

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting – VIRTUAL  
July 22, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes**

Attending: Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Garrett Milliken, Councilman Troy Mullinax, and Councilwoman Cynthia Mignano. City of Charleston: Mayor John Tecklenburg, Councilwoman Carol Jackson and Councilman Ross Appel. Charleston County: Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt (Vice Chair). State Senators Sandy Senn and Chip Campsen. James Island Public Service District: Commissioner Alan Laughlin and Commissioner Kathy Woolsey (Chair).

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05. Following introductions, Councilwoman Jackson moved to approved the minutes from January's meeting. Motion passed.

None of the virtual attendees at the time had any public comments.

1. Charleston County Transportation Updates - Devri Detoma with Charleston County Transportation gave an update on the ReThink Folly Rd Phase I project (8 ft sidewalk and improved bike lanes running from Ellis Creek to George Griffith Blvd) as well as other Intersection Improvement Projects on James Island. She noted that 70% plans were given to the municipalities and DOT with no comments, so they are proceeding with 90% plans. Reviewing a participation agreement with DOT regarding maintenance requirements. Once that is executed, the Right of Way acquisition will begin. Councilwoman Jackson noted that one of the other improvements there were able to get into this project was an enhanced crosswalk at George Griffith and Folly Rd. Detoma noted that on the website are all the presentations that have been made to the ReThink Steering Committee.

Detoma then presented a video that substituted as the public meeting for the Ft. Johnson and Secessionville Rd public meeting. It highlighted the County's preferred alternative which includes a traffic light and turn lane. There will be a 60-day public comment period lasting until the end of August. She asked public officials to help get the word out to solicit public comment.

Detoma then went over the list of all the other sales tax projects the department is working on and Kellahan will distribute that to the group. Sen. Senn asked about the status of the Riverland and Central Park project, and Detoma said because of COVID-19 it was pulled from the agenda and it is up to the County Administrator. Sen. Senn is concerned about deferring this project any longer and so she will follow-up with the appropriate staff, officials and concerned citizens. Mayor Woolsey reminded the body that it has gone on the record more than once about making improvements to Ft. Johnson and Secessionville and was pleased to see this project moving forward. Councilwoman Jackson noted the intersection of Ft. Johnson and Camp would be following it as well. Councilman Milliken asked about improvements to Fort Johnson and Folly and Detoma said funding was allocated to bike ped improvements, and Sen. Senn noted that the Publix is responsible in paying for a traffic study to determine improvements to the light including arrows and length of timing for turning.

2. Undergrounding power lines – Councilman Boles not present so item was skipped.

3. Grimball Rd drainage improvements – Brett Champion and Chris Wannamaker with Charleston County Stormwater presented the plan for drainage improvements to this area which will help alleviate flooding

particularly at Signal Point Rd. Champion went thru the slides and discussed how there are three phases and they are moving forward with phase I which will include lowering the pond at JI Elementary about a foot, and then installing a triple 48 culvert just south of the pond. He noted given the layout of Grimball Rd school traffic should not be impacted this fall. Councilman Milliken asked about why this project was moving forward when this basin was not identified in the Island Wide drainage study as a top priority. Champion noted that this project is almost entirely within Charleston County and Mayor Woolsey responded that this study was completed last year, and this improvement project has been in the works for approximately 5 years.

Councilwoman Jackson asked if we had anyone wishing to speak at this time. Kellahan noted there was one attendee with his hand raised, however he noted that this question had already answered.

4. Central Park Drainage Evaluation – Matt Fountain with the City of Charleston presented a slideshow on this basin, the joint collaboration between the City, County and DOT, what the evaluation has shown, recommend improvements, and how stormwater reviews on development within this basin should be handled moving forward. This 500-acre area will see improvements in 4 areas. Area 1 is calling for a new check valve near Riley Rd, as well as enhanced pipe systems behind Fleming Woods. Area 2 will also see improvements including a new check valve, and area 3 will see new culverts under Central Park. Area 4 around Fleming is more complex and includes regrading and reestablishing the ditch system. Development reviews will take a more regional approach will refer back to the basin-wide model and developments will have to design to that needed capacity and cannot add any more volume during a storm event, not just faster as prior regulations called for. It will be a 5-year project to complete design, construction and funding will be the biggest challenge and a joint effort by the 3 entities.

5. County Greenbelt Awards – Councilwoman Honeycutt said while there none on James Island this cycle, there were some great projects including a recreation center for Edisto Island community, a purchase of the Ross tract which will increase the size of the Johns Island park, boardwalks on Isle of Palms, and the church creek park and fire dept improvements which they're hoping will help with drainage. CTC funds include 20k for Ft. Johnson and Folly improvements as was mentioned earlier.

6. JI Creek TMDL – Water Quality Taskforce. Councilwoman Jackson and Mayor Tecklenburg discussed the 5 entities that are managing the creek improvements to include the City, Town, County, JIPSD and CWS. The group has had their first meeting to discuss paths forwards. Wannamaker and Champion, along with Mark Johnson with the Town discussed the monitoring plan. There was question raised by a citizen, Franny Henty, and she asked whether the jurisdictions could pause development until improvements to the wastewater infrastructure were made. Chair Woolsey noted that the JIPSD didn't have that authority and discussed the major improvements to their system have been made and continue to be made to include a new line running to Central Park Rd. as well as new caps made for the manhole covers that will keep stormwater out of the wastewater system.

7. Planning Updates – Christopher Morgan with the City of Charleston discussed their current 10 year re-write of their comprehensive plan which is a big undertaking and considers many things such as sea level rise and affordable housing. Because of COVID, there has been virtual engagement which will ramp up in August and Sept. Councilman Milliken asked whether or not the plan will take into account how perhaps different areas of the City should have varied planning requirements based on their make-up and character. Morgan replied yes and in fact they due those area specific planning initiatives now, and referenced ReThink Folly Plan and the Maybank Corridor plan that is currently underway. Kellahan noted

that the Town is undergoing its 5-year comprehensive plan review and soliciting public input, and it is scheduled to go before Town Council in December for final approval.

8. Election of Officers – Commissioner Woolsey nominated Councilwoman Honeycutt as the Chair, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Motion passed. Councilwoman Honeycutt nominated Ross Appel for Vice Chair, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.