

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, February 15, 2018. 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, Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Finance Officer, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Sergeant Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order; led Council in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: The following persons addressed Council:

Julie Ransel, 1046 Grand Concourse, spoke about the plan for the speed humps and signage in Harbor Woods subdivision. Ms. Ransel said she is new to the area; having lived here for three years, but notices quite a bit of traffic and has gotten emails from neighbors about speeding. She asked, since these concerns have been raised, if the police has seen an increase in the number of tickets they write for speeding and cars parked illegally. On the corner where she lives are at least seven "No Parking" from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on school days. She is at home frequently and does not see the police writing a lot of tickets. She is concerned with all of the thought that went into the Plan, will a \$65,000 price tag change what the neighbors along Grand Concourse and Harbor Woods are hoping to see.

Nicole Alexander, 995 Harbortowne, commented that people cut-thru Harbor Woods to get to Grand Concourse or Foxcroft, both of which are controlled by safety measures that works. She is somewhat baffled that it is not looked at that Harbortowne would become a cut-thru with people flying through. She understands that Harbortowne was not looked at in the initial study that was preposterous. She said children could not play in the front yard - a neighbor counted over 30 kids under 8 years old. Ms. Alexander said after she asked the Town for help, a radar was put up to do a possible Phase II, which leaves the door wide open to absolutely nothing being done - - possibly does not sit well with people that has little kids because Phase II may or may not happen. The radar, (left on Harbortowne/off Grand Concourse) is too close to the Stop Sign and clocked her at 19 mph. It does not depict how fast people actually drive. She extended an invitation for anyone to sit in her front yard and see how fast people drive. She does not want Harbortowne to be forgotten because it will become a shift.

Brad Hauss, 983 Harbortowne, thanked Council and appreciates what the Town is doing. He agreed with many of the concerns raised by Ms. Alexander. Mr. Hauss said he attended the first meeting when it was discussed to close both entrances; however, no one would be able to get out of either entrance. Many irrational ideas were going around at that time. He is in support of the Plan and sent a memo to Mrs. Kellahan about his concerns and a proposal to fix them. Mr. Hauss shared his recommendations by show of the Traffic Calming Plan map displayed. He said there are 30 children in the neighborhood under age 10; he has three under age 5. Under his proposal, speed humps are out of the question. He asked Council to be proactive, not reactive and consider that the lives of children could be in danger. His recommendation is to have two (2) Stop Signs at the intersection of Harbortowne (where Seafarer comes out) and one (1) Stop Sign at N. Channel. He asked Council to reconsider including something in the original plan for these routes.

Roxanne Campbell, 909 Regatta, lives at the intersection of Nabors and Regatta and can see the traffic from her front door. There has been an exponential increase in traffic in the 12 years she has lived in the neighborhood. She said the Town has good measures in place but not diverting traffic onto their street would be helpful. She is a grandmother of three small grandchildren and her home is on a corner. Her leaf bag is run over weekly and the mailbox is hit quite often. She is happy to give a count of the number of cars that fail to stop at the Stop Sign. It is frightening for people that walk their dogs, walk with children, or jog to enjoy the neighborhood. The new condominiums going up will cause traffic to escalate. She asked

Council to consider not spending that amount of money on improvements until that section in Harbor Woods can be addressed.

Bucky Hinson, 930 Regatta, expressed concern about the location of the speed bumps and not have them directly in people's yards. Another concern is sidewalks. When he backs out of his driveway and kids are walking in the middle of the street, you cannot see them. A sidewalk is needed between Grand Concourse down to Nabors, and back to Lawton Harbor. These are the main areas where people walk.

Keith Mayfield, 1001 Foxcroft, supports the Plan and his concerns has been addressed.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of January 18, 2018 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: In addition to the written report, Finance Officer, Merrell Roe reported under Projects - \$14,000, the majority for the Fort Johnson drainage project; three payrolls for Island Sheriff's Patrol; purchase of a 2018 Nissan Pick-up, and payment for 207 youths to participate in the City's Recreation Programs. She noted an increase in attendance over last year. Shred event on Friday, March 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.
- b. Administrator Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan provided updates on the construction of Town Hall, estimated completion in April. Emergency Preparedness meeting on Thursday, March 8, lessons learned from Hurricane Harvey will be reviewed; Budget Workshop, Thursday, March 1 at 6 p.m.
- c. Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson reviewed the PW report and gave an overview of discussions from the February Storm Water Managers meeting. March meeting on the 14th at 1:30 p.m., Town Hall.
- d. Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Sergeant James responded to questions asked about speeding in Harbor Woods and gave a brief update. He asked that his cell phone number be given to citizens. The January Island Sheriff's Patrol report was reviewed and accepted as information.

Requests for Approval:

Drainage Improvements – Waterloo Street: Mrs. Kellahan reported work includes repair of a drainage box and replacement of a damaged driveway culvert. The drainage box is \$15,000 and \$7,700 for the driveway culvert. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the project and said the repairs will help the failed cross-line. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Harbor Woods Traffic Calming Plan: Mrs. Kellahan referred to a memo from Johnson Laschober & Associates, emails from residents, and the Harbor Woods Traffic Calming Plan. She said the information is a culmination of two public meetings, (December and January). Mrs. Kellahan reviewed recommendations: add two speed humps (Regatta and Grand Concourse); replace three existing substandard speed humps on Nabors; replace existing intersection signage with better ones with reflective coatings, markings, and stop bars at the actual Stop Signs; four additional intersections to be upgraded to all-way stops; and additional striping to the curves along Foxcroft estimated at \$65-\$70,000. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Councilman Blank said he understands people may want more; however, a little of something is better than doing nothing, and it looks to be a good Plan. He is sure that we could go into areas and do more; which

probably stands true for every neighborhood on James Island. He believes this will help a great deal and look forward to seeing it done.

Councilman Milliken agreed. He said the Plan is a good start towards giving some necessary relief and safety measures to the neighborhood. He said it is likely that we could do a study on Harbortowne for the possibility of adding speed humps or other types of appliances to that location as well.

Mayor Woolsey said he drove by the radar today and the location is not ideal. His thought was to move it; or keep it there for a while and check another location, (further down in middle of the road), and use our other traffic equipment on Regatta. Mayor Woolsey said we are moving to start that process. He said citizens should understand that money budgeted is not the limit; or, that something will have to be cut out, or money moved elsewhere. He does not think there would be an issue on Harbortowne because of money. Mayor Woolsey said the neighborhood built 3 years ago in Harbortowne changed the character of that section. The Town had gotten many complaints during the construction phase but has quieted down from our perspective the last few years. Mayor Woolsey said the concerns were heard loud and clear. We will pursue them and come back with results.

Councilman Stokes said the concerns raised has been heard. He believes it is important when we do the studies on Harbortowne, to look now and after the project is completed because it could potentially change the traffic flow. He agreed this is a good place to start because construction will take some time. Mayor Woolsey said that is a great concern and one of the reasons we are starting now to compare and see if we get a shift-over. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilman Blank reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals would hear a case at its March meeting for a full-service carwash on Folly Road, (Hucks Seafood near the marsh). Mayor Woolsey asked Councilman Blank if the Town is trying to get a carwash on that property; Councilman Blank said "absolutely not". Mayor Woolsey also asked if the Town is requesting approval from the BZA, and Councilman Blank said "no", the applicant is requesting the approval and he is unsure the Planning staff will recommend it.

Councilman Stokes said it was his understanding that the case was to be heard in February but was withdrawn. Mrs. Kellahan said it was postponed not withdrawn. Councilman Blank added that the property will encroach into the critical line and the applicant is providing information to the Planning staff.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported that James Island Pride held an Adopt-a-Highway Litter Pickup on Sat. February 3. Sixteen volunteers collected 37 bags of litter (555 pounds). The next pick-up is Sat. March 10, 9-11 a.m. Councilman Milliken thanked committee members for their service: Amy Ball, Inez Brown-Crouch, DeAnn Grayson, Henrietta Martin, Stan Kozikowski, Kathy Moore, and Mary Beth Berry. James Island Arts will host its Fifth Annual Art Auction Sat. February 24, 5-7 p.m. This is a juried art show and silent auction. Monies raised helps JI Art teachers to purchase supplies. A Poetry Workshop will be on Sat. March 17 (Town Hall) and Poetry Reading on Sun. March 18 at McLeod. Both events will feature Cave Canem Fellow, Gary Johnson, 2-4 p.m. JI Arts committee members were recognized for their service: Katherine Williams, Inez Brown-Crouch, Meredith Poston, Mary Beth Berry, Dana Ellis, Susan Milliken, Laura Delamazza, Pat Hiott-Mason, Mark Huerkamp, Catherine Lampkin, Shawn Hallifax and Ann-Marie Cannon.

Presentation of Community Hero Awards by James Island Pride: Chair Amy Ball announced that the Community Hero Award allows the Town of James Island to acknowledge and thank volunteers who have given significant time, talent and energy to our community over the course of one year's time. The candidates should demonstrate evidence of volunteer service in the area of leadership, community service,

and mobilizing the generations by contributing to youth and adults working together in partnership in the community. This year's Community Heroes are:

David Parler: nominated by Joshua Stokes, goes above and beyond his job as principal of Camp Road Middle School. He attends his students' events on his own time and strives to make sure those in our community have immediate assistance and long-term support if they have encountered hardships. His work at Camp Road Middle goes beyond in all ways: academic, maintenance, community relations, and working towards a successful merge and new school for the Fort Johnson / James Island Middle students, faculty and staff.

Katie Dahlheim: nominated by Sandra Stringer, started the Lowcountry Blessing Boxes project, which sets up anonymous donation drop off sites all over the lowcountry. People can use these sites to donate food, and those in need can pick it up. Simple, smart, and real actions to help our community.

Alexandra Purro: nominated by Sandra Stringer, was instrumental in getting the Nano Farmers Market and now the Town Market on James Island going. Her energy and passion brought something new and wonderful to our island.

Keith and Melanie Bonow: nominated by Cathy Lott, are neighborhood angels. He told the neighbor he noticed she was unable to do much yard work, and proceeded to cut her grass for a year. He does this for many of his neighbors, out of the goodness of his heart.

All heroes received a certificate of appreciation for outstanding volunteer service. Congratulations to David Parler, this year's winner of the golden rake!

Proclamation Honoring Community Heroes: Accepted by acclamation.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced the Second Annual Easter Egg Roll on Sat. March 31 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. This event will be held in conjunction with the Town's Farmers' Market at the JI Youth Soccer field.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax requested to appoint two members to the Neighborhood Council. He moved to appoint Keith Mayfield to represent Harbor Woods, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax moved to appoint Lauren Gellatly to represent White House Plantation, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously. The Neighborhood Council will meet Thurs. Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey reported a successful ceremony for the dedication of the Simeon Pinckney Historical Marker on Sat. Feb. 10. He thanked History Commission member Inez Brown-Crouch for her work and research on this project. Brockington Associates presented the History Commission with a list of 14 historic sites at its Feb. meeting for a History Booklet. Other sites will be suggested.

Proclamations/Resolutions

- Resolution #2018-04: Island Sheriffs' Patrol Officer of the Year: Mayor Woolsey read Resolution #2018-04 recognizing Deputy Daniel vanHeemstede Obelt as the Island Sheriffs' Patrol Officer of the Year. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Deputy vanHeemstede Obelt received a plaque, \$100.00, and a certificate of appreciation. Sergeant James made remarks about Deputy vanHeemstede Obelt's accomplishments and outstanding service and that he is putting a dent in crime. Motion passed 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 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances W. Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "S".

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk