

James Island Intergovernmental Council
April 22, 2015

Meeting Summary

The James Island Intergovernmental Council meeting was held on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Town of James Island, 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC 29412.

Present: James Island Town Council: Mayor Bill Woolsey, Leonard Blank, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, Garrett Milliken. City of Charleston: Kathleen Wilson, who presided, Dudley Gregory, Bill Moody. Charleston County Council: Joe Qualey. James Island PSD: Chairman Donald Hollingsworth, Inez Brown-Crouch, Carter McMillan, William “Cubby” Wilder.

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Chairwoman Wilson welcomed everyone and followed with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: Mr. Bosworth addressed the Council and stated he would like to see some of the last remaining parcels for sale on Harborview Road be preserved for a passive park. According to him, these parcels in particular have some of the last remaining marsh and harbor views left on James Island.

Discussion of land parcels adjacent to JI Connector and potential usage: Chairwoman Wilson noted there are 3 parcels for sale. 2 are in the City and zoned Single Family Residential. One is in unincorporated Charleston County. The city parcels total 2.6 acres, are marshfront, and could contain up to 8 homes. The seller also has an island for sale that could hold up to 2 houses. There is currently no road access to this island. Councilman Milliken asked if it would be possible for Charleston Water System’s (CWS) treatment facility to kick in resources to mitigate their planned expansion, and perhaps this body could approach their board. Mayor Woolsey asked the price and Chairwoman Wilson responded the 2.6 acres was listed for 1.2 million. Councilman Qualey stated since this property was in the City of Charleston, it was in jeopardy of being upzoned and that City of Charleston employees Tim Keene and Christopher Morgan needed to get off of James Island. Councilman Blank said he felt the property was not worth what the seller was asking because of the location and difficulty getting on or off Harborview Road. Mayor Woolsey said he would love to see this land be preserved as a passive park and perhaps the Town could dedicate a token amount towards its purchase. Commissioner Platt asked if maybe CCPRC would be interested in purchasing the property. Chairwoman Wilson said she believed they weren’t interested in parcels this small. Councilman Gregory asked if the County had any money and Councilman Qualey responded there were not any urban greenbelt funds left, but he would check into it. Chairwoman Wilson said she will talk to CWS and the Open Land Trust about this property.

Update on Charleston County Library Site: Councilman Qualey began with a brief history of this project to bring the group up-to-date on the current two sites identified for a new library on James Island – property in the BiLo shopping center on James Island and the old Baxter Patrick school on Grimball Road. Charleston County Council has delayed a vote on selecting the site for 30 days at the request of Councilman Qualey so more public input can be sought as well as other potential sites explored, such as land the Public Service District owns on Folly Road. Councilman Milliken asked about whether the James Island Middle School (JIMS) site had been explored since the School District is discussing consolidating that school with Fort Johnson Middle School (FJMS) on the FJMS site. Mayor Woolsey said he had contacted the County about

this potential site and the school district said they already had plans for it, though nothing concrete. Commissioner McMillan said he would favor a Library and new Town Hall on the PSD's site. Councilman Qualey asked if he could call the PSD about this, and Chairman Hollingsworth said yes, but that the PSD was still discussing using this property for their administrative offices.

Traffic Study of Ft. Johnson and Lighthouse Blvd: Councilman Milliken noted he believed this was placed on the agenda because of a recent accident at this intersection. Chairman Hollingsworth said he's often heard the screeching of tires from this intersection. Mayor Woolsey said this intersection is in the Town's jurisdiction so the Town will pursue looking into this.

Request for signalization at Ft. Johnson and Secessionville Rds.: Chairwoman Wilson said this body's previous attempt to get a traffic signal at this intersection has been denied and she believes it should be taken up a notch and involve our State delegates. Also, we could get the surrounding neighborhoods to sign petitions. Mayor Woolsey motioned and Milliken seconded for the JI Intergovernmental Council to request support from our state delegates on this issue. Commissioner Wilder said he felt sure his church, St. James Presbyterian, would support this effort.

Lawton Bluff Neighborhood Watch: Chairwoman Wilson said there has been a movement by the Lawton Bluff neighborhood to become more organized. Some residents feel problems in Harbor Woods are beginning to creep into Lawton Bluff. Councilmember Mullinax said he would bring this up at the Town's Neighborhood Council meeting the following night.

Discussion of Traffic Light at JI Connector and Folly Rd: Chairwoman Wilson looked into the complaints associated with the timing of this light, and discovered that there was a mechanical problem that has been fixed and the City will continue to monitor it. Councilman Gregory said he's noticed a recent improvement in wait times.

Discussion of Sidewalk on the end of Grand Concourse: Chairwoman Wilson said at the request of a Harbor Woods resident who was present at the meeting, Byron White, she would discuss the feasibility of extending the sidewalk that ends roughly 170 feet short of Ft. Johnson Rd. Chairwoman Wilson said the City is backed-up with sidewalk requests, but she would pass this along. It was noted that perhaps there's additional funds left in the County's Ft. Johnson Rd. sidewalk to complete this portion while that work is underway.

Camp Rd Sidewalk Project (from Folly to James Island County Park): Mayor Woolsey said the Town is funding an updated Conceptual Plan for this project. He introduced Bret Gillis, with Stantec Engineering, who is the Town's consultant on this project. Mr. Gillis gave an overview of the project. Other stakeholders participating in this project include the City of Charleston, Charleston County, Bishop Gadsden, and CCPRC. At the first meeting, there was a consensus the sidewalk should be run on the FJMS / Bishop Gadsden side of Camp Road. He also noted CCPRC said the portion on Riverland to the Park should be a multi-use path to be consistent with the overall plan for Riverland Drive. Councilman Gregory asked how the new SCDOT roundabout would be taken into account. Mr. Gillis said the roundabout includes sidewalks so they would tie into one another. Councilman Milliken asked that the multi-use path would be mindful of the trees. Mayor Woolsey said funding of the sidewalk will require all entities to work together. He said the Town is willing to provide funds for this project, and he hoped the other jurisdictions and agencies would contribute financially as well.

Folly Road Corridor Study: Chairwoman Wilson said this study is now underway with a public kick-off meeting scheduled for the following night and hoped everyone would be able to attend.

James Island Recreational Facilities: Commission McMillan addressed some concerns he had with the apparent lack of maintenance at the James Island Recreation Center on Quail Drive and asked what this body could do to help with improving that facility. Councilman Milliken suggested a community-wide service day. Mayor Woolsey said the Town would be willing to help either through pitching in funds and/or volunteer assistance. Commissioner Wilder said there needed to be more recreational facilities on the other side of the Island. Chairwoman Wilson said maintenance issues are unacceptable and those can be addressed immediately. She said one of the City's long-term unfunded plans is to develop the land behind the High School that the City owns into ball fields. She feels the current facility should double in size. She also said there is some land behind the Gold's Gym that has been identified for ball fields, but again this was long-term and currently unfunded. Chairman Hollingsworth said he would be concerned about this property because of the existing battlefields in this area. Commissioner Wilder suggested the Town and City work together for a joint venture. Mayor Woolsey commended Councilman Blank and the City for beginning the voucher program where the Town pays the difference to the City so Town residents can participate in City youth sports at the City's resident rate. Chairwoman Wilson also commended this program.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:
Ashley Kellahan
Town Administrator
Town of James Island