

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7:08 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 (via Zoom), 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 (Patrol Division) Deputy Chris King, Attorney Joseph P. Qualey, 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: Due to difficulty linking onto Zoom, the meeting began at 7:08 p.m. and was called to order by Mayor Woolsey.

Public Hearing: Ordinance #2021-01: Proposed Amendment 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: Mayor Woolsey opened the Public Hearing for comments. No one spoke.

Public Comment: The following person addressed Town Council:

Dee Dee Joyce, 2052 Edisto Avenue: an avid tennis player expressed concerns about the lack of tennis facilities on James Island. She stated as the population of James Island increases there is a demand for more tennis and pickle ball courts. She asked the Town to work with the City of Charleston to this end.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of February 17, Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Woolsey reviewed his written report provided to Council. Highlights included: 14 applications received for the Town Administrator position; four interviewed by the Committee (Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Milliken and Town Clerk, Simmons). The Committee hopes to make a recommendation to Council soon.

New requests for proposals for septic inspections resulted in receipt of two bids. The first effort was unsuccessful. If approved, inspections should begin next month.

Mayor Woolsey updated Council that the Town was required to pay \$1100 in late fees to the SC Ethics Commission for lobbyist reports that were not filed on time. Councilman Milliken asked if this is for the present lobbyist and Mayor Woolsey responded that the Town is required to file reports three time per year and the unfiled reports were mostly for the previous lobbyist. The Town and is now on track.

Mayor Woolsey informed Council of legal action taken by Kebo LLC regarding the right of patrons to the James Island Arts & Cultural Center to park at the Camp Center Parking Lot. Councilman Milliken asked if this could be discussed in Executive Session and Mayor Woolsey deferred to Mr. Wilson but thought it could be.

Budget FY 2022 Narrative: Mayor Woolsey gave an overview of the Narrative for the proposed FY 2022 Budget. The proposed total General Fund expenditure remains unchanged at \$4 million; Capital Projects is proposed to increase by \$1 million to nearly \$3.5 million for infrastructure, drainage, and parks. Full copy of the narrative was provided to Council. Councilman Milliken thanked Mayor Woolsey for providing a written version with explanations.

Budget FY 2022 Draft, March 18: Provided under Budget Narrative.

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe gave a summary of the monthly Finance Report and highlighted revenues and expenses for the month. Councilman Milliken questioned the \$750,600 outside the columns (under Hospitality Tax). Ms. Roe explained it is a note that was picked up and it does not change totals in that category. Received as information.

Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave an overview of the monthly projects and it was accepted as information. It was noted that Thomas McArthur, PW Facilities Maintenance Coordinator, is doing well and staff is anxiously awaiting his return.

Code Enforcement Report: Report received as information.

James Island Arts & Cultural Center Report: Mayor Woolsey announced that a juried art show will be held the end of May. Councilman Milliken complimented the staff and is impressed with the program and resources that is offered at the Art Center. He commented that it is wonderful to have this facility in our community. Report received as information.

Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report: Deputy Chris King gave an update of recent crimes and arrests in the Town, those that have been solved and those being investigated. Deputy King informed Council of the passing of Lt. James' mother.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

Driveway Apron Repair @ 1051 Starboard Rd: PW Director Mark Johnson presented for approval a driveway apron repair at 1051 Starboard at \$7,051.70 by Charleston County. This repair is similar to the property next to it that was previously approved by Council. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilwoman Mignano asked if both repairs could be done at the same time and Mr. Johnson said it would be more economical if it could be done that way. Passed unanimously.

Contractor Bids Received for Septic System Inspections: PW Director Mark Johnson reported that two bids were received: Knights Septic Tank, and Palmetto Site Solutions, LLC. References have been checked and prices are in line with industry standards. Both companies will be used for on-call service. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Action Items: None

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No Report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced a successful Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pickup on Saturday, March 19 with 36 volunteers picking up 41 bags of litter from James Island's roadways. He thanked volunteers from Hurricane Boxing, James Island Exchange Club, JI Charter HS Airforce Jr. ROTC and James Island Pride members. The next pickup is scheduled for April 9.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Mullinax moved for the appointment of Stephen Jarrett to serve on the Neighborhood Council representing the Clearview subdivision, Councilman Milliken seconded. Passed unanimously.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that the Commemoration of the First Shot will take place on Sunday, April 10 from 1-3 p.m. at Fort Johnson and encouraged everyone to attend.

Rethink Folly Road Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that County Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt was appointed to the Steering Committee as Chair and State Representative Spencer Wetmore, the Vice-Chair.

Drainage Committee: No Report.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that the committee did not meet in March. The next meeting will be on April 12 at 4:30 p.m.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

American Red Cross Month, 2022: Mayor Woolsey read a Proclamation on behalf of Council recognizing March as American Red Cross Month and the services they provide. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Passed unanimously. Patrick Dollason, a member of the Red Cross' Disaster Team, was present and accepted the Proclamation.

Proclamation Recognizing Winifred Sanders: Mayor Woolsey read a Proclamation on behalf of Council recognizing Winifred Sanders. Mrs. Sanders was born in Harlem, NY, but has been a long-time resident of James Island. Mrs. Sanders will celebrate her 90th birthday in July. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-04: ISP Deputy of the Year: Mayor Woolsey on behalf of Council recognized Deputy Jacob Brueckner as the Island Sheriffs' Patrol Deputy of the Year, 2021. Mayor Woolsey read the Resolution and Council congratulated him on his many accomplishments. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First 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 Regulations or Enforcement by the Town's ZLDR: Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Woolsey spoke stating that he would vote in opposition to the Ordinance because it is a radical change. He explained that it was illegal to have beehives in the Town when he first became Mayor and later it became a use requiring a Special Exception. The thought was that applicants would go to the BZA who would add conditions specific to that property with the neighbors' concerns in mind. The previously approved change by the Planning Commission would have

added those same conditions that the BZA would impose to the Ordinance, therefore taking away the need to go to the BZA but still offering guidance for potential beekeepers and some sort of protection for their neighbors. Mayor Woolsey noted that if the Ordinance passes tonight, there is no recourse for neighbors. He further noted it has been said in a previous meeting that the County's rules would apply and that is not true since the Town is incorporated and have its own zoning codes and regulations. It was also said in a previous meeting that state law would apply and that is not true since there are no state laws regarding beekeeping.

Councilman Boles stated that he would vote in favor of the Ordinance and this issue has been debated ad nauseum. He likes the idea of a small town government where rules are not made every time something comes up. Councilman Milliken spoke about the number of beehives and that someone would not have, for example 50, and expect the bees to live as they survive on flowers. He is in favor of removing all of the restrictions rather than adding rules. After discussion, the roll was called and votes were recorded as follows:

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	No

Motion passed 4-1.

Ordinances Up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey made a motion to enter into an executive to receive legal advice in accordance with 30-4-70(a) code of laws of South Carolina for Restructure of Town Property Tax and for Parking Rights at the JI Arts & Cultural Center. Councilman Milliken seconded and the motion carried. Council entered at 7:51 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 9:12 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that no votes or decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Boles: thanked the staff

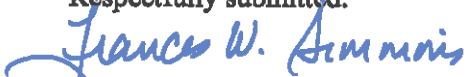
Councilwoman Mignano: thanked the staff and hopes a Town Administrator will be hired soon.

Councilman Milliken: thanked the staff

Councilman Mullinax: thanked the staff and Frances Simmons for double duty in the absence of a Town Administrator.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk