

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd. James Island, SC, Thursday, October 15, 2020 by Zoom. Councilmembers present: Boles, Mignano, Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, presided. Also, Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, Town Attorney, Bonum S. Wilson, Finance Director, Merrell Roe, Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Sgt. Shawn James, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. A quorum was present to conduct business.

This meeting was held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island. Information was provided for public participation.

Public Comment:

The following persons submitted emails: Lauren Robertson: in favor of reducing the speed limit and adding speed humps on Oceanview Rd.

Joseph M. Walters: In favor of traffic calming on Oceanview Rd. Also, an email in opposition to tax increases and encouraged Town Council to investigate the Special Assessment process as an alternative to millage increases or any reduction in tax credit relief for all James Islanders.

Comments on Zoom: Dr. Gretchen Bowles, spoke in support of James Island Charter HS request for funding through the Town's Community Assistance Grants Program.

Ashley Mulkey spoke in support of traffic calming on Oceanview. Thanked the Town for looking into lowering the speed limit and to place a radar sign to determine speed.

Leigh Ohlandt represents Oceanview neighborhood. Thanked the Town for putting this request on the agenda to lower the speed limit on Oceanview Rd. She hopes the Town will approve the request and place a radar speed sign to determine speed.

Ashley Johnson, lives on Oceanview @ Trenholm spoke in favor of lowering the speed limit and providing traffic calming on Oceanview. Expressed concerned for families and children outside because of COVID and speeding in the neighborhood.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: September 17, 2020, Regular Town Council Meeting and October 1, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Vote

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |
| Passed Unanimous     |     |

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, reviewed the Finance Report and gave an overview of the monthly revenue and expenditures. Report accepted as information.

Councilman Boles asked to move up the Island Sheriff's Patrol Report on the agenda to allow Sgt. James attendance at a wedding. Granted without objection.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report (ISP): Sgt. James gave an update on recent car break-ins on Oceanview Rd. and the ISP is continuing to investigate. He has spoken to neighborhood representative, Mrs. Ohlandt and informed her that a heavy police presence is being given to this matter. Crime statistics report given.

Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, gave an overview of the Administrator's report complementing Finance Director, Merrell Roe for preparing for the audit. Auditor Love Bailey is expected to present the Financial Statement in November. Mrs. Kellahan informed Council that a report on Dominion's Tree Trimmings is included in their packet. Councilman Milliken said he looked at the pictures the arborist included and is ghastly what is happening to the trees on our island. He asked what can be done. He said it seems that we have an agreement with Dominion that is not being abided because they continue to hack trees in opposition to what we have specified and what our arborist would like them to do. Councilman Milliken said he wonders what our recourse is because this should not continue, and the pictures are horrible. Mrs. Kellahan said Mr. Wilson, the Town's Attorney is present and if Council chooses to go into Executive Session to discuss the contract in more detail they could. Councilman Milliken asked if this could be done at the end of the meeting if everyone agrees and Mrs. Kellahan said yes.

Councilwoman Mignano asked for additional information on the Technical Subcommittee/Water Quality Taskforce. Mrs. Kellahan said the Subcommittee oversees the TMDL for James Island Creek. She is the Chair along with staff at the City, County, and the Town. The Subcommittee is charged with presenting to the full Taskforce an MOU for a cost-share with the City and County and Town on water testing; scope and services, what that would look like, and where the testing sites would be. Andrew Wunderly, Charleston Waterkeepers, is also on the Subcommittee. The next meeting is scheduled at the end of the month and the MOU should be ready to present to Council in November. Councilmembers Mignano and Milliken asked to be notified of the meeting. Councilman Milliken asked how members are selected and Mrs. Kellahan explained from the staff level. Mayor Woolsey explained how the elected officials were selected by Mayor Tecklenburg. Councilman Milliken said as the Chair of the Environment and Beautification Committee, he would be happy to participate in this worthy cause. Mayor Woolsey commented that this is not a Town committee and he could volunteer to serve through Mayor Tecklenburg.

Annual Department Report: Mrs. Kellahan commented that the Annual Department Report represents an overview of each department's goals and objectives and serves as a good yearbook for the Town. She thanked Town Clerk Simmons for helping to put the report together. The Annual Report is on the website. Councilman Milliken thanked staff for a good job.

Public Works: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, gave an overview adding a meeting with reps. from SCDOT that Dills Bluff Rd. would be closed the weekend of October 24 to replace a failed 36" corrugated metal pipe with a reinforced concrete pipe and an additional 48" reinforced concrete pipe near the boardwalk. This is a project the Town has been looking at doing for some time that will be paid by the DOT. He thanked Town Council, Senator Senn, Representative Wetmore, County Council Honeycutt, and City Council Jackson for helping to get this done. Mr. Johnson also mentioned that emergency repairs are being done on Peregrine & Bob White for a sinkhole caused by a pipe failure. Councilman Milliken asked if an employee had been hired for Public Works and Mr. Johnson said not yet. Councilwoman Mignano asked if the failed pipes on Dills Bluff Rd. would impact the drain that is close to Williams Rd. Mr. Johnson said there had been discussion with the DOT about doing this concurrently with Dills Bluff, but it was not mentioned during today's meeting.

#### Requests for Approval:

Request to lower speed limit from 30 to 25 mph on Oceanview Rd: Mrs. Kellahan gave a brief history of Oceanview neighborhood's request for traffic calming. The neighborhood representative, Mrs. Leigh Ohlandt submitted a request in summer of 2019 with a petition signed by 71 residents in support of reducing the speed limit; 45 persons favored speed humps, and 22 opposed. This information was presented to Town

Council in March to move forward with some type of traffic calming but was delayed due to COVID. Mr. Johnson has since placed the counter in the area and obtained data. A public meeting was held on October 5 with good feedback for traffic calming options. Mrs. Kellahan said the takeaway from staff is first to reduce the speed limit and make request to the SCDOT to reevaluate the need to pursue engineering for speed humps. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Boles said he had sent an email to staff asking the possibility of putting a speed measuring sign on Oceanview and remembered being told that if it were a SCDOT rd. we could not put one there. He asked the possibility of doing this. Mr. Johnson said we have placed radar signs on DOT rd. before and they do not like it and have asked us politely to remove it, or they remove it. Mayor Woolsey said his understanding is the SCDOT is open to us putting a radar sign on their road with permission. Mrs. Kellahan gave explanation of radar signs placed on Ft. Johnson Rd. and the DOT has expressed being open to placing them at the intersection because of crash data that we have. She said they do not like having them on residential streets but is something that we could explore further.

Councilwoman Mignano asked the length of Oceanview Rd. to the middle and Mr. Johnson said 0.6 miles, a straight run, and a third of a mile is where you should place the sign. Councilman Boles asked if the speed measuring device is attached to the digital display sign or is it separate and can be placed in the middle of the rd. Mrs. Kellahan explained that we have two types: one that does not have the radar speed sign attached to it collects better data. And the other has the speed feedback sign and also calculates data. Councilman Boles asked if we could put the counter without the sign attached on the rd. without incurring wrath from the DOT and Mr. Johnson said yes.

Councilman Boles moved to amend the motion to add the counter to the lowering of the speed limit; Councilman Mullinax seconded. Mayor Woolsey asked how long the counter would need to be left out because we generally leave it out for a week. He asked if this would be permanent. Mayor Woolsey explained that the counts on Oceanview were low because it occurred during COVID, but he does not think this needs to be a part of the motion. Councilman Boles said the motion was not to leave the device out permanently, but for a reasonable time to access data for the residents and for law enforcement's help in writing tickets. Councilman Boles withdrew the amendment without objection. Councilman Milliken said it is a good idea to have counts before the signage goes up, a pre and post, to see the effectiveness and evaluate moving forward whether or not this works.

Main Motion Vote:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |
| Passed Unanimous     |     |

Award of RFP #5-2020 Grant Writing Services: Mrs. Kellahan reported that the Town advertised Request for Proposals for Grant Writing services to help secure federal and state funding for projects such as drainage improvements, the Arts & Cultural Center, and possibly for law enforcement. Five proposals were received. The Evaluation Committee consisting of Mrs. Kellahan, Mayor Woolsey, and Councilman Mullinax is recommending three firms: 1) Global Partners, 2) Lathan Consulting, and 3) Thomas & Hutton. Mrs. Kellahan said these firms have been successful in securing the types of grants the Town is seeking. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Mayor Woolsey.

Councilman Milliken said it was hard to discern between the three firms because they seem to specialize in different things. He said Lathan Consulting and Thomas & Hutton seemed to be good with Public Works

and Global Partners not so much but had the advantage in offering a flat rate. Lathan did not include their costs, and he was left wondering what it would be. Another concern is the firms are far from us; we did not have anyone local. It seems all of the firms require some travel and knowledge of a different state's opportunities as with Global Partners in North Carolina. Councilman Milliken said he was hoping that we would get someone closer to home, perhaps in Town, or someone who worked in the field of grant writing and hire them. He was taken aback at the expense of Thomas & Hutton and did not know what Lathan's cost would be. His feeling is there must be someone local to do this for us. Mayor Woolsey said the proposal procures the three firms and the Town Administrator would work with each on projects where they have specialized skills. Mrs. Kellahan said Lathan's fee schedule includes minor grants on an hourly basis. If awarded, the standard fee is \$3,000. Ms. Lathan is not in Charleston County, but has done work here and was the only firm to hand-delivered the proposal. Mrs. Kellahan said she spent a good amount of time with her and was impressed. Mrs. Lathan has contact at the State level, especially at the Department of Commerce, and is a Civil Engineer by trade with experience with hazard mitigation, federal grants, and benefits cost analysis.

Mrs. Kellahan said Global Partners is from Columbia but is based in Winston-Salem. The firm specializes in cultural and mentoring programs, a good fit for Arts and Cultural Center. The firm received a SC Palmetto Grant for police gear and has secured grants for juvenile justice programs and public safety. Thomas and Hutton is in Mt. Pleasant and they reached out to us because they are working on our Asset Management and the Oceanview Phase II Project and feel these projects are excellent for federal grants.

Councilwoman Mignano asked the number of grants each firm would do in a year and is there a division of labor estimate. Mrs. Kellahan said the first step would be to determine what our needs are. Councilman Milliken said one of the ideas he had with having someone close is they would be able to research potential here. He asked if these firms would be doing that or what we ask them. Mrs. Kellahan said they would do both. She reached out to the state-wide managers list serve for firms that worked on a local level and did not get good feedback. Councilwoman Mignano asked if these firms would be looking for applicable grants for the Town and paid when the grant is written or would they be paid for research also. Mrs. Kellahan said before a grant is submitted, we would determine if it is a good fit for both parties and if approved the scope and fee would come before Council before proceeding.

Vote

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |
| Passed Unanimous     |     |

JIACC HVAC Options: Jennifer Charzewski (Liollio) gave an overview of the discussion at the direction of Council at its September meeting regarding the HVAC unit. Mrs. Charzewski said a year ago, an initial assessment was done and one of the findings was that the HVAC system was at the end of its life and \$200,000 was the estimated cost for a fully functional system replacement including duct work. The Town previously had repair companies look at the system to see if it could be repaired and it was recommended that a new system was needed. Mrs. Charzewski said they were pleased to receive 10 bids for the interior work at the Arts and Cultural Center and Lockridge Contractors offered the low bid. She introduced James Lockridge stating that he was on tonight's meeting. Further at September's meeting, Council requested options on HVAC units that were budget friendly and Mr. Lockridge has investigated those options. Mrs. Charzewski said Mr. Lockridge, and RMF Engineering has put together three options for Council's consideration tonight.

Mr. Lockridge presented the following options. His presentation detailed the pros and cons of each option and it was followed by discussion, questions, and answers to Council.

Option 1) (\$93K): New 25T System mounted on the roof

Option 2) (\$83K): New 25T AC System mounted on concrete pad

Option 3) (\$64K) Install 20 T Allied Air Split/AC with 60 KW Heat Kit

Council asked questions about specific issues regarding the HVAC unit such as cost for reinforcing the roof under Option 1; the cost of adding a dehumidifier to Option 3; and whether the duct work needed to be taken apart for pressure testing. These questions and concerns were addressed by Mr. Lockridge and Mrs. Charzewski.

Councilman Milliken asked if the County knew about the HVAC and what is their role in helping to pay for it. Mayor Woolsey recalled the last time this came about, the lease was extended to 10 years because of money we would be spending on the building. He did not believe we had updated the County on the HVAC but feel it is unlikely that they would contribute to it. Mrs. Kellahan said the County knew the HVAC was on its way out and it was made clear in our agreement and to staff that they would not be responsible for any of those costs.

Councilman Milliken motioned to move forward with the duct work assessment because of the difference in cost and would like an estimate on the structural modifications for Option 1 to put the unit on the roof to give Council more information for a decision. Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilwoman Mignano expressed concern about the costs we are already putting into the building. She noted the last quote from Liollo was \$78,800, and if we did the 2<sup>nd</sup> Option that is \$83,000 and that is a lot of money to put into a building we do not own. Mayor Woolsey said he understood but \$20,000/year is a reasonable cost, and the possibility exists that the lease could be extended as long as we want. He said his best knowledge of why the County would not give us the building outright is if we use it as a library, they will take it back. Councilwoman Mignano said we could be put into a contract that the building would never be used as a library. Mayor Woolsey commented that the County has extended our lease from 3 to 10 years and perhaps after the Arts Center up and running that would be the appropriate time to suggest transferring the building to us because we will have had some success with the Arts Center.

Mayor Woolsey reiterated the motion to postpone a decision for further research on the scope of the duct work and structural costs. Mrs. Charzewski shared information on the structural costs from the beginning assessment of the building. She said there was money proposed for structural assessments and based on the scope it wasn't used and could fall under that. She said the Structural Engineer is very reasonable and would do the calculations on an hourly basis, not to exceed \$1500. Further she mentioned at the September meeting that the bids for the paint and interior carpet finishes was good for 60 days and at least 30 days have elapsed. She said the contract has been prepared and signed by Mr. Lockridge but not by the Town because Council wanted to hear other options for the HVAC. She said there is time left on the original bid of \$74,800 for the interior renovations and Mr. Lockridge would greatly appreciate the execution of the contract to begin the work. Mayor Woolsey said he was concerned about the timing of the contract and a further delay concerns him. He leans towards Option 2 because of the structural issues of the roof for Option 1. He believes Option 2 has all of the benefits and this what Liollo recommends. He thinks Council should make the decision to move forward because this is the safest course for the structural issues to the roof and sign the contract.

Councilman Milliken said he agree but would like more information, especially about the quality of the existing duct work. He does not think Council is restricted to waiting until next month's meeting and could have a special meeting in two weeks once information is received.

Vote:

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

Passed 3-2

Mr. Lockridge said his Mechanical Contractor has three cameras designed for duct work inspections and the work could be done next week. He will provide the costs to the Town by the end of the week. Councilwoman Mignano spoke to Mr. Lockridge that Council is not trying to drag their feet and waste his time, but this is a lot of money and more information is needed before making a decision. Mr. Lockridge thanked Council and expressed appreciation for their thoroughness.

2020 Community Service Grant Awards: Mrs. Kellahan presented the 2020 request for Community Service Grant awards to non-profits organizations that provides health, education, and human needs to James Island as a whole. Two new organizations have applied for funding: Backpack Buddies and True Vine Tabernacle. Mayor Woolsey stated that he would recuse himself from voting because he serves on several Boards. A total of \$33,500 will be disbursed. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. No discussion.

Vote

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes                              |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes                              |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes                              |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes                              |
| Mayor Woolsey:       | <a href="#">Recusal attached</a> |

Passed

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee:

- Nomination to Planning Committee: Councilwoman Mignano moved for the appointment of Mark Maher to the Planning Commission to replace Kay Kernodle, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Vote:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |

Passed Unanimous

Councilwoman Mignano announced that she is working on a date to schedule a Land Use Committee meeting.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced James Island Pride's Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup Saturday October 24, 9-11 a.m. on Riverland Drive. Supplies are to be picked up at the Town Hall. He thanked Mark Johnson and Ashley Kellahan for securing the "red" dumpster for litter disposal.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax will determine from Chair, Zennie Quinn if a meeting of the Neighborhood Council would be held.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced the History Council is sponsoring a Revolutionary War Event on Sunday, November 15, @ 1 p.m. at Fort Johnson.

Rethink Folly Road Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced the Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. An overview of the Phase 1 Sidewalk project will be discussed.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced next meeting to be determined.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced meeting on October 13 where the Council approved the design for the Canopy Tree Yard of the Month Sign. He thanked Mrs. Kellahan for putting the tree information on the website. A brief update was given on the Asian Longhorn Beetle. For further information and to report call 1-866-702-9938.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced meeting on Wednesday, October 21 and. An agenda will be posted tomorrow.

Proclamation and Resolution: None

Emergency Ordinances:

Emergency Ordinance: E-07-2020: Providing for Required Face Coverings in Public Places due to the COVID-19 Virus and Exceptions Thereto: Councilman Milliken moved for the extension of the Emergency Ordinance to November 19. Councilman Boles seconded. Councilman Boles asked if anyone knew if there were statistics from the Governor's Office or statewide orders and Mayor Woolsey said there is no mandatory face mask ordinance. Councilman Boles asked about the County's Ordinance and Mayor Woolsey said their ordinance is similar to ours and applies to unincorporated areas. The County's ordinance was also extended to November. Councilwoman Mignano asked if we had recent statistics since school is open. Mayor Woolsey replied that DHEC discontinued this information by zip codes several months ago and we do not have regular information about James Island. Councilman Milliken also stated that the City had extended their ordinance to November. Councilwoman Mignano spoke as a Chiropractor that sees patients and wants everyone to be safe. She commented about seeing patients with huge ulcers around their face from wearing masks. She does not say that is equal to someone losing a life; but would like to get back having people make their own decisions. She thinks everyone has been diligent since school opened and the death cases reported by the State is low. Although one death is too many; but we cannot have a mask mandate forever.

Mayor Woolsey said the Town's face mask ordinance models Charleston County's and requires employees in businesses in the Town with contact with the public to wear masks. He realizes this could be burdensome. He said people that patronize those businesses are only required to wear masks for a short time. He said it is important to understand that we are making a decision for businesses in the Town, not the entire James Island. Councilwoman Mignano also commented about children having headaches from wearing masks that has never had them before. She said we need to move away from this mandate and allow businesses to run their business.

Vote:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | No  |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |
| Passed               |     |

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading: None

New Business:

Requests for Reports and Public Hearing

Councilwoman Mignano requested a report on millage and what our options would have been at the Special meeting that was held. Mayor Woolsey asked if she wanted to make a motion to request a report of staff for options to impose a millage in the Town. Councilwoman Mignano said ‘no. Councilwoman Mignano moved to request a report on options regarding millage and cost sharing. Councilman Milliken seconded.

Councilman Boles asked who would be tasked with gathering information and Mayor Woolsey said the staff, that he would develop most of the information for the Town Administrator. Councilwoman Mignano said at the Special meeting there was no information to understand what was talked about and at the meeting she requested information on percentages, millage, or a number, and that kind of information requires a report. Also, the Town Administrator will soon prepare for the budget in December and if the public were interested, this is something they need to know.

Mayor Woolsey said he does not support this and it is a waste of staff time unless the majority of Council is serious about making the people in the Town pay a property tax which has never been done before on top of what they already pay to the PSD. If the majority of Council thinks this is something to seriously consider, then it would be worth developing the report. On the other hand, if we continue with the policy that the second, third, and fourth Town has had since 2012 not collecting property taxes, we should not waste our time. He said if the majority of Council wants to move forward and explore this option they should vote yes. If the vote is in favor, he and the Town Administrator would develop options and a presentation of different ways we can begin to collect taxes from the people in the Town. If the majority of Council is not interested in this, they should vote no, and we would not waste our time.

Councilman Milliken said there is no harm in understanding the basic mechanics of what they were asked to do. He commented not understanding the components that goes into the equation and want to understand it. As an example, he asked, what is the number for population and would like to understand what they did, He noted that Councilwoman Mignano is looking for an explanation do their jobs effectively and to understand moving forward. Mayor Woolsey said lessons on the operation of property tax in SC could be gotten through the Municipal Assn., but it is not the same as developing options to reduce property taxes. Mayor Woolsey said the motion on the floor is to propose options to require the Town to provide a property tax of different millage rates, how much revenue would be generated; and different credits. Councilwoman Mignano asked the Mayor to repeat the motion because she heard it to say raise property tax. Mayor Woolsey stated the motion is for a report on options for millages and property tax credits and Councilwoman Mignano said that is what she would like to have. Mayor Woolsey said to develop that information Council would need to adopt a property tax for the people in the Town to pay.

Councilman Boles said that is not entirely accurate. He said Council is voting to learn about millage options, not to raise taxes. He said at the Special meeting it was repeated by the Mayor that if you do *this* then you

want to raise taxes and that oversimplifies the question. He said a vote in favor does not mean anyone wants to raise taxes. He said they agreed, and the Mayor confirmed that Council does not impose taxes, the only thing Council can do is withhold some of the tax relief to the citizens. He spoke to Mayor Woolsey that when he goes on his Blog and write that Council voted to raise residents' taxes, he hopes anyone listening understands that is false. He said Councilwoman Mignano is asking for options to understand what we may do going forward, and it is a false statement to say that anyone present at this meeting intends to raise taxes; and Council cannot raise property taxes.

Mayor Woolsey said the Town can raise property taxes and that process is through the budget and the Town can raise a property tax millage. There was discussion that by Councilman Boles that millage and taxes are not the same and rolling back is not the same as raising taxes. Councilman Boles said what will happen tomorrow after the report has been requested, is the Mayor will repeat the only reason we want to do this is to raise taxes; and that simply is not true. He asked everyone watching the meeting on YouTube, the Internet, and those who may watch later (and for the purpose of these minutes) that Council is not voting to raise taxes, they are asking for information.

Mayor Woolsey stated the information they are requesting are different options to make the people in the Town write checks based on their property value and that is collecting a property tax. He said the current millage is 17.9 and some options would be to raise that and others would be to reduce the amount of property tax credit the Town provides. He said all of these options would require the people in the Town to write checks that they have never done before, and he calls that an increase in property tax.

Councilman Milliken explained that he watched the City Council meeting where an accountant gave 4-16 scenarios of different ways that it could be done. He said the City Council did not vote on it; it was an administrative decision. He asked if the PSD rolled back taxes. He doesn't not know, it is a mystery, but it should not be a mystery how we do things. Councilman Milliken said he is confused as to why they were forced to vote on something they did not fully understand the components of. He said that type of information cannot be gotten from the Municipal Assn. or a manual because it is opaque and obtuse. He does not understand and is why he is asking for information. Mayor Woolsey suggested that Councilman Milliken join him in voting down Councilwoman Mignano's motion and ask for a different type report on its calculations.

Councilwoman Mignano stated this is her second time to request information and does not understand why she can't get it so the public can be aware and can voice their opinion. She does not understand why the Mayor is fighting it so hard because nothing can be done until the next budget. Mayor Woolsey responded that Councilwoman Mignano is speaking as there is information he is holding back, but is asking him and staff spend time developing reports that the only purpose is to impose a property tax and then ask the public if they are in favor of it or not. He noted that Councilman Milliken is asking for something different and is unsure what Councilman Boles wants but guesses for more information. Councilman Milliken said he does not understand why they did not have a presentation similar to what the City had with data and formulas into the process. He said this would be useful moving forward if we do this again in five years but does not recall doing this in 2015 or approving a rollback and his confusion about the process is a lack of information. Mayor Woolsey explained that a reassessment was done in 2015 and noted in retrospect and in hindsight that he should have done the rollback administratively, but at the time thought it necessary to bring it before Council.

Councilman Milliken asked for the motion to be repeated and Mayor Woolsey said it is to develop a report of options for millage and property tax credits. Mayor Woolsey asked Councilwoman Mignano if she wanted to add anything else to her request and she said information on percentages, i.e., 1% vs, 5% or 10% and what that millage would be. Mayor Woolsey added that the results of this would be how much property tax and credits the Town would receive and what the bill would be for various property classes, such as

vehicles, homes, and boats. The report would show that if someone pays X, the Town would receive X amount of money, and to him, that is working towards a property tax increase.

Councilwoman Mignano asked the Mayor that when he posts information on social media to let the people know all of the facts before saying taxes would be raised.

Vote:

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

Passed

Mayor Woolsey said the report would be worked on and given to Council as soon as it can. He asked Councilwoman Mignano when she wanted to have the Public Hearing and she moved for the December meeting because she will not be at the November meeting due to surgery. No second was offered, and the motion failed. Councilman Milliken said he would like to have the report before scheduling a Public Hearing.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the tree trimming contract with Dominion Energy. Motion by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Boles. Council entered at 9:26 p.m.

Vote:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Councilman Boles     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Mignano | Yes |
| Councilman Milliken  | Yes |
| Councilman Mullinax  | Yes |
| Mayor Woolsey        | Yes |

Passed

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 10:00 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that no votes were taken during the executive session.

Announcements/Closing Comments: None

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons  
Town Clerk