

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, March 16, 2017. 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, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Senior Finance Clerk, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Kristen Crane, Planning Director, Deputy Michael Buenting, Island Sheriff’s Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

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 Hearing: Ordinance #2017-04: Amending the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance, §153.336 Architectural and Landscape Design Guidelines (C) (3) Building Color (c) murals: Mayor Woolsey opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. The following persons spoke:

Joseph Walters, 928 West Ocean View Road: Mr. Walters spoke in favor of murals. He believes Council wants to accomplish this with some oversight. His only concern is it is stitched to the signage regulations. He asked Council to clarify this.

William Turner, 695 Port Circle: Mr. Turner is a local artist that painted the mural on the La Carreta Restaurant. He spoke in favor of murals and art. He commented that painting the mural got his name on the map. He feels that Council should stick-up for art, and not put a limit on it.

Mayor Woolsey closed the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment: No one signed in to speak

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of February 16, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting:

Councilman Stokes moved to approve the consent agenda; Councilman Mullinax seconded. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Witten report provided by Senior Finance Clerk, Merrell Roe. Accepted as information. Ms. Roe added that local option sales tax (LOST) funds were received for December and franchise fees were collected from Comcast and Bellsouth.
- b. Administrator Report: Written report provided by Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan. Accepted as information. Mrs. Kellahan added the Town has received the encroachment permits for Speed Humps in the Centerville neighborhood. Plans are to bid the project soon. Councilman Stokes asked if there were changes that could delay completion of Phase I for Pinckney Park. Mrs. Kellahan answered that 5-weeks is the expected time; the contractors has built time into the project for unforeseen delay and hope to be completed by Easter.
- c. Public Works Report: Written report provided by Public Works Director, Mark Johnson Accepted as information.
- d. Island Sheriffs’ Patrol Report: Deputy Buenting reported 359 hours worked for the month; 359 stops, 94 tickets issued, and a slight decrease in crime over last month.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee:

Councilman Milliken reported that James Island Arts hosted the Fourth Annual Art Auction on February 25 at the Town Hall. This was a juried art show for island art students and a silent auction to raise money for island art teachers. He thanked Island Bazaar for allowing the use of their space to display James Island Art students' art. More than 200 people attended and the event raised over \$3,000 to be divided among the 12 James Island Art Teachers (JICHHS, Fort Johnson Middle School, James Island Middle School, Stiles Point Elementary School, James Island Elementary School, Harborview Elementary School, Murray Lasaine Elementary School, James Island Christian School and Nativity). Art students from High, Middle, and Elementary Schools participated in a juried art show judged by Dan O'Brien and awards were given to first, second and third place winners. Next year's Art Auction will be the last Saturday in February. Special thanks to the JI Arts Committee: Katherine Williams, Laura De La Maza, Pat Hiott-Mason, Mary Beth Berry, Inez Brown-Crouch, Catherine Lampkin, and Meredith Poston, Community supporters: Erin Black, Suzanne Decker, Sherry Brown, Sam Berry, Russ Mason, Stan Kozekowski, Cathy Moore, and Henrietta Martin. Town staff: Ashley Kellahan, Mark Johnson, and Merrell Roe. He thanked Kenneth Johnson for participating in the March Helping Hands yard cleanup. Next James Island Pride trash pickup is Saturday, May 6. A Solar Education Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 18, 11-1 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes announced the Children's Commission is hosting the first annual Easter Egg Roll, Saturday, April 15, 11-1 p.m. at the James Island Youth Soccer Club (871 Fort Johnson Road). Activities includes competitive Easter Egg rolls, commemorative Easter egg decorating, jump castle, and food trucks. There will be one more meeting before the event to finalize plans.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the James Island Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

History Commission: No report.

Presented of Draft Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: Mrs. Kellahan reported that no changes were made since the March 2 Budget Workshop was held. She gave a brief overview of budget expenditures and revenues over last year's budget. Copy of the proposed budget was provided to Council and available to public.

Resolutions:

- a. Proclamation: 2017 Yom Ha Shoah Holocaust Commemoration and Candle Lighting: Mayor Woolsey read a Proclamation in remembrance of the 2017 Yom Ha Shoah Holocaust commemoration. After the reading, Council and staff participated in lighting memorial candles. A motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Passed unanimously. Mayor Woolsey recognized Rebecca Engel and Ilene Turbow with the Charleston Jewish Federation. Ms. Engel spoke of the importance of the commemoration and read remarks made by Rabbi Kanter at the Town of Mount Pleasant and Charleston County Council meetings.
- b. Resolution #2017-04: Support of Town of James Island Complete Streets Application: Mrs. Kellahan reported that Planning Director Kristen Crane has prepared an application to the Council of Governments (COG) for the Complete Streets Grant. Mrs. Kellahan gave an overview of the request by the Town for sidewalks along Folly Road. This grant will implement the improvements with the Rethink Folly Road plan. The total project cost is \$1,500,000 and the Town's match is \$300,000 (20% from Hospitality Tax). All jurisdictions involved in the Rethink Folly Road project has agreed to submit resolutions to support the project. After a correction was noted, a motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading:

- a. Ordinance #2017-04: Amending the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance, §153.336 Architectural and Landscape Design Guidelines (C ) (3) Building Color (c ) Murals: Mayor Woolsey said there are two options; the first was recommended by the Planning Commission and the second was sent by Town Council at its last meeting. Mayor Woolsey moved that Council adopt the amendment recommended by the Planning Commission in part, but end it at the word Director.

**AMENDMENT: Murals on exterior building walls are allowed when included in the number and square footage requirements applying to wall/façade signs. Any additional or larger murals visible to the public or neighboring properties may be permitted by the Planning Director.** Councilman Stokes seconded.

Councilman Milliken asked if Council is limited to the two options or is there is a third to consider if both are voted down. Mayor Woolsey explained the process by which the voting would take place. Councilman Stokes asked if the wording “that additional or larger murals visible to the public or neighboring properties may be permitted by the Planning Director” means it is allowed, and it does not require a permit. Mayor Woolsey said he interprets it that someone would have to ask for a permit in order for it to be allowed. Councilman Stokes asked if there would be a fee and Mayor Woolsey answered no. There was some discussion about permits and costs. Mrs. Kellahan and Mrs. Crane (Planning Director) said a Sign Permit costs \$50.00. Councilman Milliken asked about a process for murals - - will it be by request, or is a sketch required? Mayor Woolsey said a process would be developed by the Planning Director. Councilman Milliken spoke of his concerns about permits for chickens; and we would not have a permit for murals unless we are explicit about it. Mrs. Crane said the Town has a permit for people wanting more chickens; however, no requests have been made. There was some discussion about a permit process, in particular, if a permit is denied by the Planning Director. Mayor Woolsey said if a permit is denied, it could be appealed before the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Stokes commented that there have been some confusion about what was coming before Council, but to be clear, and for the benefit of the public, this is not a ban on murals. He said murals are allowed if they are within the guidelines; and for now, there is no fee for the request. Councilman Milliken said he liked what is being talked about, but his concern in the Code limits the number of colors as part of a building. He asked if murals would be limited to three colors if it fell under that category; and, if language needs to be added to the amendment about colors when a mural’s size is considered. Mayor Woolsey said that supersedes the requirements and the number of colors did not need to be specified. Councilman Stokes commented that the only limit is the number and square footage requirements to wall/façade signs. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote. Passed unanimously.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Frances Simmons  
Town Clerk