

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 7:01 p.m. in person at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd., James Island, SC. This meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website: www.jamesislandsc.us/livestream-townmeetings and was held in accordance with the SC Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

The following members of Council were present: Dodson, Mignano, Mullinax, and Mayor Lyon who presided. Absent: Councilman Boles (gave notice). Also, Michael Hemmer, Town Administrator, Becky Heath, Finance Officer, Keith LaDeaux, PW Coordinator/Project Manager, Deputy Chris King, Island Sheriff's Patrol (Lt. Shawn James), Brian Quisenberry, Town Attorney, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and called upon Councilman Dodson to perform the opening exercises followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lyon introduced the members of Town Council and the Town Attorney. She announced that Councilman Boles gave notice that he would be absent at tonight's meeting.

Public Comment: No citizens signed up to speak during the Public Comment portion of this meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting of June 20, 2024: A motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2024, was made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Dodson and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Officer, Becky Heath, provided the financial report for the period ending June 30, 2024 that represents the end of fiscal year 2024. Councilwoman Mignano complimented Ms. Heath for the detailed report that allows these meetings to be shortened because it contains all of the information that they would have questions about.

Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator, Mike Hemmer presented the monthly Administrator's report. He pointed out that the Regatta Road Sidewalk project is scheduled to begin the end of the month and that a virtual meeting was held with the County. Councilwoman Mignano commented that Regatta has a number of sloped yards and asked if we are addressing this to make sure there would be no yard erosion. Mr. Hemmer said that the contractor is speaking with the residents as they were concerned about a couple of yards but confirmed that bracing would be done to make sure those front yards do not erode.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Deputy Chris King reported an increase in phone scams sharing what happened to several individuals who were caught in that situation. He said the scammer identifies as an officer in the Sheriff's Office; however, there are no officer titles at the Sheriff's Office. They have deputies. He asked everyone to spread the word and to be aware that this is happening. Deputy King also gave a summary of crimes and incidences that occurred in the Town the end of June to date. Councilwoman Mignano thanked Deputy King and all of the deputies for taking care of our island.

Public Works Report: Public Works Coordinator/Project Manager, Keith LaDeaux provided an overview of projects that included Quail Run, Woodhaven, and Oceanview that was presented to Council. He also shared that the Trees Advisory Council had requested assistance with some equipment which is available when they need it. An update on the Public Works shed was also provided. Mr. LaDeaux distributed to Council a copy of the Pipeline Drainage Consultant's report for the work done on Peregrine Drive. He stressed satisfaction with the before and after pictures and noted a warranty of the service for 50 years.

Councilwoman Mignano solicited support from Public Works for supplies/equipment for the James Island Pride cleanup scheduled on Saturday, July 27 at Washington Park. She also asked Mr. LaDeaux to look into

replacing the street sign at Peregrine Drive and Chicory that is bleached out. He stated the street sign on Knotty Pine as well as some others needing replacement. Councilwoman Mignano thanked him for all of his hard work.

Mayor Lyon said we have received information regarding piping the ditches on Oceanview and that Laura Cabiness, the Town's Engineer, is looking to obtain a letter of approval from the project engineer. The Town will price the concrete and the HDPE (the thick plastic that is less expensive but is harder to set); the concrete is heavier and more substantial. She said the problem is getting the SC Department of Transportation to agree to allow the Town to pipe the ditches. However, approval is being worked on at this time by the engineers and contractor. She thanked Mr. LaDeaux for staying on top of the project and for being responsive to the citizens.

Requests for Consideration by Staff: None.

Requests for Consideration by Council:

Donation to Pet Helpers, \$5,000 for Animal Intake Assistance: Mayor Lyon made a request to donate \$5,000 to Pet Helpers for its animal intake assistance. She said that there has been an overabundance of animals at the shelter, many of which are from the James Island community. Pet Helpers tries to not turn any animal away and to be a no-kill shelter. A motion to approve the request was made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Dodson. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	aye
Councilwoman Mignano	aye
Councilman Mullinax	aye
Mayor Lyon	aye
Passed unanimously	

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Mayor Lyon announced that no Planning or BZA meetings were held this month. We are working on the Supplemental Stormwater Ordinance and are making changes to help our citizens so they are not flooded when surrounding properties build new construction or renovate. We hope that great ideas will come forth from the Drainage Workshop scheduled for Wednesday, August 7. Laura Cabiness will do a presentation and we will also have hurricane preparedness information from Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Lyon also shared that the Town will have a Community Rating System (CRS) visit in October.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilwoman Mignano reported that James Island Pride met on Wednesday, July 17. She noted that last Saturday, seven yards were cleaned and two more during the week. She thanked them for doing a great job with this initiative. A cleanup will be held on Saturday, July 27 at Washington Park. Keith LaDeaux will look into providing supplies and some equipment for the cleanup. Helping Hands will meet this Saturday (July 20) at Pinckney Park at 9:00 a.m. for a trash pickup event. Pizza will be provided at the Town Hall after the event.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety Committee/Neighborhood Council: Councilman Mullinax reported for Councilman Boles. He said at the last meeting new members were introduced and a request went out for volunteers for hurricane preparation. Councilman Mullinax recalled that when he chaired this committee in 2012 the number of neighborhoods was 26. He said the committee asked for a map of the neighborhood to give residents a better understanding of how their neighborhood is laid out. The property on Dills Bluff was discussed.

Councilman Boles indicated that Marilyn Clifford with the PSD was there and could perhaps address. A report on public safety was given.

Appointment to Neighborhood Council: Councilman Mullinax moved for the appointment of Sherry Ivery Moore (representing Lynwood s/d); seconded by Mayor Lyon. No discussion. Passed unanimously. Mayor Lyon mentioned that Sherry Ivery Moore is the great, great, granddaughter of Simeon Pinckney (the name sake of Pinckney Park).

Mayor Lyon said we do not have a second representative from Harbor Woods and she met with a lady yesterday who is interested in serving. Mayor Lyon moved to amend the agenda in order to make the appointment of Georgia Gruber; seconded by Councilman Mullinax. There was no discussion on amending the agenda and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyon moved for the appointment of Georgia Gruber as the second representative from Harbor Woods on the Neighborhood Council committee, seconded by Councilman Dodson. No discussion. Passed unanimously. There will be no meeting in July. Next meeting is scheduled for August 22 at 6:00 p.m.

History Committee: Mr. Hemmer reported that the committee did not meet this month. Instructions for the History Driving Tour were finalized today. He has reviewed it and intends to drive the course sites. Comments on the information are due to Wendy Shelton in ten days.

ReThink Folly Road: No Report. No meeting was held this month.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax reiterated that the Drainage Workshop will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, August 7 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to discussion on revisions to the Stormwater Supplemental changes, information will be had on hurricane preparedness/drainage issues. This meeting will be very information and he looks forward to the public's participation.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: No Report.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Lyon announced that the next meeting is Wednesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Accommodations Tax Committee: Councilman Dodson reported that the committee is compliant thanks to the efforts of Becky Heath. All documents have been filed with the State in order for the committee to move forward.

Proclamations and Resolutions: None.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2024-05: Amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for the Town of James Island: Councilman Dodson moved for the approval of Ordinance #2024-02, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	aye
Councilwoman Mignano	aye
Councilman Mullinax	aye

Mayor Lyon aye
Passed unanimously

Old Business: Mayor Lyon gave an update on the Flock Cameras. She said it has been a “nightmare” for Lt. James trying to get them placed. She explained that the SCDOT no longer allows them on their right-of-way. The City and other municipalities that have them in place are grandfathered. The Town was told that we would have to place them on private property and find the locations for them and get their approval. Lt. James has spent a great deal of time visiting churches and businesses in order to accomplish this but has faced difficulty because no one wanted to sign for legal reasons. The representative who came to Council is no longer with the company. She thanked Attorney Quisenberry for revising the contract and now all matters have been settled. It is her understanding that Flock is now taking the lead in getting the cameras placed. She thanked Lt. James for all that he’s done to resolve this situation and looks forward to having the cameras installed because they will be so helpful for the deputies in the Town.

Mayor Lyon announced that the Town Market is a huge success. The next Market is the First Friday, August 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. She thanked staff and encouraged everyone to attend.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to enter into an Executive Session in accordance with Code of Laws of South Carolina 30-4-70 (A)(1) (2) regarding discussion of proposed contractual matters, employment/personnel matters, proposed purchase of properties, including property at 1335 Sea Aire Drive, (TMS#s 4280100052, and 4280100054), potential condemnation litigation, and legal advice relating to Town Ordinance Section 153.212. Upon returning to Open Session the Council may act on matters discussed in the Executive Session. The motion to enter was made by Councilman Dodson, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion. Passed unanimously. Council entered the Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to return to Regular Session. Councilman Dodson moved to return at 8:26 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyon asked if there were motions to come forth from the Executive Session: The following motions were made:

Councilwoman Mignano moved to eliminate the job position of Town Administrator and create a job position of Executive Assistant to the Mayor with the primary job responsibility of the new position to assist the Mayor; seconded by Councilman Dodson. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson aye
Councilwoman Mignano aye
Councilman Mullinax aye
Mayor Lyon aye
Passed unanimously

Councilman Dodson moved to authorize the Mayor to execute the right to terminate the purchase of the Sea Aire properties under the inspection period provisions of the relevant contracts; seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson aye
Councilwoman Mignano aye
Councilman Mullinax aye
Mayor Lyon aye

Passed unanimously

Councilman Dodson moved to authorize the Mayor to continue to pursue options for greenspace and parks; seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	aye
Councilwoman Mignano	aye
Councilman Mullinax	aye
Mayor Lyon	aye
Passed unanimously	

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Dodson encouraged everyone to drink lots of water during the heat. He thanked the Island Sheriffs Patrol for their service, staff and the citizens.

Councilwoman Mignano encouraged everyone to stay safe and hydrate during the heat.

Councilman Mullinax shared comments about Thomas Gelwicks, who passed away last week, He was a 97 year old veteran of WWII that saw action at Iwo Jima, Okinawa. He was also stationed at Nagasaki, two weeks after the drop of the atomic bomb as a part of the Occupation Force. Councilman Mullinax said he knew Mr. Gelwicks well; he would have breakfast with him at the American Legion. He loved to tell stories about WWII and would tell told these stories every time you saw him. After the war he was a 31 year postal carrier and then went back to duty in his middle age in the Coast Guard for 24 years becoming the Sr. Chief Petty Officer. He was an extraordinary gentleman, a good man and a good friend. Councilman Mullinax said he wanted to share with everyone because it is a great loss to the community.

Mayor Lyon thanked the staff for their support and the dedication to our citizens.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk