

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in-person 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 (via Zoom), Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, presided. Also, Niki Grimball, Town Administrator, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, PW Director, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Lt. Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Deputy Chris King, Patrol Division, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk. 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 at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Milliken offered the opening exercises with the following statement:

I'd like to take a moment this evening to recognize the victims of hate crimes in our country. There was a horrific mass shooting in Buffalo, NY this past week targeting African Americans, where 10 people were killed and 3 injured. This mass shooting was not unlike the Mother Emanuel terrorist attack that happened downtown in 2015, where 9 Charlestonians were killed in a heinous attack by another young white supremacist. Bizarrely, the Hate Crimes Bill at the Statehouse failed again this session with the SC Senate rejecting it. This Bill is named after Pastor and State Senator, Clementa Pinckney, and would increase penalties for crimes committed that are infused by hate. SC is one of only two states without a Hate Crimes Bill. I hope that local governments like ours can advocate for the Hate Crimes Bill and write our senators who continue to oppose this Bill, urging them to support it. Right now, I'd like us to have a moment of silence for the victims of the hate-fueled mass shooting in Buffalo and for all victims of hate crimes, as we approach the 7th anniversary of the Mother Emanuel murders. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Comment:

Kayleigh Boyd, 719 Tennent Street: Mrs. Boyd talked about speeding on Clearview and Tennent St. to continue the concerns she expressed before Council last month. She said the problem has gotten worse. She shared why she is passionate about this subject. In May, 1979, her aunt at age of 5 (*name inaudible*) was hit by a car in front of her house and died, so this is very specific to her and for her children that plays outside. Her elderly next door neighbor remembers the incident very well and neighbors throwing metal trashcans to get people to slow down. She is not entirely sure why after 44 years that speed humps is still not justified. She is unsure what the negative pushback is in getting speed humps to get people to slow down, or signage like the ones on Ft. Johnson Rd. She said that on the Nextdoor app, that Clearview and Tennent aren't the only areas where speeding occurs. Many people on Harborview Rd. and those on the other side talk about how people speed through the neighborhood hitting dogs, ducks, and people have to jump out of their way. She does not know how to resolve this situation but it is very close to her and she will continue to come back to Council until it is resolved because her children and their own lives are in danger at this point and she is very passionate about that.

Jim Boyd, 719 Tennent Street: Mr. Boyd said he spoke with Lt. James today and gave him information about speeding that he wanted him to address tonight. He asked if he could ask Lt. James to answer his questions. Mayor Woolsey responded that the public comment period was not the appropriate time to engage with Lt. James. Mr. Boyd said he and some neighbors talked to Lt. James about the average recorded speed on Tennent St. which was stated to be 37 mph and said that was not true. Mr. Boyd stated he has purposely driven 57 mph so that data is incorrect. He said at last month's meeting the Mayor and Mark Johnson said there are multiple speed humps on Clearview. Mr. Boyd shared data he collected; from Harborview Rd. a speed hump is 580 ft. up Clearview, after that point there is another 3-1/8 miles of road then there is nothing; no four-way stops or signs. Swanson has two speed humps 650 ft. apart and the road

is only 1600 ft. long. Beauregard (at the back on the eastern side) has two speed humps 1,000 ft. part and the road is 1952.2 ft. long. He doesn't understand why this is an issue. Those speed humps are on back roads and to get to them you have to go down Clearview, so the issue isn't addressed for people coming through the neighborhood. He said over the weekend there were two vehicles literally chasing each other around the entire circle driving well over 65 mph, so the 37 mph data is incorrect.

Mary Edna Fraser, 7123 Oak Point Rd: Ms. Fraser thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts in cleaning the James Island Creek because she hasn't been able to swim in it for a long time because of the bacteria.

Ryan Wynkarp, 849 Clearview Dr. Mr. Wynkarp said he attended last month's meeting and talked then about speeding in the neighborhood and wanted to reiterate the comments previously made. He is looking forward to continuing discussions and how to resolve them. He also mention the vehicle chase in the neighborhood as a frightening and scary experience and that an elderly man was almost hit while walking his dog. Mr. Wynkarp said he reached out to Councilwoman Mignano to discuss burning in the Town and asked for guidance and restrictions because his family was unable to go outside because of the burning.

Andrew Wunderley, 801 Robert E. Lee Blvd., Mr. Wunderly, Executive Director of Charleston Waterkeepers spoke in favor of the Town supporting the James Island PSD sewer expansion project. Mr. Wunderley gave a brief synopsis of the James Island Creek Water Quality Task Force that was formed to clean pollution in the creek and what it has accomplished. He said Representative Wetmore and Senator Senn has been very instrumental in securing Federal and State funding to clean the James Island Creek and that funding is available through the American Rescue Plan.

Emily Cedzo, Senior Program Director of Land, Water & Wildlife, Coastal Conservation League, email in support of Town's support in JIPSD sewer expansion project.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of April 21, Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Provided. Finance Director, Merrell Roe summarized the monthly Finance Report for April highlighting revenues received and expenditures paid.

Town Administrator's Report: Provided. Town Administrator Niki Grimball gave an overview of the monthly report. She answered Councilman Milliken's question from the last meeting about solar panels at the Town Hall. She said that Dominion does a study before approving interconnections and we are waiting on that approval which should be available in early June and then it will be permitted. Ms. Grimball also answered Councilman Mullinax request to provide public printing at the Center, noting that a copier/printer is currently at the JI Arts & Cultural Center for small copying needs of the community.. Should the need arise to have a more substantial copier the staff will revisit and look into other options.

Public Works Report: Provided. Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, gave an overview of staff projects and updates for April. Mayor Woolsey asked for an update on the Clearview/Tennent speed humps and traffic issues and Mr. Johnson said a report would be available in a week. Mayor Woolsey asked how the Hurricane Expo went and Mr. Johnson said it went well; but he was at his son's graduation when the event was held.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Lt. James gave an overview and update on recent crimes in the Town. Lt. James reported that the stealth stat device was put out on Tennent St. for seven (7) days and a total of 1150

vehicles went through it with the ability to record speeds between 20-125 mph. The highest speed was 37 and there were two at that speed. (1) at 36, (3) at 35, and (6) at 34.53. Vehicles were 5 mph or above the speed limit. He said the report would be sent to the Town within a week. Mayor Woolsey asked for heightened alert on Clearview and Tement.

Requests for Approval by Staff: None

Action Items: None

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken commented that there is an abundance of litter on our roadways and help is needed to get it picked up. The Adopt-a-Highway litter event will be held on Saturday June 11 @ 9-11 a.m. The group meet on the porch at the Town Hall to pick up supplies and after the event a pizza lunch is served to volunteers. He encouraged everyone to get involved in this worthy community effort.

Councilman Milliken announced that Helping Hands held two successful events since its last meeting. Helping Hands is a group of volunteers that cleans citizens yards who are unable to do it themselves. Those interested in volunteering should contact Chair, Stan Kozikowski (860) 847-0544.

Children's Committee: Mayor Woolsey and Caroline Self, Development Coordinator, JI Arts & Cultural Center recognized the Art Teachers and recipients of the First JI Arts & Cultural Center Arts Exhibition held Thursday, April 28.

Annie Purvis, was presented a check for James Island Charter HS which had 24 submissions, a 1st place winner, (Kieron McKendrick), a 3rd place winner (Lucy Dixon), and 1 Honorable Mention. Tim Brown of Camp Road Middle School received a check, noting 31 submissions, 39 artists, a second place winner (Megan Heinsohn), and 3 Honorable Mentions for Camp Road Middle School. Katherine Weller received a check for the Stiles Point Elementary School Art Program, having 6 submissions, and 1 Honorable Mention. The award for each school was \$460. Number of entries displayed were 70. Katie Hirsh, Director of the Halsey Institute served as the juror.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Neighborhood Council meeting is on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that the History Committee is working on a historic trail brochure. Town Administrator, Niki Grimbball attended the May 10th meeting. Mayor Woolsey announced that new members needs to be appointed to the committee.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting on June 22 @ 3:30 p.m.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Drainage Committee met on Wednesday, May 18. Among items of discussion were drainage projects and updates. He thanked Mayor Woolsey and Councilman Milliken for attending the meeting. September's date will be announced.

Business Development Committee: No report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken recognized the 2022 Tree Interns that successfully surveyed 469 trees on the island's R-O-W. Areas completed were Camp Rd. from Ft. Johnson to Riverland Drive, Dills Bluff Rd from Ft. Johnson to North Shore and Seccessionville Rd. from Camp to Ft. Johnson.

Interns Audrey Hayes, and Catlynn Bernesser were recognized for their achievements and awarded a certificate of appreciation. Audrey Hayes, Catlynn Bernesser, Councilman Milliken, Mayor Woolsey, and Mark Johnson participated in a photo op.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced that the new Chair is City Councilwoman Caroline Parker. The date for the next meeting will be announced.

Proclamations and Resolutions: None.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

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

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Follow-up on Special Town Council Meeting of May 16 for Sewer Expansion Project (Action may be taken if needed): Mayor Woolsey introduced the agenda item and moved that Council approve an expenditure of \$320,000 as a contribution for the James Island Public Service District project to extend sewer to the Oak Point Rd. neighborhood. This expenditure is conditional on the Charleston Water System and/or City of Charleston contributing \$160,000 towards the project and the receipt of a Section 319 (of the Clean Water Act) Grant from SC DHEC. Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilman Milliken made an observation that in the future moving forward for agenda items to be more specific. He said the item on the agenda did not specify the location of the sewer expansion project and to be fair the public should know what Council is taking action on, even if the agenda is modified. Councilman Boles agreed and Mayor Woolsey said that would be done.

Councilman Boles asked if the agenda needed to be amended and Mayor Woolsey said stated that the agenda did not need to be amended because the item was on the agenda when it was published. There was some discussion and explanation of how items are added to the agenda under New Business. .

Councilwoman Mignano asked if Council was voting to approve the expenditure or to add an item to the agenda. Mayor Woolsey answered that the item is already on the agenda. The motion on the floor is for approval of a commitment of a \$320,000 share to the PSD for its sewer expansion project on Oak Point Road.

Councilwoman Mignano spoke that we are looking to evaluate all of the septic tanks and she thinks we should do that first before moving to sewer in her opinion. She said if septic works fine they could be functioning and not polluting the creek. Mayor Woolsey said the rationale in the JI Creek Watershed Study gave reasons why in this particular location along Oak Point Drive, septic is not appropriate and has been deemed a contributor to the water pollution due to its proximity to the creek. He said there are many areas on James Island where septic works well and is appropriate which was the analysis of the engineers that did the study.

Councilman Boles said he echoed the concerns of Councilwoman Mignano and heard what Mr. Wunderley said. But, the logic bone in his body, that he cannot wrap his mind around is the pipes that brings the sewage through the marsh are intact and are not contributing to the problems that exist. He said it is unlikely to say that septic tanks are not contributing to the problem. He stated that he was not involved in the dye

study that Mr. Wunderley described but agreed that there are many contributing factors making the water quality a horrible mess. He stated that by passing this expenditure, and it's a good thing to try this and be positive. This is not the silver bullet that can easily fix the problem.

Councilwoman Mignano said at the workshop with the PSD, they were talking about grinder pumps they would use during a hurricane. She said they would have to take a truck and hook it to a generator for sewer to function. She is unsure that is an ideal situation because during a hurricane there are downed trees and powerlines, and she does not see how that can be a practical approach at this particular point and time. She did not want to be misunderstood because she is in favor of having clean creeks, but she is unsure that this is the most efficient way to do it. She thinks more information is needed after all the septic tanks are checked before moving forward. Mayor Woolsey added that if there is a major hurricane event, one thing that everyone needs to be aware of is there is no guarantee that any septic or sewer would work so people would be able to use toilets. That is one reason why people are asked to evacuate and they should do so. These are things that must be resolved for citizens to return to their homes after an evacuation order.

Councilman Boles talked about engaging people if this passes and whether or not they would have to tie into the sewer line. Mayor Woolsey spoke about the grant that would publicize the expansion project and provide information about it. He said the deadline for submitting the grant is close. Councilman Milliken spoke about the PSD having generators to pump out for people that need to have that done and he would like to have that worked out. He also spoke about knowing the specific locations of the grinder pumps. After discussion concluded, the motion passed 4-1; Councilwoman Mignano voted in opposition.

Executive Session: Not required.

Announcements:

Councilman Boles thanked the public for coming out tonight. He is thankful that we are meeting in person because there wasn't much interaction with the public while we were on Zoom. He wanted the public to know that Council is listening to what they are saying.

Councilwoman Mignano agreed with Councilman Boles' comments and encouraged everyone to be thoughtful to their neighbors when it comes to things like burning leaves. She thanked Lt. James for keeping the island safe.

Councilman Milliken commented on the public meeting held for the Ft. Johnson/May Forest Master Plan earlier today. He said it will be a beautiful jewel on James Island but in order for that to happen there has to be input from the public and encouraged the public to do so.

Councilman Mullinax echoed comments from Councilman Boles and Councilwoman Mignano and thanked everyone for coming out tonight and expressing their concerns.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk