

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, February 21, 2019. The following members of Council were present: Leonard Blank, Mayor Pro-Tem, Garrett Milliken, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, presided. Absent: Councilmember Joshua P. Stokes, who gave notice. Also, Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, 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 and led Council in prayer, followed by 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.

Proclamation Honoring the Community Heroes: Mayor Woolsey read a Proclamation recognizing community heroes Sarah and Martin Hyatt, Sergeant Shawn James, James Island Actkidvists, Mary Edna Fraser, and James Island Vikings. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Presentation of Community Hero Awards by James Island Pride: James Island Pride Chair, Henrietta Martin, Council Liaison, Garrett Milliken, and Mayor Woolsey presented certificates to the community heroes. Councilman Milliken asked the persons who made nominations to tell why their hero is being recognized.

Sarah and Martin Hyatt (nominated by Councilman Milliken): Sarah and Martin Hyatt have been consistent participants in the James island Pride litter pickups for several years. In addition to this opportunity to engage in community service, I have observed them on several occasions removing litter from parks on James Island. If more James Islanders followed the example of Sara and Martin Hyatt, we would have a litter free island.

Sergeant Shawn James (nominated by Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator and staff): Sergeant. Shawn James has worked as the Coordinator for the Island Sheriff’s Patrol for the Town of James Island since its fourth and final incorporation in 2012. During these 6 and half years, James Island has seen a remarkable increase in police presence on this island. The program began with just a few off-duty officers and now has expanded to nearly two dozen deputies. Sergeant. James hand-selects deputies to be a part of this group and works diligently to ensure the Island Sheriff’s Patrol is staffed with hard-working officers all dedicated to making James Island a safer community. He engages with the community and James Island residents have come to know and trust him. The Town staff is able to reach out to him with problems and he always strives to find a solution. His dedication to excellence was honored at the County level when he received the Chief Deputy Carrol Gordan Award in 2015 for Community Relations, which he accredits solely to his work on James Island. During his time here, many new programs and resources have been added to better serve the community. Those include the License Plate Recognition Camera on Folly Rd, Weekly Reporting of Crime Statistics, Deputy of the Quarter, Annual National Night Out Event, Enhanced Crime Prevention Signage, the Illumination Project and Dining with Deputies. During the summer and fall of 2018, there was heightened criminal activity on Greenhill Rd. Sergeant. James went above and beyond the call of duty, working around the clock and dedicating resources to James Island to solve the crimes. Perhaps the most outstanding work Sergeant. James does is behind the scenes. He walks the neighborhoods and really gets to know the community. He gives out his personal cell phone number to anyone needing assistance. He takes time to come to all of the James Island community events, including the regular meetings of the James Island Neighborhood Council, to give reports and hear the concerns of citizens. He

builds bridges and connections, which make our island residents feel safer and valued. We in turn value him and all that he does for James Island.

James Island Actkidvists (nominated by Eileen Dority): Children are our future, and they inherit the legacy of the advancements and missteps we make as a society. One group of children on James Island are not waiting to see what kind of community they will inherit. James Island Ocean Actkidvists, with guidance from Lindsay Henderson and Melinda Walto Ryan, are taking a leadership role in addressing some major issues here on James Island. Just recently, a group of Actkidvists wrote and gave public comment in support of the Town of James Island plastics reduction ordinance. In November 2018, Actkidvists also gave comments at the Charleston City Council meeting in support of the City's plastics reduction ordinance. Giving public comments in a packed room is hard for many adults, but these kids delivered their comments with poise and clarity. They are well informed and communicate their vision of the future through action and involvement in the regulatory process.

Actkidvists have a Facebook page where they share information on environmental issues important to James Island residents and encourage engagement of both kids and adults through videos and posters. It is peer encouragement that so often result in action. Having a group of kids pull together and be the example of engagement for their peers, takes both and leadership.

Actkidvists are engaged in hands on volunteer activities. In December 2018, Actkidvists sponsored a beach sweep on Folly Beach where children of all ages and parents scoured the beach for plastics and other trash. They also started a pledge to use reusable bags and straw. Over 350 children signed the pledge. Actkidvists hosted a booth at the November FamJam in Marion Square where kids and parents worked alongside each other to support and encourage a personal commitment to reducing unnecessary plastic waste.

It is collaborative efforts between adults and children, like the one carried out by James Island Ocean Actkidvists that encourage and inspire the next generation of humans to engage with their government, understand how laws and regulations are made and care about the future of our area, the world in which we live and the ocean that we share with so many marine species.

Heroes come in all ages, sizes and backgrounds and thus I am honored to nominate these brave kids and their parents for the Town of James Island Community Hero Award.

Edna Fraser (nominated by Carolyn Sotka). Read by JI Pride Chair, Henrietta Martin): Mary Edna is a longtime James Islander who is passionate about preserving and protecting James Island. In particular, preserving our waterways and keeping them clean and pollution free. She advocates for this and inspires all generations with her amazing art, which is topical and focused on James Island geography and waterways. She has passionately advocated for sensible development that will maintain the integrity of our island and its irreplaceable beauty. She takes her art nationwide and worldwide in promoting sustainability and protection of our low country natural resources. She also works very closely with groups like Charleston Waterkeeper and the Coastal Conservation League to promote protection of our environment and the integrity of our waterways.

James Island Vikings (nominated by Megan Williams and Melanie Miller): The James Island Vikings are an inspiration. They formed around 12 years ago with the goal of giving back to our community. Their fund raising has included cancer charities like Dragon Boat Racing and Bo's roast which is a chili cook off that raised over \$20,000 for Camp Happy Days for kids fighting cancer. They also help set the camp each year. They donate food to Pet Helpers, participate in Folly Beach sweeps, they cook and tend to the homeless and quietly help those who need a hand up. They donate their time, money, skills and manual labor. Though they never look for recognition for their kindness, they deserve to be thanked and recognized for their hard work and compassion.

Each community hero received a certificate of appreciation, a 2018 community hero award, and picture.

Public Comment:

Martin Williams, 1166-A Dills Bluff Road: Martin Williams, Vice Chair, James Island Pride thanked Henrietta Martin, (JI Pride Chair), Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Milliken, staff and Sergeant James for their participation in the Sat. Feb. 2 litter pickup on Seaside Lane and Greenhill Road. The turnout was good and 30 volunteers that collected 77 bags of litter.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes: January 17, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting:
- b. Proclamation, 2019 Women in Construction Week

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

Information Reports:

- a. **Finance Report:** Finance Director, Merrell Roe presented highlights and gave an overview of the written report.
- b. **Administrator Report:** Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan presented an overview of the written report. She reminded Council of the Budget Workshop scheduled March 7 @ 6 pm.

Greenbelt Presentation: Mrs. Kellahan gave an overview of the 2019 Greenbelt Program noting the criteria for the application process. The application is due date February 28. Mrs. Kellahan shared that the Town and the City of Charleston have been working together on a plan for a new Park on Folly Road. "Brantley Park", a 0.46-acre parcel is located at the corner of Folly Road and Brantley Drive. The property is in the City, but surrounds Town residents. It includes beautiful grand oak trees, a dock at the end of a small creek and marsh views towards Ellis Creek. The Town and City propose to share the cost of purchasing the site equally, each using a portion of their Greenbelt allocation. The appraised value of the property is \$466,000, so each municipality would split the cost 50/50 at \$233,000 each. Councilman Milliken asked about access to the park from Folly Road, if there is a parking lot to get to the property. Mrs. Kellahan said there is an existing curb cut and space for a small parking lot. Councilman Milliken also asked if there is a hard surface for ADA (Americans Disability Act) and Mrs. Kellahan said, no, not currently. Copy of presentation provided.

- c. **Public Works Report:** Public Works Director, Mark Johnson reviewed the written report and provided highlights of the month's activities.

Presentation on Island Wide Drainage Basin Study – Task 1: Mr. Johnson gave an overview and scope of the island wide study. He said that the Town is working with the County and City to identify all drainage

basins on the island, the persistent flooding, maintenance, and each jurisdiction has a separate infrastructure map depicting problem areas. Mr. Johnson reviewed the parameters of an intergovernmental agreement with the City, County and Town and each jurisdiction's involvement. Councilman Milliken asked if the infrastructure map was available on the website or could be for citizens to see what progress is being made. Mayor Woolsey noted that Task II would be completed by the end of March and priorities will be developed for areas that need repair. Copy of presentation provided,

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Sergeant. James presented the Island Sheriff's Patrol and the monthly crime reports. Sergeant James reported an increase in vehicle break-ins mainly due to unlocked cars. He commented on the Feb. 2 litter pickup on Seaside Lane/Greenhill Road, that it was a good event and thanked everyone that participated.

Requests for Approval:

Landscaping on Ft. Johnson Road, near Harbor Woods: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval a request for landscaping on Ft. Johnson Rd. near Harbor Woods. The cost is \$19,500 for Natural Directors, LLC to install new plant material along the right-of-way to serve as a screen for the homes. These trees will consist of 30 gallon Leyland Cypress and Red Cedar planted on 4' centers. The trees will be 6-8' tall and alternated by species. The cost is for the purchase of material, shipping, and installation of 78 trees. The price does not include a warranty because they are not under irrigation. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Blank, Councilman Milliken asked where the location is and Mayor Woolsey said it is on the same side of the road, by the high school. Motion passed unanimously.

Award of Dills Bluff Boardwalk Project: Mrs. Kellahan stated that two bids were received for the Dills Bluff sidewalk project at the bid opening on Feb. 2. Mrs. Kellahan recommended award of the contract to Blutide Marine Construction, the low bidder for \$285,489. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken thanked those who participated in the Feb. 2 Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup. Fifty volunteers picked up 37 bags of litter from our roadways. He also thanked the Triangle Assn. for hosting a litter pickup in the Seaside Lane/Greenhill Road neighborhoods, where 77 bags were collected. These two groups collected over 100 bags of litter. James Island Pride will host a gorilla trash pick-up on Saturday, April 13 from 9-11 a.m. Councilman Milliken recognized Stan Koszickowski, Chairman of the Helping Hands Committee. Helping Hands is looking for volunteers and interested persons should contact Stan at (860) 847-0544.

Childrens Commission: Mrs. Kellahan announced for Councilman Stokes that the Annual Easter Egg Roll would be held on Saturday, April 20 in partnership with the Town Market at the Town Hall. .

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Councilman Mullinax presented a nomination to the Neighborhood Council, Diana Belknap to represent Lighthouse Point. Councilman Mullinax moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey announced that at the last History Commission meeting the layout for the history booklet was received. The group also discussed plans for the cover. The Committee has sent a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to request their support in updating information on particular sites on James Island (i.e., DNR).

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced that the Rethink Folly Road committee met on Jan. 23. The Program Manager's position will be re-advertised.

Drainage Committee: Mrs. Kellahan announced for Councilman Stokes that the first meeting was held on Feb. 13. Members of Council were in attendance, as well as City Councilwoman Carol Jackson, and County Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2019-03: Authorizing Town Greenbelt Funds for 1708 Brantley Drive: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2019-04: Island Sheriff's Patrol Deputy of Fourth Quarter: Mayor Woolsey read a proclamation recognizing Jesse Leszczynski, as the Deputy of the Fourth Quarter. Deputy Leszczynski received a certificate, Town pin and \$50.00. Sergeant James complimented Deputy Leszczynski for his dependability, energy, and good relationship with the public. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second/Final 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 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Frances Simmons
Town Clerk