mr. Stewart commented that he is not a big fan of traffic lights, however; the light at Mikell is already there. He asked why should the implementation be delayed and another traffic study done. The light should be turned on to see how it will control traffic; it will help children cross the street safely.

Melanie White, 830 Centerwood Drive: Spoke in favor of speed humps in the Centerville neighborhood; it is a necessity for children’s safety and everyone in the neighborhood.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of October 20, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Presented by Senior Finance Clerk, Merrell Roe and accepted as information. Ms. Roe announced a Shred Day on November 18; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot at Town Hall.
- b. Administrator’s Report: Presented by Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan and accepted as information. Mrs. Kellahan responded to Councilman Blank’s question that the Town is eligible to apply for grants through the Urban Entitlement program.
- c. Public Works Report: Presented by Mark Johnson, Public Works Director and accepted as information. Councilman Milliken thanked Mr. Johnson for doing an excellent job with drainage issues on the island.
- d. Island Sheriffs’ Patrol Report: Presented by Sergeant James and accepted as information. Sergeant James announced that November 5th marked the four-year anniversary of the Island Sheriff’s Patrol under the direction of Mayor Woolsey. Mayor Woolsey thanked Sergeant James and Island Sheriff’s Patrol for their service.

Requests for Approval:

- a. Community Assistance Grants: Mrs. Kellahan announced the organizations for the FY 2016-2017 Community Assistance Grants. (copy attached). Three requests for grants came in higher and those amounts were adjusted to stay within the allocated budget. Councilman Milliken said he will recuse himself from voting because he has a family member who may benefit from one of the awards.

Mayor Woolsey gave opportunity for the recipients to address Council. The following persons made statements about their organization's request:

Fred Whittle, James Island Exchange Club; Heritage Golf Tournament (submitted statement)
Kirk Pfeiffer, Charleston Performing Arts; performing arts education program - Kids on Stage
Tom Hatley, James Island Charter HS Baseball; lockers for Athletic Department
Heyward McDonald, James Island High School Band Backers, support student needs in various activities; and Alan Laughlin, James Island/Folly Beach CERT Team, replacement of tents for events and emergency situations; portable fire extinguishers for training

A motion to approve all requests was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Motion passed; Councilman Milliken recused (copy of recusal attached).

- b. Centerville Traffic Calming – Speed Hump Proposal: Mrs. Kellahan gave an overview of the speed hump proposal. She said in 2015, the Town made a request to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to lower the speed limit on Santee and W. Madison Streets. The speed limit on Santee was lowered; but the speed limit on W. Madison was not. The DOT had suggested that the Town look into placing speed humps and the Town did. She said Johnson, Laschober Associates (JLA) prepared a Traffic Calming Proposal and Herb Gilliam was present to answer questions. Mrs. Kellahan said nine speed humps with signage will be located throughout the neighborhood so no one will be able to enter or leave the subdivision without going over one of them. The Town held a neighborhood meeting on October 12 and 22 residents attended. Mrs. Kellahan thanked Meredith Poston, the Neighborhood Council representative, for helping to advertise the meeting. 17 residents voted in favor of the speed humps; and 5 opposed. The cost for the speed humps is \$50,000. Mrs. Kellahan explained that \$13,000 remains in the Traffic Calming budget and encumbered funds from the Camp Road Sidewalk, Phase 2 project came in under budget by \$40,000. If approved, staff will apply for the encroachment permits from DOT. A motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Blank thanked the residents for their patience stating that the request for speed humps go back further than 2015. Councilman Milliken asked if data collection had been done and if they conform to our traffic calming program. Mrs. Kellahan stated that it conformed; some counts were done by the Town and some by Stantec. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced a successful James Island Pride Community clean-up on November 5. He thanked Dunkin Donuts and Publix for providing donuts and coffee. The next clean-up will be in February 2017. James Island Pride is accepting nominations for the 2016 Community Hero Awards. This award is given to individuals who have made a difference in their community through leadership, and community service. Nominations are due by December 31st and awards will be announced at the February Town Council meeting. Forms are on the Town's website and at Town Hall. James Island Arts and Charleston County Parks and Recreation hosted award winning poet, Kendra Hamilton on November 13 at McLeod Plantation. James Island Arts Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall. James Island Arts will be celebrating Arbor Day on Friday,

December 2 at 2 p.m. at #1 South Anderson (next to James Island Middle School). A Live Oak tree will be planted by the students from James Island Charter HS. Special thanks to Annie Purvis and her Art students for painting the mural on the wall at #1 South Anderson; James Island Lowe's; Sherwin-Williams; and Aukland Nursery (Walterboro) for making this community beautification project possible. Appreciation was also extended to Danny Burbage, City of Charleston Parks Department, and Amanda Barton, Landscape Architect, for their help and guidance with the project. Everyone is invited to attend the Arbor Day celebration.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 1st at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. Several Christmas theme performances will take place and hot-chocolate and s'mores will be served. The Charleston Performing Arts Center will be participating with us and after our event, they will host their "Folly Jolly" Christmas production at 7 p.m. at their theater on Folly Road. Community is invited.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced a special meeting of the Neighborhood Council on Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m. combining the November and December meetings due to the holidays. He encouraged everyone to attend an open house on Thursday, December 1st at James Island Charter HS for the Regional Walk/Bike Path study sponsored by the Council of Governments, 3-8 p.m.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey announced that the History Commission met on November 1st. The Battle of Dills Bluff marker has been shipped and the History Commission would like to install it a year from now on the date of the battle. The History Commission also voted on a resolution to save the Pine Tree Motel on Mosquito Beach from demolition and asked for the Town's support.

Resolutions

- a. Resolution #2016-16: In Support of Saving Mosquito Beach Motel Building: A motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Woolsey moved to amend the Resolution to add the name, "Pine Tree" Motel, Councilman Mullinax seconded. The amendment passed unanimously. Councilman Blank commented that the building is privately owned. Councilman Stokes asked if there were specific issues outside of the Resolution that the History Commission was looking at. Mayor Woolsey said the view of the History Commission is that Mosquito Beach is of historical significance. The development occurred in the 50's/ 60's and was where African-American social life occurred during segregation. The motel was where African-Americans stayed when they came to Mosquito Beach. Brief comments were made regarding the structural integrity of the building and the County wanting to demolish it. After the discussion, the motion passed 3-2; Councilmen Blank and Stokes opposed.
- b. Resolution #2016-17: Resolution to Delay Implementation of Traffic Signalization (Stop Light) at Mikell Drive: Councilman Mullinax said this is a request from Mr. Joe Qualey. He said both sides have excellent arguments for and against the light. At Mr. Qualey's request, he is bringing it before Council for a vote up or down. Councilman Mullinax said he mentioned to the Mayor whether a quick resolution could be done between the three entities (City, County, and Town); for the DOT to do a study within 90 days; not to have it open-ended and continue to go on. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Mullinax moved, and Mayor Woolsey seconded. Councilman Blank shared information he received from Charleston County. He said the light was requested by the Town in 2011; a public hearing was held in 2012, and a majority of the people that attended the public hearing voted in favor of the lights. In 2012 County Council directed the traffic lights to be installed at the intersection of Ft. Johnson Road and Mikell Drive. Councilman Blank said the County did a traffic study and the DOT agreed with it; and see no sense in doing another study. Councilman Milliken said he agreed with Councilman Blank and he supports two traffic signals at the roadway. It took four years to get a mass signal at Grimball and Folly, which

is in close proximity to an elementary school. He said the light will allow children safe access to the school once it is turned on. Councilman Milliken said seeing what we went through for that, and knowing that they already have one in the pipeline for Mikell Drive, he sees no reason to take it off the table now. Road engineers know more about traffic flow than politicians do and he would rather heed their advice and keep the light in as planned, implemented, and paid for. Councilman Mullinax asked how quickly could the DOT do a second study; if it could take more than 90 days. Mayor Woolsey said he doesn't think it would take 90 days, however; the traffic signal is scheduled to be turned on within 30 days after completion of the project. Mayor Woolsey said the project came to the Town in 2013 and it included those traffic signals; if people opposed it, they should have made it known to the Town, but waiting until it is scheduled to be turned on is pointless. He is unsure how the traffic signal will operate. Perhaps during low traffic times, he doesn't see why there couldn't be a flashing light and he anticipates pedestrians could push a button at any time to cross the street. He commented that it is unlikely that the traffic signal would be pulled down, but, there should be a way to change how the signal operates. Mayor Woolsey said he is not in favor of the Resolution. Councilman Blank said we don't know how hard it would be to take it down; but we do know how hard it would be to get another put up. Councilman Mullinax said he see strong merits for the light, but he was asked to bring it before Council for vote. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it failed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading: None

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