

The Town of James Island held a Special Town Council meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC. The following members of Council were present: Leonard Blank, Mayor Pro-tem, Garrett Milliken, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, Joshua P. Stokes, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, presided. Also, Frances Simmons, Town Clerk, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, and Kristen Crane, Planning Director. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the Special Meeting to order and led Council in prayer and 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.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Stokes; seconded by Councilman Blank. Councilman Milliken moved to amend the agenda to include public comments; Councilman Mullinax seconded. The motion passed. Councilman Blank voted no.

Public Comments: No one from the public spoke.

Expand Island Sheriff’s Patrol: Mayor Woolsey presented a request for Council to approve an immediate 50% expansion of the Island Sheriff’s Patrol, approving an increase in expenditure of \$100,000 per year from \$206,500 to \$306,500. The decrease in the Town’s anticipated unencumbered funds balance by the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year is from \$1,085,058 to \$985,058. This balance plus the Town’s reserve will be \$1,875,608, which is 58% of current operating revenues. The approval of this expenditure will be the equivalent of four (4) officers. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Mayor Woolsey recognized Chief Eric Watson, Charleston County Sheriffs’ Office who gave an update of the recent violent crimes in the Greenhill area. He assured Town Council and citizens that this is not a crime spree; that the people involved know each other. He said phone calls have been coming into the Sheriff’s Office; however, there has been no sit down interviews. The Sheriff’s Office is continuing to work on the crimes in Greenhill. Sergeant James gave an update on the Island Sheriff’s Patrol staffing, noting that the deputies work between 90-110 hours/week and that expanding the service would help the Island Sheriff’s Patrol to touch more people.

Council had opportunity to ask questions of Chief Watson and Sergeant James. Afterward, the motion was called and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk