

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, January 17, 2019. The following members of Council were present: Leonard Blank, Mayor Pro-Tem, Garrett Milliken, Joshua P. Stokes, Darren “Troy” Mullinax, and Mayor Bill Woolsey, presided. Also, Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Sergeant Shawn James, Island Sheriff’s Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order and led Council in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. FOIA: This meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Special Order of Business: Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore: Mayor Woolsey moved for the nomination of Councilman Blank to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore, Councilman Milliken seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Woolsey thanked Councilman Blank for serving another year.

Public Comments: The following persons addressed Town Council.

James Island Ocean Actkidvists, 1102 Harbor Trace Circle: Lewis and Becky (brother and sister) have collected over 300 signatures from local children that want to protect our oceans and beaches. They get mad when they hear about sea turtles and whales that get sick or die because they ingest plastics. They asked Council to ban the use of plastics.

Carol Tempel, 758 Sprague St: Mrs. Tempel addressed three issues: First, she lives in Bayfront community. The community had requested a Plan to Calm Traffic on Jordan St. She said a lot of traffic goes through there and it is very dangerous for people to walk so stop signs and speed humps would be good. Discussions she has heard from neighbors is that there may be too many speed humps in the Plan and she asked the Town to look at that. The neighbors would like to see an opportunity for sidewalks in the Plan because people walk to the BI-LO but people cut-thru from other neighborhoods. Second, she could not agree more with the children that spoke tonight on the plastic ban. Third, it is a good idea to keep the Camp Rd. library on this part of the island open. There are families and children that walk and bike to the Camp Rd. library and the access is more convenient to the citizens in this part of the area. She supports keeping the library.

Ruth Williams, spoke in favor of keeping the library on Camp Rd. open. She commented that one day while parked at the Dollar General she noticed children coming from the library and she thought that they might have a way to get to the library on Grimball. She said there is a choice -- if children can get to Grimball Rd. that is fine, but if they cannot, why take away one that is close to them within walking distance. She said we do not want our children riding bikes when it gets dark on Folly Road coming from the other library because many accidents happens on Folly and we don’t want that for our children. If the population allows us to have two libraries on the island, then, why not. West Ashley and Mt. Pleasant has two libraries and a third is being built. She asked why there could not be two libraries on James Island.

Alan Laughlin, 847 Darwin: addressed three issues. First on the agenda is the MOU with the PSD. He encouraged the Town to make sure some kind of MOU/agreement is passed so that something can be done on the PSD side as well to get cooperation back/forth between the island and the Town. Second, he would like to see the Town pass an agreement supporting Representative Peter McCoy’s legislation. Third, he agrees with everyone that we need to have a minimum of two libraries on James Island. In fact, he would like to see three libraries: Riverland Terrace, Camp Rd., and the debacle being built on Grimball Rd. He asked Council to agree that we need to have at least two libraries on the island.

Edward Greene, 1115 Seaside Lane: spoke in support of the Camp Rd. library to remain open. He said in light of having the charter school close by and the community, the library is needed so children would not have to ride their bicycles on Folly Rd. to get to the one on Grimball. He asked Council to support keeping the library open. Mr. Greene commented that the BZA approved a request for an 8ft. fence on Seaside Lane. He said it is embarrassing to have an 8ft. fence in the front of Seaside Lane and he does not like it.

Paula Byers, 856 Montgomery: Spoke in support of the library on Camp Rd. and of her love of books. She said kids that are exposed to books are far more likely to become literate and readers for the rest of their lives. She thinks that having one more library is better than getting rid of one. James Island's population will continue to grow and if we want a well-educated population, one of the integral things that will affect their lives is the convenience of having the library. Many kids are latchkey kids that go to libraries after school to do homework. More books are better than less books. Ms. Byers also spoke in support of the plastics ban.

Brook Lyon, 669 Port Circle: spoke in support of the Camp Rd. library and asked Council to do whatever they can to keep it open. She has heard from many residents in Lighthouse Point who are upset because the library is to be closed. James Island's population would certainly support having two libraries, and she is in favor of having three.

Bill Lyon, 669 Port Circle: spoke in support of keeping the Camp Rd. library open.

Henrietta Martin, 1235 Hepburn St: represents the Greenhill and Honeyhill communities. Ms. Martin spoke in favor of keeping the Camp Rd. library open. She said people in the community loves the library. It is a place where children and families congregate. She was encouraged by her daughter to do something to keep the library. She shared a conversation she had with a grandmother that lives near the Camp Rd. branch that is hurt because the library is closing. Ms. Martin said many people do not have transportation to get to the Grimball Rd. branch and asked Council to support keeping the Camp Rd. branch open.

Jeanne Lange, 31 Held Circle: has lived on James Island for 32-years. She uses the library as well as her children. She could not believe that the library was going to be built on Grimball Road because - - it is all about location and the Camp Rd. branch is convenient from many directions. The traffic on Folly Rd. during the summer is a catastrophe. She spoke about being able to walk to the library and expressed concern for her mother who loves to read but is not mobile to walk there. She asked Council to support keeping the Camp Rd. library open.

Elena Mpougas, 1754 Mohawk Ave: a marine biologist spoke in favor of the plastic ban and for the library on Camp Rd. to remain open.

Clayton and Charlie Chewning, 619 Beaten Path: Clayton and Charlie told Council that they get upset when sea turtles and whales gets sick or die because they ingest plastics and garbage found in oceans. They asked Council to pass the plastics ban.

Cory Chewning, 619 Beaten Path: talked about sidewalks on Woodland Shores Rd. She said there are several new neighborhoods going up on Woodland Shores Rd. Every year a new neighborhood is built, and the elementary school has a wait list of over 400 children. There are no sidewalks for the children to walk or to ride bikes. It is not safe. She asked Council to consider sidewalks in that area.

Alexia Frias, 1530 Ft. Johnson Rd: gave a personal testimony about the libraries, having used them since she was two years old. Books are special. The library on Camp Rd. is convenient and within walking distance. She asked Council to help keep the Camp Rd. branch open.

Anne Welch, 1362 Stone Post Rd: is an avid reading and a former employee at the S. Windermere branch. Spoke in support of keeping the Camp Rd. branch open. She believes in public libraries and we can afford to have two on James Island. The library on Grimball Rd. is inconvenient. Asked Council to put in a good word to keep the Camp Rd. branch.

Kelly Thorvalsan, spoke in support of Council passing the plastics ban. She works for the SC Aquarium and commented that the Town can protect sea turtles and sea animals by passing the plastics ordinance.

Eileen Dougherty, 1650 Bryce Ct: thanked Council for passing first reading of the plastics ban and encouraged them to pass second reading tonight. Spoke in favor of keeping the Camp Rd. library open. She lives a quarter mile from the new library, but the one on Camp Rd. has the opportunity to serve the people in this area.

Dallas Corbett, 1209 W. Darwin St: Spoke in support of the plastics ban and for the Camp Rd. library.

Rachel Meek, 204 Sans Souci St: Charleston Surf Rider; spoke in support of the plastics ban and adopt-a-highway programs. She is in favor of anything that we can do to keep the low country clean and protect the tourism and fishing industries. People come to Charleston because it is beautiful, but it is heart breaking to see trash everywhere.

Ashley Brown, 531 Sweetbay: spoke in support of Council helping to keep the Camp Rd. branch library open.

Caroline Bradner, SC Coastal Conservation League, 49 Calhoun St: said the Conservation League supports the plastics ban and thanked Council for passing its first reading. Offered the support of the Conservation League to help make the transition smooth. Hopes a way can be found to keep the Camp Rd. library open.

Sharleen Johnson, 1181 Oak Crest Dr: spoke in support of the Camp Rd. library because it provides good community service for children and adults. She spoke in support of the plastics ban.

Kimberly Lease, 1268 Cornwallis Rd: lives in Whitehouse Plantation. Asked for an explanation of the Tidal Gate Values for Outfalls on the agenda. She could not find information on-line to explain it nor by calling the Town Planner. Spoke in support of keeping the library on Camp Rd. and support of two libraries on James Island.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes: December 20, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, reviewed the highlights from the Finance report and made clarification on the Tallwood Drainage project. Report was accepted as information.
- b. Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, reviewed highlights from the Administrator's Report. She noted that the FY 2019-20 Budget Schedule was provided to Council in their meeting packet. Budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. Mrs. Kellahan said she received good input on the recent Greenbelt Survey. This information will be placed on the website. FEMA, 2019 PARD and Hazard Mitigation Grants have been submitted.
- c. Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson reviewed highlights from the PW Report.

Mayor Woolsey asked Mr. Johnson to give an explanation of the Tidal Gate Valves for the Outfalls in Whitehouse Plantation. Mr. Johnson explained that a tidal gate valve would be placed where the outfall pipe at Mt. Vernon and Valley Forge comes together. He said a pipe was there years ago but was removed. This will be a flap gate valve. Mayor Woolsey asked Mr. Johnson to explain why this would be beneficial to the residents. Mr. Johnson said there is an ongoing problem with siltation along with pluff mud and other debris coming in from the marsh at a high tide and a flap gate valve would help to prevent that. Councilman Milliken asked that in the future information is included in the packet with a description for citizen information.

- d. Island Sheriffs' Patrol Report: Sergeant James showed a laser speeding device that is used by the Island Sheriff Patrol to detect speeding. He thanked the Town for the device noting that speeding has decreased on Folly Road. The Crime Statistics Report and Island Sheriffs' Patrol reports were presented and accepted as information. Sergeant James announced a litter pickup for Seaside Lane/Greenhill Rd. on Saturday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Requests for Approval:

- Winthrop Tree Service (Camp Rd. from W. Madison to Hale St.): Mrs. Kellahan said Councilman Milliken recognized that trees along Camp Rd. needed maintenance. She said two quotes were received and the proposal from Winthrop Tree Service is recommended at \$6,972. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Milliken asked if there was breakdown cost for the tree to be taken out. Mrs. Kellahan said there was not and Councilman Milliken said he wanted Council to understand that the cost would not be this much if later we have another clump of trees down the road, but he is in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- Traffic Calming Plan on Jordan Street: Mrs. Kellahan said that we were approached by the neighborhood about speeding on Jordan St. The Town conducted an in-house traffic study using our traffic counter that showed speeding. The Town engaged the services of Johnson Laschober Associates (JLA) in October to do a study, and a neighborhood meeting was held in November. At that meeting, three options were presented. 1) two-speed humps between the block of Brookbank and Kemper along Jordan. 2) all-way stops, and 3) combination of options one and two. Eighteen residents attended the meeting and all with the exception of two were in support of option #3, two residents preferred the all-way stops. Other comments received were that there was nothing between Hunley and Patterson Ave. and JLA added another speed hump between the sections of Patterson Ave. Another comment received was to expand the scope and look outside of Jordan St. Mrs. Kellahan said if Council approves the Traffic Calming Plan that we would submit the encroachment permits to the SC Department of Transportation. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Councilman Blank asked the total number of speed humps and Mrs. Kellahan said there would be four. Councilman Milliken asked if the four would include the one between the two streets and Mrs. Kellahan said yes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Greenhill Drainage Critical Area Proposal: Mrs. Kellahan reported that Stantec has been working on this project and have gotten to a point where they have a design. They need to further the design with the critical area proposal by enlarging the drainage pipes that runs under Dills Bluff Rd. The cost for the next phase is \$25,000. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tidal Gate Valves for Outfalls in Whitehouse Plantation and Clearview: Mrs. Kellahan asked Mr. Johnson to address the tidal gate valve in the Clearview area. Mr. Johnson said this program was initiated by Charleston County Public Works as general maintenance for a system that starts at

Clearview and goes to Beauregard, Tennent, then out. He said in-line waste stop valves have been there for around 20 years and needs to be replaced. The Town will purchase the equipment and the County will install. Questions from Council were answered by Mr. Johnson. Mrs. Kellahan added that the cost of the device for Whitehouse is \$6,000 that includes labor and Clearview is \$11,000 for the device. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilman Blank informed Council that the house at Bradley and Folly Rd. is being taken down because it contains asbestos. The City has permitted to have this done.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken gave an overview of the Community Hero Awards Program. The Town will be honoring the Community Heroes at the February Town Council meeting. The Adopt-a-Highway litter pick-up is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 2. Also on February 2 at 9 a.m. is the litter pick-up in the Seaside/Greenhill communities as announced by Sergeant James. The Helping Hands Committee new Chairperson is Stan Kozikowski. Volunteers are needed and interested persons should contact Stan at 860-847-0544.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes reported that the committee is working on the upcoming Annual Easter Egg Roll, slated for Saturday, April 13 or 20. More information to follow.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax moved to appoint the following persons to serve on the Neighborhood Council: Rich Tassin, to represent Whitehouse Plantation, and Leby Campbell, to represent Stonepost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously. Councilman Mullinax announced that the Public Safety Committee meeting would be held on Thursday, January 24 at 7 p.m.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Commission is continuing its work on the History brochure and has sent a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requesting their assistance in updating information about Fort Johnson. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5 at 6 p.m.

Rethink Folly Road Committee: Mayor Woolsey announce that the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee meeting would be held on January 23 at 3:30 p.m. The Committee will be looking at the project manager search and receive a report from Charleston County on Phase 1 of the Folly Rd. sidewalk.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Stokes reported that the Drainage Committee meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 13 at 3 p.m. following the Stormwater Managers meeting.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2018-12: A Resolution Regarding the Camp Road Library on James Island: Councilman Mullinax addressed the Resolution stating that in 2015 Charleston County Council passed a resolution to approve renovating the Camp Rd. Library if finances were available at the end of the library construction project. If funding were not available, they would bring the renovation back to County Council for consideration. Councilman Mullinax said the time is getting close and there is a strong indication, (as he has been told), that the library would be closed in mid-June. He said many people have spoken earlier and there is a strong desire to keep the library on Camp Rd. open for reasons already stated. He said with new construction in the area, and the 36,000 people we currently have, the likelihood is a growth to 38,500 in 2020 and the area could sustain two libraries. Councilman Mullinax said the purpose of the resolution is to send a message to County Council that there is a strong desire for the library to be preserved. Councilman Mullinax said the library has served this area for 40 years and many people have fond memories of it. It would be a loss if the doors were closed. The new library is three-miles away and it would be difficult for

some people because many people walk and bike to the library and three extra miles would be a challenge for some people.

Councilman Blank said the current trend towards development, not only on James Island, but in other places are walk-about communities where apartment complexes and homes are built so that people could walk to stores and other places and the library fits into this kind of thinking. He would like Charleston County to rethink their vote from 2015 and consider keeping this branch open.

Councilman Milliken said he echoed Councilman Blank's comments and shared his library experiences. He had asked the BCD COG what the population figures were for the libraries in Charleston County. He said Baxter-Patrick, 12,618 and Camp Rd., 26,160 and that many people benefit by using the library. Councilman Mullinax shared personal comments posted on Facebook that people are supportive about keeping the Camp Rd. branch open. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #2019-01: In Support of Contiguity Legislation: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken voiced concerns about the timing of the resolution, that the public did not have adequate time to view it. He said it is hard to vote for something in good conscience because the public did not have time to look at it and because of this, he cannot support the resolution. Mayor Woolsey explained that the bill that is proposed is not news to anyone on James Island; what has changed is the bill has been resubmitted. He said Town Council has supported the bill and he has spoken to each member of Council with a consensus in favor of the bill. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it passed; Councilman Milliken voted no.

Mayor Woolsey requested, and it was granted without objection, to move Resolution #2019-02 after disposing of Ordinance #2018-16.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2018-16: An Ordinance Pertaining to Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey asked for a motion to enter into executive session in accordance with 30-4-70 (a) Code of Laws of South Carolina for the discussion of a contractual relationship with the James Island PSD and to obtain legal advice. Motion was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously. Council entered into executive session at 8:08 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 8:46 p.m., Mayor Woolsey announced that no action or votes were taken during the executive session.

Resolution #2019-02: Adoption of Proposed MOU with James Island PSD: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Councilman Milliken said it is his understanding that this would be a non-binding agreement. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it passed; Councilman Milliken voted no.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk