

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd., James Island, SC. This meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's You-Tube Channel.

The following members of Town Council were present: Boles, Mignano, Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, presided. Also, Town Attorney, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Administrator, Niki Grimball, Finance Director, Merrell Roe, Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, Planning Director, Kristen Crane, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Lt. Shawn James, Patrol Division, Deputy Chris King, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. A quorum was present to conduct business. This meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island with notification provided to the public.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order, led the prayer, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing on Ordinance #2022-02: An Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget for the Town of James Island, South Carolina: Mayor Woolsey opened the Hearing. No one present spoke.

Public Comment:

Brandon Fish, Ilene Turbow, and Diny Adkins representing the Charleston Jewish Federation thanked Town Council for having them and spoke regarding the 2022 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration.

Ryan Wynkarp, 649 Clearview Drive spoke about increased speeding and safety concerns in the Clearview neighborhood. Mr. Wynkarp said he moved there last summer and lives near Tennent and Clearview. He recalled the Town doing a traffic study years ago and some speed bumps were put in but there is a lot of activity on Tennent where a lot of families live. He commented that a lot of the older families were a part of that process and may've thought a lot more was going to be done and is very interested to see more done. He noted that Clearview to Tennent is the longest loop without any traffic control in all of James Island for over two miles. The community would love to have what Harbor Woods has; all-way stops everywhere, but speed bumps would slow the traffic. He said there are some problem speeders in the neighborhood that have been reported to the police and has done surveillance and have spoken to them but there are some neighbors that have no concern for others in that regard. He said the neighborhood has not seen change and that is frustrating. He has seen some very close calls.

Jim Boyd, 719 Tennent: spoke about speeding and safety concerns in Clearview that he said has gotten a bit better with the police presence in unmarked cars. He works for Motorola and has installed two cameras pointed towards the street to capture how fast cars speed. He noted that the week before, the average speed on a 25 mph road was 46.9 mph average. On the speed bumps that the Town put in, the average speed went down 23.4. Two weeks ago the average speed is back to 36.4 mph. He expressed safety concerns because there are 20 kids in the neighborhood from his house to Clearview 10 years old and under. Mr. Boyd said he did not appreciate that the Town's Public Works Department came onto his property to remove the speed bump and sign. He said in the midst of removing the structures they allowed cars to drive through his yard. Mr. Boyd read a Section of State Code that requires notification given to a property owner before coming onto someone's property. He reiterated the importance of safety for his family and that something has to be done and quickly.

Cheryl & Ryan Sherrer, 705 Tennent: commented the same issues previously expressed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of March 24, Regular Town Council Meeting and

April 4, Special Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Report Provided. Finance Director, Merrell Roe gave a summary of the monthly Finance Report highlighting revenues and expenditures for March.

Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Niki Grimball, announced having an exciting first week as the Town Administrator. Over the next several weeks she plans to spend time shadowing Town staff to learn about processes and procedures that are in place, as well as an understanding of the current, past, and future issues concerning the Town and Council. Other activities and reports included: Attending the Municipal Leaders Group of the Charleston County Affordable Housing initiatives. Charleston County Facilities denied the initial submittal request for the Town to put solar panels on the JI Arts & Cultural Center at this time. Mrs. Grimball is working to provide more details to address this concern. The Town's application to the SC Office of Resilience for the Master Plan of the James Island Creek Basin was accepted. Septic inspections in the James Island Creek have begun with the first set completed. Charleston County Transportation received bids for the Camp & Riverland sidewalk project. The low bid came in more than the available funding. Approved federal funding will expire soon, and Charleston County Transportation has asked the Town and City to provide up to \$100,000 each as a match for this \$1.2 million project. The Town's long time janitorial service (Zeb's) has gone out of business. Janitorial service is being done on a month-to-month basis. Staff is reviewing proposals for a long term contract that will be presented to Council. Councilman Milliken asked if Alder Energy would be able to shuffle and put the solar panels on Town Hall and Mrs. Grimball said yes, installation is still on track and she will check when it will begin.

Public Works Report: Report Provided. Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave a summary of March's projects and activities. Councilman Mullinax complimented Mr. Johnson on getting the radar sign on Fort Johnson Road installed. Councilman Mullinax said he hopes to have this done on other busy roads in the Town. Mayor Woolsey questioned Mr. Johnson asking him when road work is done, if we generally work on the right-of-way and Mr. Johnson replied yes; that work is always done in the right-of-way. Mayor Woolsey also asked if the Town directed traffic through someone's yard in Clearview and Mr. Johnson said no, that people may've been directed to go around the work being done in the right-of-way. Mayor Woolsey reminded Mr. Johnson to always provide information about the Town's Traffic Calming Policy when residents inquire about traffic calming.

Councilwoman Mignano asked about the process for septic inspections. Mr. Johnson said that information was sent to individuals to complete and return to the Town. Most of the information we received came from the residents in Clarks Point. Mayor Woolsey added that property owners who did not respond are not on the list at this time and will be reached another way. Most of the inspections are being done in Clarks Point and Oak Point.

Code Enforcement Report: Report Provided.

James Island Arts & Cultural Center Report: Report Provided. Councilman Milliken invited everyone to attend the Juried Art Exhibition Reception at the James Island Arts & Cultural Center on Thursday, April 28 from 6-8 p.m. The Arts Exhibition runs from April 28 – May 19.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Lt. James gave an update of crimes and arrests in the Town. He also provided an update on the speeding in the Clearview neighborhood.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

Drainage Box Repair (near 1122 Dills Bluff Rd.): Mr. Johnson requested approval for the repair of a drainage box near the Town Hall. Repairs to be done by Charleston County Public Works at \$5,426.21. Motion to in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Change Order to Add Variable Fan Drive to HVAC Unit at JIACC: Mr. Johnson presented a request for Lockridge Builders to add a variable fan to the existing HVAC at the JI Arts & Cultural Center at \$9,969.00. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Mayor Woolsey commented that the humidity in the building did not allow the unit to work sufficiently. He said all of the funds for improvements and repair were not used. Councilman Milliken asked if Charleston County is in agreement with this being done and it was confirmed that they are. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

Request staff to look into Permanent Signage (similar to that of the PSD) to advertise upcoming events at the JIACC and purchase basic copy machine for JIACC: Councilman Mullinax spoke that at the last Neighborhood Council meeting a member expressed concerns about having to look on social media for upcoming events and that it would be good to have a sign to display the Town's events. Councilman Mullinax said this could be a casual sign (similar to the PSD's on Folly Road in front of Harris Teeter) to let more people know about upcoming events. Councilman Mullinax moved for the staff to look into the feasibility of a sign and also the purchase of a basic copy machine. He said a copier was available when the building was a library. Councilman Boles seconded the motion. Councilman Milliken said it is a good idea to look into this as the corner of Dills and Camp are two major thoroughfares in the Town. Councilman Boles added that the Brother copier is a good brand, not too expensive, that his law practice uses. Motion passed unanimously for staff to research costs and report back to Council.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: No Report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced during the James Island Pride litter pickup on April 9, twelve (12) volunteers collected 24 bags of litter. The next pickup is scheduled for Saturday, June 11. Helping Hands is in need of volunteers to help clean yards. Please contact Stan Kozikowski if interested in volunteering (860) 847-0544.

Children's Committee: No Report

Public Safety: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Neighborhood Council will not have its regular meeting this month. He encouraged everyone to attend the Art Exhibition at the JIACC Thursday, April 28 6-8 p.m.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that the History Committee is working on the Historic Trail and a proposal to print additional copies of the James Island Booklet that is running low. The First Shot was held on Sunday, April 10 with a small turnout of 13 people in attendance.

Rethink Folly Road Committee. Mayor Woolsey announced that the committee will meet on Wednesday, April 27 at 3:30 p.m.

Drainage Committee: No Report. Councilman Mullinax announced the next meeting date is to be determined.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that the Trees Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 12. This was a brief meeting due to technical difficulties on Zoom. The committee is working on recommendations for a large tree list, the tree seedling program, and plans for the 150th Anniversary for Arbor Day.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Election of Officers for Chair and Vice Chair will be on the upcoming agenda.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Proclamation: 2022 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration: Mayor Woolsey asked Ilene Turbow, Charleston Jewish Federation, to read the Proclamation. Mrs. Turbow read the Proclamation and gave a brief overview of the Holocaust Remembrance. She introduced Diny Adkins, child survivor, dressed in blue and yellow for the colors of Ukraine. Mrs. Turbow displayed a yellow candle symbolic of the deaths during the Holocaust and the star Jews were forced to wear. Mayor Woolsey moved to proclaim the week of Sunday, April 4 through 11 as the Week of Remembrance in memory of the victims, survivors, rescuers, and liberators of the Holocaust in the Town of James Island. Councilman Boles seconded and passed unanimously.

Proclamation: April Fair Housing Month: Councilman Milliken moved in favor of designating April as Fair Housing Month, Councilman Mullinax seconded and passed unanimously.

Proclamation: National Public Works Week: Councilman Boles moved in favor of designating May 15-21 as National Public Works Week, Councilman Milliken seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-05: Support of FY CTC for Regatta Road Sidewalk: Councilman Boles moved in favor of funding through the FY 2023 CTC program for Regatta Road. Estimated construction costs for the project is \$250,000; the Town's required match is 50% (\$125,000) and is available in the Capital Projects budget. Councilman Mullinax seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-06: Resolution to Provide Matching Funds for Camp Road Sidewalk and Riverland Drive Shared Use Path: Mayor Woolsey spoke of the project initiated by the Town eight years ago. The Town and City jointly requested CTC funds to extend the Camp Rd sidewalk to Riverland Drive and added a shared use path along Riverland Drive to the JI County Park and the Senior Center. Due to inflation the cost of the project has increased from \$1 million to the low bid of \$1.2 million. The Town will approve \$100,000 towards a local match, contingent upon agreement from the City to also provide a match. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-07: Designating an Annual James Island Arts and Cultural Center Juried Arts Exhibition, observance, and Celebration: Councilman Milliken moved that the Town designate April 28 – May 19 to observe the James Island Arts Exhibition. Councilman Boles seconded and passed unanimously. Councilman Milliken invited all citizens to celebrate and promote this event.

Resolution #2022-08: Naming the Town Hall Municipal Office Building for Ashley Kellahan: Councilwoman Mignano moved in favor, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken read the Resolution into the record. Mayor Woolsey said this recognition is well deserved but Mrs. Kellahan does not believe she is deserving of it. She could not be present to receive the Resolution and has sent a letter thanking the Mayor, Council, and staff for this honor. Resolution passed unanimously.

(Email from Mrs. Kellahan) I wanted to let you know that unfortunately I'll be unable to attend tonight's meeting as I have to present at the Town of Ridgeland Council meeting this evening. Please know that if for some reason the agenda item on naming the administrative offices is withdrawn or fails to pass, it will NOT hurt my feelings and I'm honored that it's being considered. If it's appropriate, please include this email in the council meeting minutes.

Words cannot express how humbled I am by the Resolution on tonight's agenda. While I still feel very strongly that the facility should not bear my name as there are so many people, particularly Mayor Woolsey, who made this vision a reality, at some point I guess I have to concede and just say thank you. So, here goes: Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to serve the Town as I am truly honored to have been a part of these amazing projects and to have had the opportunity to work with such an exceptional group of people. I'm grateful that I get to continue working with the Town in this new capacity at the Municipal Association and hopeful I'll be able to assist James Island for many years to come.

Resolution #2022-09: Authorizing the Exercise of Eminent Domain to Acquire Title or interest in Real Property for the Oceanview -Stone Post Drainage Improvements Project: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, presented the request through Resolution for the final easement that is needed for drainage improvements in the Oceanview-Stone Post areas "the Royal Tract". Motion in favor by Mayor Woolsey, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Milliken asked about the drawings provided and if all three (3) tracts are condemnations. Mr. Johnson said are all owned by the Royal family and is considered to be one tract. He said the other property owners have given permission. Mayor Woolsey commented that the purpose of the request is to improve drainage in those areas and its time to move forward. Resolution passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2022-02: An Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of James Island, South Carolina: Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2022-01: Proposed Amendments to the Zoning and Land Development Regulations (ZLDR) Including Removing Apiculture (Beekeeping) from the Use Table, Allowing Apiculture in any Zoning District without Regulation or Enforcement by the Town's ZLDR: Motion in favor by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Woolsey spoke in opposition stating that the change is a mistake. Motion passed 4-1.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Clearview Speeding Issues

Mayor Woolsey reminded Council that the deadline for placing items on the agenda is the Thursday before the meeting, not the day before, but Council can vote now to add it to the agenda. Councilwoman Mignano moved to add Clearview speeding issues to the agenda, seconded by Councilman Boles and passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Mignano spoke about the speeding issues in the neighborhood and asked about having a new traffic study with updated information to move forward with the concerns of the neighborhood. She thanked the Island Sheriff's Patrol for the work they are doing with traffic, speeding, and moving quickly on it. Councilman Boles recalled this issue during one of the first meetings of Council in 2019 when this issue was addressed, that it was very heated. He reminded those present that their concerns are being heard; the process works, and it will be taken care of. He thanked everyone for their patience.

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Boles thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Councilwoman Mignano welcomed new Town Administrator, Niki Grimball and is glad she is here. She thanked everyone for coming out and the presenters from the American Jewish Federation for Yom HaShoah commemoration.

Councilman Milliken thanked the staff for their hard work and welcomed Niki Grimball.

Councilman Mullinax thanked staff/Frances for the work they did during the interim without an Administrator, and the residents from Clearview for coming to express their concerns.

Mayor Woolsey welcomed Niki Grimball, who is already hitting the ground running. Mrs. Grimball is making great accomplishments and her connections with Charleston County has been helpful with the solar issue for the JI Arts and Cultural Center. He thanked the staff for their work during the absence of an administrator and for putting up with him.

Lt. James thanked Council and staff for the kindness shown to him during the passing of his mother. He appreciated the love and support that was displayed from the sending of flowers, cards, words of comfort and other sympathies.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Frances Simmons
Town Clerk