

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting

January 29, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Attending: Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Garrett Milliken, Councilman Troy Mullinax, Councilman Dan Boles and Councilwoman Cynthia Mignano. City of Charleston: Councilwoman Carol Jackson, Councilman Ross Appel and Councilman Dudley Gregorie. Charleston County: Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt. State Senator Sandy Senn. James Island Public Service District: Chairman Alan Laughlin, Commissioner Inez Brown-Crouch, Commissioner Kathy Woolsey, Commissioner Meredith Poston and Commissioner Eugene Platt.

The Chair Kathy Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Public Comments

Harriet Money, a resident in the Marlboro subdivision, spoke regarding the flooding along Central Park rd.

Beckie McSwain, a resident in the Marlboro subdivision, spoke regarding flooding and limiting development that contributes to storm water issues.

Zeke, a resident in the Laurel Park neighborhood, spoke out regarding the Central Park cluster development and concerns over flooding and the sewer system overflows.

1. Drainage Projects: Councilwoman Jackson introduced this item and recognized City, County and Town Staff to speak regarding ongoing joint drainage projects, the Island-Wide delineation study, and re-establishing the subdivision drainage plans. Mark Johnson, PW Director for the Town of James Island, spoke about the plans for re-establishing the ditches in Whitehouse Plantation as well as improvements being made in the Lynwood Subdivision. Chris Wannamaker, Storm Water Manager for Charleston County discussed progress with the Signal Rd as well as the Central Park Rd drainage projects. Matt Fountain, Stormwater Director for the City of Charleston, also discussed improvements being made to the Municipal Golf course and how the County joined in to bring Woodland Shores Rd drainage improvements into this project. Councilman Gregory, Milliken, Boles and Councilwoman Mignano all had questions regarding new storm water regulations and how they will be able to help control flooding caused by new development. Mayor Woolsey introduced a resolution regarding Jointly Re-establishing ditches in James Island Neighborhoods. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boles. The Resolution discussed how a lack of regular maintenance has caused drainage problems within neighborhoods and a need for a coordinated effort by all jurisdictions to reestablish the ditch systems to original subdivision plans. Councilwoman Honeycutt amended the resolution to say “time has led” in lieu of the word neglect and also to add “where possible”. All voted in favor of the amendment, and all voted in favor of the Resolution as amended.

2. Eric Adams, Deputy Director for Charleston County Public Works, discussed County projects on James Island that are being funded thru CTC and TST programs. Those included Folly Rd Phase I, the intersection of Central Park and Riverland Dr., the intersection of Secessionville and Ft. Johnson and the intersection of Camp Rd. and Fort Johnson.
3. City, County and Town Planning staff all gave updates to the group regarding new developments they are aware of along with new planning initiatives to include the City and Town's 5 year Comprehensive Plan Review. The ReThink Folly Rd plan and update from Toole was also discussed.
4. Staff discussed the James Island Creek TMDL. A draft monitoring plan has been sent out regarding the impairment of th water body and there will be a 6 year monitoring phase to determine the main sources of pollution. The 2nd 5 year phase will be related to the implementation of the improvements. Staff between all jurisdictions are working together and first step is creating the Water Quality Task Force. From there, they will look at identifying failing septic tanks and sanitary sewer overflows. Councilwoman Jackson presented a Resolution in support of creating a water quality task force and the cooperation in cleaning up James Island Creek. Mayor Woolsey moved to approved, with Councilman Milliken seconded the motion. All voted to adopt.
5. Mayor Woolsey discussed the sewer overflow and stormwater flooding from Dec. 24, 2019 and representatives from the JIPSD discussed how their upgrades along Habor View Rd and will help with those problems. Commissioner Woolsey also discussed plastic covers that go in manholes and they are looking into those inexpensive solutions. Mr. Mordecai with Charleston Water Systems was on hand to discuss their wastewater collection system and how their infrastructure on James Island is in good shape and they have a preventative maintenance program. Mayor Woolsey discussed more is there a way to identify and tie together stormwater overflows with sanitary sewer overflows and how can we track those. Councilman Boles wondered if the pump stations are overworked and Councilwoman Mignano asked why not to go the jurisdictions about not allowing developments when there is not enough capacity. Charleston Water Systems staff explained they cannon prohibit development by refusing service in their service area. Commissioner Poston discussed getting the word out about not mixing animal waste with yard waste and how given the changes at the Bees Ferry Landfill they cannot take as much yard waste as they have in the past because of how far their trucks are now having to travel to a site in Ladson.
6. Commissioner Platt discussed ideas regarding widening the bridge on Habor View Rd.

The Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.