

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, August 20, 2015. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Pro-Tem Leonard Blank, Garrett Milliken, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, Joshua P. Stokes, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, who presided. A quorum was present to conduct business. Also present: Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bo Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Senior Finance Clerk, Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order. He opened in prayer and followed with the Pledge to the Flag. FOIA: This meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Presentation: Johnna Murray, Charleston County Community Development Director, gave a presentation on the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan for Charleston County. The Community Development Department manages the Housing and Urban Development Funds (HUD) and they are seeking input from the community for the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan. Input is gathered every five years on what communities want to see HUD monies spent. Services suggested are: critical needs for infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, affordable housing, homeless services etc.). Household qualification range from low to moderate income levels. Ms. Murray encouraged the public to complete a short on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/charlestoncountyconsolidatedplan> or to contact Victoria Marshall at ymarshall@charlestoncounty.org (843) 202-6986. The link will be available until October 9th.

Public Comments: The following individuals addressed Town Council:

Kent Bosworth, 1668 Shortwood, Harbor Creek Homeowners Association (HOA): Mr. Bosworth said he attended a Town Council meeting last May on behalf of the Harbor Creek Home Owners Association (HOA) and the surrounding neighborhoods; and has returned tonight to ask the Town’s help in creating a passive park on Harbor View Road. He said the park will help to prevent development and commercial exploitation to some of the last marsh front views on Harbor View Road. There are two properties; one at 1387 Harbor View Road that shares the same address as the business Food Staff. He said the HOA would like to have the property appraised to determine its market value. Mr. Bosworth said because of the effectiveness of Councilman Milliken, Charleston Water System has agreed to pay for half of the appraisal; they are asking the Town to pay the other half. He is hopeful that the HOA will be able to acquire some time and will be able to obtain both properties, making them contiguous, to prevent further development.

Mike Ruscio, 1078 Renwood is a Lynwood resident of 10 years. He spoke in favor of preserving the natural landscape for a passive park on Harbor View Road. He talked of changes on James Island due to development over the past ten years. Though development is inevitable; we should be conscious of preserving green space as developments occur. Mr. Ruscio said the location on Harbor View could be a harbinger for people coming into James Island to see green space.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of July 9, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting

- b. Minutes of July 23, 2015 Public Hearing and Special Town Council Meeting
- c. Minutes of July 28, 2015 Special Town Council Meeting

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: In addition to the monthly budget report, Senior Finance Clerk, Merrell Roe reported that \$165,000 in franchise fees had been received from SCANA. She complimented Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, for revising the Finance Report to make it more concise. Councilman Milliken complimented the staff for the change.
- b. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Kellahan commented that the Administrator's Report was also revised. She noted that the Town is three years old and we can now chart history to show growth patterns by department. She reported that the Town closed on the Pinckney Park property; the Open House will be held on Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. A Park Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 27th at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall for public input into the development process for Requests for Proposals from design firms. Dock Street Park was awarded a PARD grant for equipment and a water fountain. We have begun to advertise for the Community Assistance Grant Funding. The deadline to receive applications is September 30. The applicants will present their requests to Town Council at the October 15th meeting. The Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 26th 12:30 p.m. at Town Hall. An Open House will be held that same night to discuss the draft plan for Folly Road at the Low Country Senior Center from 5-8 p.m. SCE&G will be hosting a Community Workshop on a transmission line rebuild on August 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the City Fire Station at 358 Folly Road. A ribbon cutting ceremony for Jeffrey Drive and Lemon Tree Lane will be held on Saturday, September 12, 10-2 p.m. Mrs. Kellahan gave the Code Enforcement, Building Services, Planning and Zoning, and Public Works reports.
- c. Island Sheriffs' Patrol (ISP) Report: Sergeant James presented the July crime statistics: ISP deputies worked a total of 593 hours; made 689 stops; wrote 92 tickets; issued 630 warnings; and 19 arrests; 91 calls for service were received, and 15 field interviews were conducted.

Requests for Approval:

RFQ #1-2015: Recommendation to enter into negotiations with Liollo Architecture. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Blank, moved and Councilman Mullinax seconded. No discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

Bus Shelter Design: Mrs. Kellahan referred to the design of the Walgreen's Bus Shelter. She said Walgreen's has submitted for the building permit. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes moved and Councilman Milliken seconded. No discussion; the motion passed unanimously.

Donation of Funds Related to the Mother Emanuel Tragedy: Mayor Woolsey requested that a donation of \$500 be given to the TyWanza Sanders Scholarship Fund. TyWanza Sanders was a former James Island High student and one of the victims in the Mother Emanuel tragedy. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Blank moved and Councilman Stokes seconded. Councilman Milliken expressed gratitude that the Town was able to find a source of assistance close to home. The motion passed unanimously.

50% Contribution for Appraisal of Property with Tax Map #424-070-0027: Councilman Milliken reported that a productive meeting was held with the Harbor Creek residents. He said they are interested in purchasing the lot, and perhaps with some assistance they will be able to purchase the other nearby lot to preserve as a passive park. He said, as Mr. Bosworth stated, that many of the views along Harbor View Road are disappearing along that stretch and it would be wonderful to have a nice gateway to James Island as green space. He said the cost of the appraisal will be split between the Charleston Water System and the Town so an accurate value of the property can be determined to perhaps move forward with a purchase. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Mullinax moved, and Councilman Stokes seconded. Mayor Woolsey answered Councilman Blank's questions and said the Council is only approving an appraisal. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported that James Island Pride held a trash pickup on July 11th and another is scheduled on September 12th at 9:00 a.m. James Island Pride will have a booth at the Green Fair on Sunday, September 20th at the County Park. They hope to have a raffle for a tree giveaway. Arbor Day will be held on December 4th and plans are underway with David Parler, the Principal at Fort Johnson Middle School. Councilman Milliken asked everyone to think about nominating individuals for the Community Heroes award. This information will be posted on the Town's website.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced that Susannah Sheldon is the new Chair for the Children's Commission. He said plans are underway for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held on December 3rd at 6 p.m. The next meeting of the Children's Commission is September 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax thanked staff and everyone who participated in the National Night Out. He said the event was successful and they hope to make it an annual event. The Neighborhood Council will meet on be Thursday, August 27th at 7 p.m.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Commission has met twice. The Commission is working on various aspects of James Island's history and discussing plans to erect historical markers each year on the island.

Resolutions:

- a. Resolution #2015-15: Island Sheriffs' Patrol Officer of the Second Quarter: Deputy Michael Buenting received recognition as the Island Sheriffs' Patrol Officer of the Second Quarter. He was joined by Sergeant James and supervisor, Sergeant Jay Christmas. Deputy Buenting has worked 152 hours; made 204 car stops; issued 192 warnings, and made 82 arrests. Mayor Woolsey read the resolution and asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes moved, Councilman Mullinax seconded and the resolution passed unanimously.
- b. Resolution #2015-16: A Resolution Endorsing the Folly Road Water Access Project: Mrs. Kellahan informed Council that the City of Folly Beach asked the Town Council to pass a resolution in support of its Water Access Project. The project supports the placement of two non-motorized paddle craft and small sailboat access points adjacent to the newly constructed Folly River Bridge and Folly Creek Bridge. Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Stokes moved; seconded by Councilman Mullinax. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Resolution #2015-17: A Resolution to Adopt the Town of James Island Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Blank moved, and Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Milliken said he met with Mrs. Kellahan and Scott Cave and they answered the questions that he had. He complimented the plan and said we need to get behind it with some financial backing so that all facets of it can be implemented. Mayor Woolsey gave opportunity for Consultant, Scott Cave, to speak.

Mr. Cave said since the draft was delivered to Council in June there have been two rounds of revisions; two training sessions with staff, Mayor Woolsey, and Mayor Pro-tem Blank; and a table top exercise on hurricane preparedness. Mr. Cave said these activities also resulted in updates that further improved the Plan. He referred to Councilman Milliken's remark that to fully implement the Plan is mainly communication. He said in any emergency, communication is a top priority; and while the Town has some County 800 MHZ radios, there are other means communication the Town should consider to have redundant and multiple means of communicating. He said if there is a major hurricane; (such as Sandy and Katrina) it cannot be assumed that 800 MHZ radios, cell phones, or land lines will be available. He believes the best practice is to have multiple backups of redundant equipment and technology so there is always a means to communicate with other entities. He said to purchase what the Town needs does not cost a lot of money; the cost is between \$5-10,000. Mr. Cave recommended that staff continue to have training, table top exercises, and update the Plan often to always be in the best position to respond when needed. He thanked Council for the opportunity to work with them. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Resolution #2015-18: Amendment of Resolution #2012-05 to add a Citizens Committee to be in Liaison to Town Council "Environment and Beautification Committee:" Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Milliken moved, and Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilman Milliken distributed a photocopy of trees on James Island (Fort Johnson Road) encrusted in vines that aligned some of the roadway. He said these trees merit attention to have the vines removed. He noted that these trees are not on town roads, they are also on City and County roadways. He said the tree in the lower left corner of the photocopy was recently planted on Fort Johnson Road and has brown edges on it for the lack of water it needs.

Councilman Milliken said the resolution will form a Citizens Committee to care for trees and it will be a part of the Environment and Beautification Committee; (a facet of James Island Pride). He said the committee could identify locations where new trees have been planted care and care for those trees; identify places where older trees need maintenance; (i.e., removing vines and clearing its underbrush). Councilman Milliken said this is something that could be accomplished with a committee. He said an issue that occurred this summer were the new trees planted along our sidewalk project on Fort Johnson Road. He said many trees are suffering from the lack of water. He commented that the Mayor's wife made a call for help to care for the trees but no one stepped forward. There is a swatch of road along Harbor View Road that is going to receive new plantings and someone need to take care of those plantings. He said if we had a committee they could identify these places and figure out a way to hire landscape companies or others to properly care for trees and also for the safety of residents riding down roadways. He mentioned the tree that fell on Camp Road fell tonight that probably had a little rot. If the tree could've been seen, it would've been identified. Councilman Milliken said he thinks this is an important function for a committee; and a function of government is to care for the things that taxpayer's value and the residents of James Island value trees. He asked Council to pass this cost free resolution to take care of the trees on James Island.

During discussion, Councilman Blank said we need to enforce that anyone that plant trees are responsible for nurturing them for a year. He said it is expensive to pull around water tanks to water trees and often hoses are not available where most trees are planted. He said if someone plants a tree; they should nurture it; if not, they should not plant it.

Mayor Woolsey spoke about the trees that were planted on Fort Johnson Road. He said that he asked the County when the trees were planted in mid-summer why were they being planted then. He said the County also thought it was not a good time to plant the trees but contractors that put in the sidewalks did it by their own volition. Mayor Woolsey said since the trees must survive for a year, it is sad that they will probably die and will need to be replaced. He said the Town and government does look into trees, including those with vines growing on them.

Councilman Stokes asked if this committee will be a subcommittee of Environment and Beautification. He said the Environment and Beautification cab form subcommittees under its umbrella. He sked if an ordinance was needed since one already establishes the Environment and Beautification. Councilman Milliken said an ordinance would help to legitimize the committee in the eyes of Council, and it is good to have a way of recognizing the voice of a group of people that have concerns about trees. He does not like the idea of replacing a tree because we let it die; nor is it good to plant trees in July. Councilman Milliken said he was unsure that the Town has ever removed vines from trees and he is concerned about follow through. He asked last September at a Council meeting for the vines to be removed from the trees at the entrance to Lighthouse Point and they are still there. He think this committee will have a way to follow-up on what is needed to care for our trees. Councilman Stokes said he would like to offer a friendly amendment because the word "in liaison" puts that committee on the same level as the other committees of Council and Councilman Milliken explained what "in liaison" meant. He said he was agreeable to a friendly amendment.

Councilman Stokes moved for a friendly amendment that the Trees Committee function as a subcommittee of Environment and Beautification; Councilman Blank seconded. During discussion, Mayor Woolsey spoke strongly against the committee to be formed as a subcommittee. He said the Environment and Beautification is made up of the members of Council and he does not think they should create a Trees Committee as a subcommittee of themselves. Councilman Blank expressed confusion because he hears reports from Environment and Beautification at Council meetings, but he has done nothing as a member of the committee. Mayor Woolsey explained the committee structure; that the chair of Environment and Beautification is Councilman Milliken and he reports on the activities of the Citizen Committee (of which he is the Council liaison). Councilman Blank commented that if he is a member of that committee he was unaware of it. Councilman Milliken said this is a symptom of a poor way that we have organized our committee structure; and the fact that Council serves on these committees and not show for meetings is sad. He said James Island Pride is essentially the Environment and Beautification Committee, and Council is on that committee; but have we done a lot for environment and beautification? Mayor Woolsey explained that the Chairman of a committee could call a meeting that is separate from Town Council if he felt it necessary. He said the Council committee chair reports on the citizen's committee's activities at Council meetings and he asks them if they have questions. Councilman Milliken said he will vote against the amendment so it to go back to the way it was originally written. He said the Environment and Beautification Committee is already in liaison with James Island Pride, which is a citizens committee, and this committee would be an element of that.

Amendment: Favor: Councilman Blank, Councilman Stokes.

Oppose: Councilman Milliken, Councilman Mullinax, Mayor Woolsey

Amendment failed

During discussion of the main motion, Mayor Woolsey gave his opinion of how the resolution was written. He said it would be appropriate and important for our committee structure for the Chairman of the Environment and Beautification Committee to serve as the Council liaison rather than the way the resolution is written; Councilman Milliken explained that it does.

Main Motion: Favor: Council Milliken, Councilman Mullinax

Oppose: Councilman Stokes, Councilman Blank, Mayor Woolsey

Main Motion failed

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2015-10: An Ordinance to Regulate the Use of Fireworks in the Town of James Island:

Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion in favor. Councilman Mullinax moved, Councilman Stokes seconded, for discussion. Councilman Mullinax said he thought everything had been resolved and properly debated and when he arrived he was informed that the ordinance had not gone to our legal counsel. He asked Mrs. Kellahan to give an update. Mrs. Kellahan recapped that Councilman Mullinax had asked her to look into a fireworks ordinance and the possibility of the Town passing one. She said knowing that we cannot have fireworks (against State law), she looked into other alternatives to determine if we might be able to regulate an ordinance based on hours of use. Mrs. Kellahan talked with the Gaffney City Manager and he provided her with a copy of an ordinance

they passed that regulates the hours that fireworks can be used. He also sent her a copy of an Attorney General's opinion. Mrs. Kellahan forwarded what she had written to Mr. Wilson, our legal counsel which went back and forth several times for comment. She and the Mayor also worked on amending the ordinance based on Mr. Wilson's comments. Mrs. Kellahan said she believes Mr. Wilson still has concern about how the ordinance is written and about enforcing it. In light of these concerns, she recommended that further discussion continue with Mr. Wilson and Sergeant James (Island Sheriffs' Patrol) before presenting the ordinance to Council. Councilman Blank moved to table the ordinance until further information is obtained, Councilman Stokes seconded, and the motion to table passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Frances Simmons
Town Clerk