

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, October 19, 2017. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Pro-Tem Leonard Blank, Garrett Milliken, Darren "Troy" Mullinax, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, who presided. Absent: Councilman Joshua P. Stokes (gave notice). 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 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.

Public Comments: The following persons addressed Council:

Annie Purvis, 1.000 Fort Johnson Road, thanked Mayor and Council for allowing her to apply for the Community Assistance Grant for the James Island Charter High School National Art Honors Society (NAHS) and the Art Club. Ms. Purvis shared some of the students' successes. They created a mural, sculptures, and mosaics for the community and school campus; worked with James Island Pride and the Arts Committee on various projects; developed a "Keep it Creative" Sculpture Garden that won the Bosch Stewardship Award for recycling. This year the group planned an Art in New York trip for the students who have served on the Art Club and the NAHS for four years. Collectively the students worked a total of 4,330 hours of community service.

Megan McLellan, 1.000 Fort Johnson Road, thanked Mayor and Council for considering James Island Charter High School Band Backers for a Community Assistance Grant. She is a parent, volunteer, and is affiliated with the band. She announced that Colt Campbell, the new Band Director, is bringing about new enthusiasm and has great ideas. One success is in-house private lessons to students needing financial assistance. She said the band has won 12 awards over the last three competitions and will travel to Lexington on Saturday for Lower State. Ms. McLellan said the cost to compete could be over \$1,000 per competition. While businesses have been very generous, it is still hard to do everything that is needed. Next year the band will increase to 40, doubled the size. She invited Council to the first concert on November 13 at 7 p.m. at the High School.

Shannon Goodwin, James Island Youth Soccer Club, is a Board member and parent at the Soccer Club. James Island Soccer Club is the oldest Soccer Club that offers quality soccer training for local youths. The Soccer Club is involved in the community and offers their parking lot for sandbag distributions during hurricanes; they have hosted two tournaments that brought thousands of people to James Island; they sponsor the weekly Town Market; and the Soccer Club is a program that helps to keep youths out of trouble. She said a grant would continue to help children learn to play soccer through scholarships. She thanked the Town for its past donations.

Katie Qualls, 1652 Dexter Lane, Program Director, Reading Partners of SC. Reading Partners is located in 17 schools across the low country. This is their first year in a school on James Island. Ms. Qualls said she is excited to see this program expand. She said volunteers from the community partners with students one-on-one that are behind in reading instruction to help bring their reading to grade level. Reading Partners SC had the highest results in the country last year and the Principal at James Island Elementary asked them to come to her school. There have close to 30 students participating and a grant would help to provide curriculum, books, and tutors. The students are able to take books home each week and during the summer so they do not fall behind. Volunteers tutor one hour a week. Council was invited to volunteer.

Ernest Byers, 922 W. Oceanview Rd., asked the Town to enforce its ordinance on storage and repair of inoperative motor vehicles. He had spoken with the Town Administrator and this may have been looked

into. He said the end of W. Oceanview Road looks like a junk yard. Google Earth counted 18 cars on the property and none appears to be operable; or he guesses they are inoperable because they have not been moved in a long time. He said the Town Ordinance requires vehicles to be screened by a fence, wall, building or vegetative buffer to shield the vehicles from view. He said the person living there does repairs in his driveway. He does not know if he has a license; but suspects that he does not. This is a bad situation. He asked the Town to look into it.

Hal Hanvey, 783 LaRoche St., God bless James Island. Mr. Hanvey, Board member at James Island Outreach thanked the Town for its generous support over the years. He said Outreach would distribute 150 meals on November 18 for Thanksgiving. They also plan to distribute meals for Christmas. Mr. Hanvey said they appreciate the Town's support because the cost of turkeys has gone up. In addition to donations, the cost could be somewhere around \$6,500 to \$7,500 to prepare a good meal. He hopes the Town will continue to support James Island Outreach for many years to come.

Sandy Byers-Williams, 918 W. Ocean View Rd., is the daughter of Ernest Byers and lives directly adjacent to 916 W. Ocean View Rd. She said her house is up for sale and she is having difficulty with keeping a buyer because the neighbor is a problem. She said from the time the property was listed, buyer after buyer commented they would not live next to that situation. She has lived in her house for 14 years and tried to ignore the problem to get along, but there is a point where that cannot continue because it is affecting her family's welfare. She asked the Town to step up and enforce the ordinance. She spoke to Mr. Hackett, and understand it is difficult; but, what is going on next door to her is untenable and it is affecting her family's future.

Edward Greene, 1115 Seaside Lane, thanked Mayor and Council for doing a good job. Mr. Green expressed concern about overhanging tree limbs on Fort Johnson (toward Folly Road and down Seaside Lane). He said the wires is supposed to be 18-22 feet above the highway. He shared that a City truck came down Seaside Lane and it knocked a big limb onto the highway preventing cars from passing. On Fort Johnson Road, just pass the soccer field (Bayview Farms) trucks have to drive through the center of the highway to prevent knocking tree limbs down. Another matter he discussed was building on James Island. There are three government entities on James Island and when something is built, those entities do not check with each other to see if whatever it is can be built. He thinks there should be communication among the entities before something is built. This is happening on Central Park Road. He would appreciate the Town looking into this.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes: September 21, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting: Councilman Milliken moved to approve the consent agenda; Councilman Mullinax seconded. No changes. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Written Report presented by Finance Officer, Merrell Roe, and received as information.
- b. Administrator's Report: Written Report presented by Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, and received as information.
- c. Public Works Report: Written Report presented by Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, and received as information.
- d. Island Sheriffs' Patrol (ISP) Report: In addition to the crime report and ISP statistics, Sergeant James told Mr. Byers and Mrs. Williams that the Sheriffs' Office is looking into their situation on W. Ocean View. He gave a brief update on the collision that occurred on Folly Road. An update was given regarding the intersection at North Shore and Harbor View Rd. where illegal left turns are being made. He said tickets are being issued and signs will be posted to warn motorists of the illegal turn.

Requests for Approval:

- New Town Hall Emergency Generator: Mrs. Kellahan said this was originally a change order. She said over the last several years, and especially during Hurricane Irma, we have had to order parts for our current generator. The generator is five years old and we are unsure how often parts will need to be replaced. Mrs. Kellahan said the contractor was able to honor the price of \$70,000 that was originally quoted. She said the new generator will have more capacity; will run on mechanical, is diesel operated, and operates by a transfer switch to turn on automatically when power goes out. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if \$70,000 is the cost of the generator only or if it includes facility retrofitting in the structure of the building. Mrs. Kellahan replied that we had already included the electrical upgrade for the New Town Hall knowing that one day we would need an upgraded one. She said all of that is included as well as the transfer switch in the price. Councilman Milliken asked where the generator would be located. He said the College of Charleston has four backup generators; three are on the ground, which does not help with storm surges, and one is elevated. He asked if this generator would be elevated or located some place high to prevent a storm surge. Mrs. Kellahan said this had been discussed but a specific location has not been determined. The thought was to wait until the building is further along then decide where to place the pad. She said the generator would be placed on a concrete pad. Councilman Milliken said his point was that it is not on the ground, it is elevated. Mayor Woolsey said the Town Hall is raised, but the generator would be too heavy for the roof. He and Mrs. Kellahan will be looking into where it is best to place it. Councilman Milliken asked if there would be a service contract. Mayor Woolsey said the current generator is checked regularly; however, a service contract would also provide routine maintenance or repairs; and that is a good point. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2017-2018 Community Assistance Grant Requests: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Blank spoke that all of the other requests were met except JI Charter HS Band Backers Assn., reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,000. He said the band has little resources and anything they do is through fund-raisers and he would like Council to grant their full request of \$6,000.

Councilman Blank amended the motion to change the request from \$4,000 to \$6,000; Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Milliken addressed the Mayor that he will recuse himself from vote because of a conflict of interest. He submitted a recusal to the Town Clerk for the record. Discussion was held regarding where the additional \$2,000 could be taken. It was suggested that the budget could be amended to accommodate the request. Mrs. Kellahan stated that the band had been fully awarded in previous years. She said this year's grants have been very competitive with new groups applying. She said most requests are funded at \$2,000, and JI Charter HS band would receive twice the amount of the others. Councilman Blank explained his reasons for wanting to award the full amount. He said money is needed for band trips, cost of competition, equipment, and the band is expected to be twice the size next year, and, we need to support our kids. Mrs. Kellahan said the budget did not have to be amended and money could be moved within department. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote: Amendment passed 2-1; Mayor Woolsey voted in opposition. The request for JI Charter HS Band Backers Assn. was changed to \$6,000. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote on the Main Motion and it passed.

- Honey Hill/Greenhill Drainage Easement Acquisition Project: Mrs. Kellahan said the Town has been working with Charleston County Engineering on this project for some time. Designs have been put together for 36 parcels through the Honey Hill area where easements are lacking. Primacq,

one of the Town's right-of-way acquisition firms, will require the right-of-way for drainage easements so the Town can provide proper maintenance. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

- Sinkhole Repair in Lynwood Neighborhood: Mrs. Kellahan reported this \$14,000 project is on Woodside Drive where a sinkhole is forming. Southeast Pipe, one of the Town's procured firms, will perform the service. Council approval is needed because the cost is over \$10,000. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced the James Island Pride Poetry Workshop on Saturday, October 21 at 2 p.m. at Town Hall with Cave Canem Fellow, Kwoya Fagin Maples and Sunday, October 22, at 2 p.m. Poetry Reading at McLeod. James Island Pride Litter Pick-up will be held on Saturday November 4 at 9 a.m. Pizza served afterwards. Plans are underway for the Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, December 1 at Camp Road Middle School.

Children's Commission: No report

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the next meeting on Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey announced that Saturday, November 11, 10 a.m. is a gathering at Town Hall to dedicate the Battle of Dills Bluff Historical Marker. After the gathering, all will go to the site on Dills Bluff Rd. for the dedication. Councilman Milliken asked the location of the site and Mayor Woolsey said it is on the sharp curve near the cul-de-sac.

- Historic Sites Map/Booklet: Mrs. Kellahan introduced Rachel Bragg with Brockington Associates. Ms. Bragg met with the History Commission at its last meeting and did a presentation for a proposal to develop a historic site map/booklet for James Island. Ms. Bragg did a Power Point Presentation to Town Council and answered questions. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to approve the Historic Sites Map/Booklet for \$4,700. Mrs. Kellahan said the funds would come from Hospitality Tax. Motion was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Blank. Passed unanimously.

Proclamations/Resolutions

Resolution #2017-15: Support of Island-wide Drainage Study and The James Island Stormwater Managers' Committee: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Mayor Woolsey stated this is the Town's resolution in support of the one passed by the James Island Intergovernmental Council at its last meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading: None

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to enter an executive session in accordance with 30-4-70 (a) Code of Laws of SC for personnel matters regarding the Town Administrator's Contract Renewal. Motion to enter was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously. Council entered the executive session at 7:48 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Town Council returned to regular session at 7:59 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that no votes were taken while in executive session. Mayor Woolsey said the Town Administrator's contract is on the table for renewal. Councilman Blank made the motion to renew Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan contract with a \$3,000 pay increase; seconded by Councilman Milliken. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk