

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 17, 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, Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, Finance Director, Merrell Roe, Planning Director, Kristen Crane, Planner II, Flannery Wood, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Lt. Shawn James Patrol Division/Town, 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 Town Council meeting to order and Councilman Mullinax led Council in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: The following persons addressed Town Council:

Courtney Plotner and Anne Reid: Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI). Ms. Plotner shared ABVI's mission which is to enrich the quality of life for the blind and visually impaired through comprehensive programs that focus on personal independence and rehabilitation. The services they provide helps individuals from the time they wake up until they go to bed at night. Council was asked to imagine what it would be like if their sight was impaired; how would they make a breakfast or get ready for work? These are the types of training that persons that are visually impaired learn to do. ABVI under the State's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides training and programs for adults with vision loss. Ms. Plotner added that without the services they provide there would be a huge void of at least 15,000 plus individuals in the tri county area and that number is expected to double by 2030. Service is provided to any adult with vision loss or impairment which helps maintain independence and an enjoyable quality life. Ms. Plotner added that they are proud to be a part of the community but has a challenge.

Allison Hanf, 21 Rivers Point Row: spoke in favor of Council providing funding to ABVI. She shared a personal experience of having a medical condition that causes vision loss. She has had three surgeries by the time she became 38 years old. Ms. Hanf added that ABVI's services and funding is a necessity for people with vision loss, and it is not only for the elderly or people with diabetes.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of January 20, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Boles, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Woolsey gave a summary of the Mayor's Report. Accepted as information.

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe gave a summary of the monthly Finance Report highlighting revenue and expenditures for the month. Accepted as information.

Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave an overview of monthly projects accomplished by staff. Councilman Mullinax asked the status of the radar sign for Ft. Johnson Rd. and Mr. Johnson said it is still pending with Dominion with no timetable yet. Accepted as information.

Code Enforcement Report: Provided to Council and accepted as information.

James Island Arts & Cultural Center Report: Provided to Council and accepted as information.

Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report: Lt. Shawn James gave an update of recent crimes and arrests in the Town, those solved and under investigation. Councilman Milliken thanked him for his service and asked that he be careful in his duties.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

Scope and Fee for Small Wireless Facilities Ordinances Development (JLA Engineering): Planning Director, Kristen Crane, presented for approval a proposal from Johnson, Laschober Associates (JLA) to develop a set of standards for permitting and review of Small Wireless Infrastructure within the Town limits. She announced that the Planning Commission had workshops where this was discussed and they wanted to move forward by having an Ordinance in place before requests are made. The cost for the proposal is \$10,500. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. During discussion Councilman Milliken stated it is law that we pass an Ordinance. He noted that the model provided by MASC was helpful and if that could be used rather than paying the \$10,500. Mrs. Crane said that details of specific criteria is required in the Ordinance that is not in MASC's model and the Engineers writing the Ordinance will draft a Technical Design Manual to attach to it. Councilman Milliken asked if existing 4-G towers would be gotten rid of. Mrs. Crane explained that 4-G are the bigger ones and 5-G towers can be placed on light poles and would not be in residential areas. There was brief discussion about the aesthetics and Mayor Woolsey said feedback could be given to the Planning Commission and a recommendation would come to Town Council for approval. Passed unanimously.

Quail Run Drainage Assessment Scope & Fee: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson presented a request for the Quail Run Drainage Assessment Scope & Fee by Stantec. Design costs, including permitting and construction management fees is \$21,600. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. After the proposal is finalized, the project would go to bid and come to Council for the award. Passed unanimously.

Subscription Renewal for Folly Road LPR: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson presented for approval the annual renewal which includes extended warranty on equipment and software, including all upgrades, revisions, and improvements at \$2,767.00. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Woolsey said in the future this expenditure would be included in the annual budget. Councilman Milliken asked about at the installation of the camera on Harbor View Road and Mr. Johnson said the pole would be installed next week and camera shortly after. Passed unanimously.

Landscape Maintenance of Right-of-Way @ Lighthouse Point: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson presented for approval Landscape Maintenance of the Right-of-Way at Lighthouse Point. He said now that the sidewalk is complete there is a need for landscaping. Mr. Johnson recommended placing pine straw under the Grand Oaks from Ft. Johnson to the railings for \$6,575.00 by Heart Pine Landscaping Maintenance. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Councilwoman Mignano asked if pine straw only would be used and Mr. Johnson explained that pine straw could be placed once a year rather than mulch which deteriorates quicker and needed more often. Mayor Woolsey added that in the future he hopes there will be plantings under the Grand Oaks. Passed unanimously.

Solar Panels for Town Hall and JI arts & Cultural Center: Benny Mosiman, Alderenergy Systems, gave a brief overview of the proposal for Solar Panels at the Town Hall and the JI Arts & Cultural Center. Handouts were provided to Council that outlined the cost of the panels and the savings that could be incurred. Mr. Mosiman said black panels are used for aesthetic purposes which gives a nicer look. Cost for the Town Hall is \$84,000 and JI Arts and Cultural Center at \$65,000. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded

by Councilman Mullinax. Councilwoman Mignano commented about the cost and the JI Arts & Cultural Center offset by 25% and perhaps we start with Town Hall first. Councilman Milliken spoke in favor of the request saying it is reasonable and worth the expenditure. He said it is also in line with the Climate Plan the Town passed last year, and this is how we move forward in support of our proclamations. Councilman Boles was informed that the length of time for installation is 3-4months and later could tie into batteries. Motion passed unanimously.

Schooner Road Drainage: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave an overview of the Schooner Road Drainage project and presented the following motion for approval by Council.

James Island Town Council approves the expenditure of up to \$90,000 for drainage improvements, with an appropriation of up to \$45,000 of public funds to reduce flooding in the backyards at 622, 628, and 632 Schooner Rd, conditional on each property owner agreeing to provide the needed easements gratis along a 50% cost share of \$15,000 each.

Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Mullinax asked Mr. Johnson if the \$90,000 was the firm amount; to which Mr. Johnson said it is at this time, but the project could be increased when it goes to bid. Councilman Mullinax expressed concern that the \$15,000 homeowner cost might increase making it unaffordable for the homeowners. Councilman Mullinax made an amendment for the Town to pay 2/3 of the cost @ \$60,000; and each of the homeowners to pay 1/3 of the cost @ \$10,000 each. The amendment was seconded by Councilman Milliken. The amendment was followed by discussion and afterward, Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it passed unanimously. Both Mayor Woolsey and Mr. Johnson answered questions that Councilman Boles had about the drainage and flooding issues. Motion as amended passed unanimously.

Action Items:

Donation to Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI): Mayor Woolsey asked Councilman Boles to address the agenda item. Councilman Boles recognized that the representatives from ABVI were present to answer questions. He recalled at the last Town Council meeting that he had suggested a donation to ABVI of \$50,000 but Council could amend it to another amount. Councilman Boles commented on the good service that ABVI provides and that they were frugal during COVID but the County did not give them the same amount as they previously had and a few dollars would have a great impact for the services they provide. He asked Council for its consideration. Councilman Boles moved to provide \$50,000 to ABVI and Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilman Milliken asked how much money is allocated in the Community Services Budget and Mayor Woolsey said \$30,000 of which has been spent. Councilwoman Mignano said she had suggested that we look at areas where money could come from; where there might be some flexibility; not to top out our budget. Mayor Woolsey added that the most we have given any organization is \$5,000 and giving this organization \$50,000 would be more than 10 times over. Councilman Milliken asked what is available that could be given because this is a worthwhile cause. Mayor Woolsey said they had applied (through Community Service Grant) for \$2,000 and was awarded \$1,000. He said we could possibly give \$1,000 bringing the total they would receive to \$2,000. Councilwoman Mignano also offered that fund-raisers could be done to help the organization and she is willing to help with that. Councilwoman Mignano amended the motion to provide \$1,000 to ABVI bringing the total from the Town to \$2,000. Councilman Milliken seconded and the amendment passed. Councilman Boles opposed. Councilman Milliken recommended that the Community Services budget be increased as there are a lot of worthy organizations. Councilman Mullinax agreed and offered to help with fund-raising efforts. After discussion, the motion as amended passed.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilwoman Mignano announced the Planning Commission met and the BZA approved the Special Exception for a barber shop.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced an Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on Saturday, March 19 from 9-11 a.m. Lunch will be provided after the clean-up. Helping Hands is beginning to start up with cleaning events. Please contact Stan Kozikowski at (860) 847-0544 to volunteer.

Children's Committee: No report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the next meeting on Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that plans are being made for the First Shot commemoration event, Sunday, April 10, 1-3 p.m. at Fort Johnson. The History Committee is also working on history trails. Mayor Woolsey announced that the SC Battleground Trust has purchased the MUSC property on Fort Johnson and it is likely that the Town will have some involvement in the process.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced that the Rethink Steering Committee will meet virtually on February 23 @ 3:30 p.m. At the meeting, a Chair and Vice Chair will be elected. The group is also discussing sidewalks from Ellis Creek to George Griffith Blvd.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the Drainage Committee met on February 9 for its quarterly meeting and covered a number of issues, such as the Lighthouse Point Basin, and the James Island Creek TMDL. He thanked Councilmembers Milliken and Mignano and Mayor Woolsey for attending. The next meeting will be in May. Date and time to be determined.

Business Development Committee: No report.

Trees Advisory: Councilman Milliken announced that the tree interns are being trained by PW Director, Mark Johnson and Chris Gerards, our arborist. He also announced the First Canopy of Distinction Award for a Grand Live Oak tree at 811 Godber Street and encouraged everyone to go see this beautiful tree.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced that the next meeting will be held in March and a new Chairperson will be elected.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Proclamation: 2022 National Women in Construction Week: Motion in favor by Mayor Woolsey, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-03: Naming Town Hall Office Building for Former TA, Ashley Kellahan: Mayor Woolsey requested to withdraw this agenda item and it was granted without objection.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2021-09: Proposed Zoning Map Amendment @1715 Oak Point Rd. from Low-Density Suburban Residential (RSL) to General Office District (OG) for Fishing/Hunting Guide Services and Office Uses: Application withdrawn by property owner.

Old Business:

Presentation Update for LPR Camera: Councilman Boles announced that no action was required for this item.

New Business: None

Executive Session: None required.

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Boles encouraged everyone to stay safe and thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

Councilwoman Mignano thanked everyone for their hard work.

Councilman Milliken announced the Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup on March 19, 9-11 a.m. Meet on the porch at Town Hall.

Councilman Mullinax announced the sudden passing of Martin Williams, a resident of the Town and a member on several Town committees. He and Councilman Milliken attended a visitation for him on February 4 .

Mayor Woolsey thanked all the staff for stepping up in the absence of the Town Administrator.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons

Town Clerk