

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd., James Island, SC on Thursday, October 17, 2019. The following members of Council were present: Leonard Blank, Mayor Pro-Tem, Garrett Milliken, Joshua P. Stokes, Darren "Troy" Mullinax and Mayor Bill Woolsey, presided. Also, Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Sgt. Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order and led Council in prayer. Boy Scout Troop #50, led by Scout Master, Mark Johnson, performed the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Woolsey thanked the scouts for leading the pledge. FOIA: this meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

2019-2020 Community Assistance Grant Requestors:

Dana Ellis, James Island Arts Council: Ms. Ellis thanked Council and spoke in support of funding for the James Island Arts Council. She expressed excitement about the continuing and new collaborations with the Town to bring quality educational and cultural programming to James Island. She said feedback from a recent public charrette has motivated the Arts Council to continue to strive for high quality arts because people are still grieving the loss of the Camp Rd. library and the departure of the Charleston Performing Arts Center. She commented on the Art Council's fundraising efforts including the Silent Art Auction, student artist competition, Sea Island Arts Fest; James Island Outreach, and other art events. Virginia Nieland, the Arts Council Treasurer, was also present.

Cole Campbell, James Island HS Band: Mr. Campbell spoke in support of funding for the James Island HS Band. He thanked the Town for its continued support. The band is growing and is in triple digits with over 300 + students. The band's mission is to be more involved in the community.

Rowdy Floyd, James Island Youth Soccer Club (JIYSC) : Mr. Floyd thanked Council for its past support to the JIYSC. The Soccer Club is the oldest in the State and serves over 400 families and is dedicated to teaching boys and girls soccer.

Rich Stotum, VFW Post #445: Mr. Stotum thanked Council. The VFW is requesting funds to repair the roof damaged by Hurricane Dorian. He said the hurricane caused \$50,000 in uninsured damages. Donations have been received from other sources, but not what is needed for the repair. Post #445 serves over 300 veterans.

Julie Frye, Remember Niger Coalition: Ms. Frye thanked Council for its previous support. The coalition sponsors a School Spirit Fun Run for Niger. This is a 5K run/walk at the James Island County Park. The participants are children from James Island schools, approximately 300-350 along with their parents. Funds from the Town would help to off-set the costs for the run.

Denise Ladson-Johnson, Opportunity Calls Everyone (OCE): Thanked Council and spoke in support of her non-profit for youth development. Ms. Ladson-Johnson said the funds would help to expand academic mentoring on James Island; bring awareness to students through the purchase of books, one-on-one mentoring, and would foster self-esteem in the students. Ms. Ladson-Johnson is working with the West Ashley Salvation Army to begin a Boys & Girls Club on James Island.

Public Comments:

Susan Frauley, 512 Wampler Dr: spoke about traffic calming in Eastwood. Ms. Frauley said she is a former resident of the Harbor Woods subdivision. She was unable to attend the traffic calming meeting for the Eastwood residents. She expressed concern about how the signage for the traffic calming is displayed in Harbor Woods with hideous huge white lettering on the roadway and fears this will happen in Eastwood.

She supports traffic calming but objects to having the lettering on the roadway in the neighborhood. She talked about the beauty of James Island and that would have a negative effect on the neighborhood. .

Consent Agenda:

- a. **Minutes of September 19, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting:** Motion to approve by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. **Finance Report:** Merrell Roe, Finance Director, provided an overview of the Finance Report commenting on local option sales tax (LOST) revenue for July, Jordan St. Traffic Calming, 10,000 sandbags purchased, and payment to JIPSD for Tax Relief.
- b. **Administrator's Report:** Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator's report included an overview of meetings and events held during the month including Code Enforcement cases. Mrs. Kellahan added that the Island-wide Drainage Study would be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23 as a drop-in from 6-8 p.m. The public is invited to learn how the study would assist all JI jurisdictions with its drainage improvements. Engineers with Thomas & Hutton will be present to answer questions. Mrs. Kellahan informed Council that tree permit costs were waived for Hurricane Dorian damages.
- c. **Public Works:** Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, reviewed his report. He added that during Hurricane Dorian, James Island experienced sustained tropical storm force winds with gusts of 80 MPH along the harbor side neighborhoods, rain amounts between 7- and 10-inches island wide over a 24-hour period, widespread tree damage and some structural damage and widespread power outages. While there were some instances of ponding water and localized flooding during the height of the storm, the drainage systems in the Town performed well and as intended. There were no reports of long-term flooding or standing water.
- d. **Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report:** Sgt. James reviewed the Island Sheriff's Patrol Report and gave an update on recent crimes. He is working with Sgt. Barton with the Animal Control Unit about a problem with stray dogs. Sgt. Barton has met with Mrs. Kellahan and gave her an update on this situation. Sgt. James said on October 25, School Resource Officers will be stationed at Stiles Point and Murray Lesaine Elementary and a few other JI schools.

Requests for Approval:

2019-2020 Community Assistance Grant Requests: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval the recommended awards for the Community Assistance Grants. The requests highlighted in "yellow" totaling \$30,000 would be paid from the General Fund, and the requests highlighted in "green" totaling \$12, 300 would be paid from the Hospitality Tax. Mayor Woolsey asked and received permission to separate the James Island Outreach request from the others. Motion to approve the recommended requests for the 2019-2020 Community Assistance Grants was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Passed unanimously. Mayor Woolsey passed the gavel to Mayor Pro-tem Blank for the vote on James Island Outreach. Mayor Pro-tem Blank asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Motion passed 4-1; Mayor Woolsey abstained from vote.

Redevelopment of 896 Folly Rd. and Purchase of Easement from Corky's: Mrs. Kellahan stated that this proposal is far from being a park that may have been heard on the news and social media. She said the conceptual renderings is a project to beautify and make standard improvements to a key intersection in the Town and to partner with a local business that has been in operation on James Island for over 30 years. Danny O'Quinn, and Daniel Stewart, the owners of Corky's were present to answer questions. Mrs. Kellahan said Corky's is proposing to purchase the parcel from Charleston County at their asking price of \$500,000, and the Town, \$100,000 for 30% of the parcel for easement and public improvements. The Town would be using Hospitality Taxes to purchase the easement and improvements. Mrs. Kellahan said hospitality funds are specifically earmarked for improvements along the commercial corridor and this proposal hits every aspect of the Rethink Folly Road Plan and the idea of leveraging public funds with

private funds to achieve this positive redevelopment. Mrs. Kellahan said there has been several different approaches regarding this property with Charleston County since 2017; and the Town has been looking into this since Subway vacated the building. The County staff will be recommending this proposal to County Council at the Finance Committee meeting next week. She said if the County does not sell to Corky's, the County will put the property out for bids. Mrs. Kellahan recommended taking advantage of this opportunity. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes.

Councilman Milliken said he would vote against the request mainly because it seems like an awful lot of money for a very little amount of property. He also feels that the bus stop where it is currently located near the BI-LO has a very large parking lot for people to park and ride public transportation going into town. These are his reasons; but he agree that it would be nice to beautify the area because he is tired of looking at a deserted building. But, we should consider other options. Mayor Woolsey asked Mrs. Kellahan the location of the bus stop and she said it is now in front of the Pizza Hut and it would not have to be moved very much. She said in conversations with CARTA there is enough room for a bus to stop there. Councilman Blank said the old Subway building is one of the biggest eyesores on James Island and if we have the opportunity, we should fix it. Councilman Stokes talked about big box retailers; that we have enough of them on Folly Rd. and we should make the people proud of that intersection. He said it is not an insignificant amount of money; however, it is earmarked for hospitality use and that is a good use of the money. He is in support of the request. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it passed 3-2. Councilmembers Milliken and Mullinax voted no.

Pet Waste Stations: Pilot Program Recommended by Drainage Committee: Councilman Stokes spoke about the formation of the pilot program. He said Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, could also answer questions about the program. This matter was brought up at the Drainage Committee meeting. The program is two-fold. First, Public Works staff had been noticing that residents were placing pet wastes into trashcans as they walk their dogs; and two, the James Island Creek TMDL found elevated levels of enterococcus bacteria in waters of the creek, which is an indicator of pet wastes. Eight (8) locations are proposed for the pet waste stations. He said in discussions with the PSD, they have small waste containers that could be placed in the eight locations and they would empty them during their regular run. The Town would supply the waste bags and materials. The cost for eight locations is \$4,832 including the first year of waste bags. The total program cost for the eight locations over 5 years would be \$9,632. Councilman Stokes said the Drainage Committee, (comprised of full Council), recommends moving forward with the pilot program. Motion passed unanimously.

Stiles Drive Traffic Calming: Mrs. Kellahan presented the request for traffic calming on Stiles Drive. She said over the years staff had received many complaints about speeding along Stiles Drive. As a result of staff's internal traffic studies, it identified speeding concerns and Council engaged the services of Johnson Laschober Associates (JLA) at its June meeting to investigate a traffic calming plan. Three meetings were held with the residents along Stiles Drive. JLA's proposal includes speed humps on Stiles Drive as well as on Jerdone. Mrs. Kellahan noted good turnouts from the residents and those in attendance were in favor of calming the traffic. Mrs. Kellahan said her follow-up emails did not include feedback for tonight's meeting in favor or opposition. The estimate for construction is \$35,000. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Eastwood Traffic Calming Plan: Mrs. Kellahan presented the request for traffic calming in Eastwood. She said the same process was followed as Stiles Dr. She said some areas in Eastwood are City and Town. Laura Cabiness, JLA, is present to answer questions from Council. Council was provided updated information and feedback from neighborhood rep., Katherine Shapiro, present tonight. Mrs. Kellahan expressed appreciation to Mrs. Shapiro for her help in gathering information from the neighborhood. She said, overall, 80% of those who responded were in support of traffic calming. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Blank said he hopes that we would not have

signage painted in the roads as mentioned by Mrs. Frauley, during the Public Comments. He does not think we need to paint the roads but we should do what is necessary to calm the traffic. Councilman Stokes noted that the options did not say anything about striping or having wording on the roadway. He asked if that would be included or addressed later. Mrs. Kellahan said she did not think it was included in the options and referred the question to Ms. Cabiness. Ms. Cabiness said that is done as a standard to make the stop signs more obvious but it is not a requirement. Mayor Woolsey explained about the stop signs on Northshore; and why white signage was added, and stop was written on the street. The road was paved; however, he is not happy with the job that was done. Councilman Milliken asked about signage because usually a speed hump is accompanied with a sign. Mrs. Kellahan said there are signs that goes with the humps and we would work with the property owners on the placement of them. Councilman Stokes asked for an explanation of the two Options. Mrs. Kellahan said 30 were in support of Option 1; and 32 in support of Option 2. She said the difference is Option 2 does not include the all-way stops at Sweet Bay and Wildwood. She said if the DOT does not permit the all-way stop, we would move forward with trying to permit Option 2. Estimated cost for construction is \$62,300. Motion passed unanimously.

Santee Drainage Improvements: Mrs. Kellahan requested approval for drainage improvements at 841 Santee Street. She said this project has been ongoing since early spring. The proposal is from Eadie's Construction, one of the Town's on-call drainage contractors at \$65,634. Mrs. Kellahan noted that the Town had estimated a cost at \$80,000 and the proposal came in under that cost. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Blank. Motion passed unanimously.

Town to Negotiate with Charleston County for Full-time Deputy: Mayor Woolsey said he has contacted the Sheriff's Office about the concept of having a full-time deputy for the Town. The idea is to have the Island Sheriff's Patrol modified so that rather than having all part-time deputies, we would have one full-time Sheriff's Deputy dedicated to the Town. The Town would pay the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the Sheriffs Office would pay the deputy's salary. Mayor Woolsey said he would like to ask for Council's support in order to move forward. He said the Sheriff's Office is open to this concept but it is not something that we would begin next month. He said before any decisions are made, he would bring it to Council and have specific costs. Mayor Woolsey said there would be a one-time cost to equip a deputy and the annual salary with benefits. A motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken asked if there is a range for what the costs would be, and Mayor Woolsey said a one-time equipment cost is \$80,000 and a beginning deputy salary could be \$80,000. A more experienced deputy would be close to \$100,000 annually. Mayor Woolsey said he would recommend to the Town Administrator next year to expand the Island Sheriff's Patrol budget and substitute for how many part-time deputies we have. Both Councilmen Blank and Mullinax said this is an excellent idea. Councilman Blank said it would bring more presence to the community by having a full-time employee. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommended Stormwater Policy Updates: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to defer consideration for the Town to look into the City's draft. Councilman Milliken moved, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported that the Helping Hands service was rescheduled to Saturday, October 26. Volunteers meet at the Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. The Committee still needs volunteers, contact Stan Kozikowski, (860) 847-0544. James Island Litter Pickup is rescheduled to November 9 at 9:00 a.m. due to the opening of the new library on November 2. An Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, December 6. More details will follow.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced that the Lights On After School event would be held on Thursday, October 24 at the Town Hall. The event is sponsored in conjunction with the James Island Kaleidoscope After School Program. The event is from 6-8 p.m.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Booklet was reviewed at the October meeting. He passed around a copy for Council to view. The Booklet will be revised to add a section about our neighbor, First Baptist Church.

Rethink Folly Road Committee Report: Mayor Woolsey announced that at the last meeting, the Toole Group would prioritize the information they received from the group. The next meeting would be announced.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Stokes gave a brief update from the Drainage Committee. At that meeting the group recommended moving forward with the Pet Waste Stations (previously discussed). The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 8 at 3 p.m. after the Stormwater Managers Meeting.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2019-20: Adoption of Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Report by Charleston County: Mrs. Kellahan presented a Resolution for Repetitive Loss that the Town is required to adopt for the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System. The report prepared by Charleston County details properties and areas that frequently floods, identifies sources of flooding and determines mitigation actions to correct flooding issues. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2019-21: Request for SCDOT to Install Speed Limit Signs in Residential Neighborhoods: Councilman Mullinax spoke in support of a request to the SCDOT to install more speed limit signs within residential neighborhoods. He noted that most speed limit signs are only posted at the entrance of a neighborhood. By posting these signs throughout, people are aware of the speed limit. Councilman Mullinax thanked Mark Johnson for erecting traffic radar signs. Motion was seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2019-09: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2018-16 Pertaining to Environmentally Accepted Packaging and Products: Councilman Milliken spoke in support of amending our ordinance with the changes made by the SC Retail Association for single-use Plastic Regulations. He noted that the City of Charleston and the Town of Mt. Pleasant has made these changes and for the Town to do the same for consistency. This regulation goes into effect January 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to enter into an executive session in accordance with 30-4-70(a) Code of Laws of South Carolina for personnel matters regarding the Town Administrator's

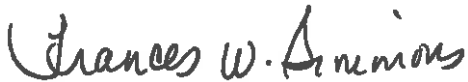
Contract Renewal. Councilman Blank seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Council entered at 8:01 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m. Mayor Woolsey stated that no votes were taken while Council was in the executive session. Mayor Woolsey moved to extend the Town Administrator's Contract to April, 2022, Councilman Milliken seconded, and passed unanimously.

Mayor Woolsey moved to increase the Town Administrator's salary with a 3% merit; Councilman Milliken seconded and passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk