

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, November 15, 2018. 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, Deputy Herman Martin, Island Sheriff’s Patrol, and Kristen Crane, Planning Director, filling in for Frances Simmons, Town Clerk, who was absent. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order. Mayor Woolsey led Council in prayer and followed with 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.

Public Hearing: Ordinance #2018-13: An Ordinance to Adjust the Boundary Between the City of Charleston and Town of James Island.

Mayor Woolsey opened the Public Hearing and the following persons spoke:

Kathy Woolsey, 961 Mooring Drive, stated that she would like to apologize for JIPSD Commissioner Kay Kernodle’s rude and unprofessional behavior she exhibited at a previous meeting here at Town Hall. Mrs. Woolsey stated that she realizes that the JIPSD has done nothing to warrant any favors from the Town of James Island, therefore she is asking members of Council, as a personal favor to her, to vote in favor of the boundary change to facilitate the building of a new fire station. She said that in January three new Commissioners will be seated on the JIPSD Commission and she believes the new makeup of the Commission will be more favorable to working with the Town to reduce the tax burden on citizens of James Island. She will also make sure that the PSD has a more cooperative spirit and work with the Town staff to make this island a better place.

Inez Brown-Crouch, 1149 Mariner Drive, introduced herself as a member of the JIPSD Commission, and wished to thank everyone that voted for her reelection to the Commission. She said that she also wished to thank everyone who did not vote for her, and she stated that she is grateful for the Town’s support and promises that she won’t let anyone down.

Public Hearing: Ordinance #2018-14: Proposed Changes to Special Events.

Mayor Woolsey opened the Public Hearing. No one signed up to speak.

Presentation: 2017/2018 Financial Statement, Henry Wilson, Wilson and Quirk, CPA.

Henry Wilson, CPA, reviewed highlights from the Town of James Island Independent Auditor’s Report and Basic Financial Statements and it was accepted as information. Mr. Wilson stated that overall the Town has a favorable financial outlook, and is in very good financial standing. The Town has no lawsuits, has paid \$200,000 of bond debt, and \$6.6 million of working capital. Some notable changes include the Town’s contribution to the Island Sheriff’s Patrol police retirement system. Mr. Wilson briefly went over property/equipment, accounts payable, income for next year. He said that expenses went up slightly, \$300,000 which is broken down to 1/3 Public Works projects, 1/3 facilities, and 1/3 park improvements, but stated that most everything else has remained the same. He then explained details on pages 6, 14 and 25, and then congratulated the Town on its internal controls. Councilman Milliken asked what year the debt ratio would go away and Mayor Woolsey answered that will happen, when the debt is paid off, most likely in the spring. Council thanked Mr. Wilson for his report.

Presentation: US HUD 2019 Urban Entitlement Program, Dr. Anna Eskridge, Charleston County.

Dr. Anna Eskridge, Program Manager for HUD Urban Entitlement Program, gave a short presentation on the Annual Update form the Community Development Department of Charleston County, and it was accepted as information. Dr. Eskridge explained the three types of funding the HUD receives each year, including Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and the HOME Investment Partnership Program. She explained that the funding is intended for low-to-moderate income individuals. She said that help is also available for individuals who need assistance with clean water, affordable housing, and emergency home repairs. The application is available on the Charleston County Government website (charlestoncounty.org), under Departments, then Community Development. The application window opens on 11/26/2018 and closes on 1/7/2019. She would like to thank Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator for serving on the Board and she appreciates the Town's support. She would like to point out that there is a Resource Directory on the website for citizens who need assistance with shelter, food pantries, etc.

Public Comments:

Kenneth Johnson, 427 Lindberg Street, Eagle Scout, Troop #50 stated that he would like to follow-up on his Eagle Scout project that he introduced at the October Council meeting. He has constructed two donation boxes with one in the reception area at Town Hall and the other in Council Chambers. These will be permanent here at Town Hall, and right now, he is accepting donations in the boxes for a Thanksgiving Drive for the James Island Outreach.

LeeAnn Johnson, Bradford Avenue, stated that someone in her neighborhood had a huge bonfire and she was wondering if the Town had any burn ordinances. She stated that it was a safety issue and was just inquiring on the Town's rules as they relate to burning.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes: October 18, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe reviewed highlights from the Finance Report and it was accepted as information.
- b. Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan reviewed the Administrator's report adding that the punch list for Town Hall should be complete soon from a few small things left. She stated that the Lighthouse Blvd. Sidewalk and Drainage Improvements Project is moving forward, with the Town requesting from the BZA permission to remove two grand trees next week. The Jordan Street traffic-calming meeting will be held on 11/27/2018 at 7pm and signs will be posted before the meeting. She added that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Update was included in Council packets. She also responded to Councilman Milliken's question regarding the boardwalk completion on Dills Bluff Road as it pertains to the timeline of completion, and that the project is still in permitting at OCRM. Report accepted as information.
- c. Public Works: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson presented the Public Works Report and responded to Councilman Milliken's questions regarding street sweeping and maintenance of Harbor View Road. The report was accepted as information.
- d. Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Deputy Herman Martin apologized for the absence of Sergeant James, stating that he was on a call for Crisis/Hostage Mitigation. He stated that the Sheriff's Department is ramping up patrol, especially in the Greenhill, Honeyhill and Seaside area where the recent murder occurred. The suspects for that homicide are in custody. He said that they are also ramping up overall patrol because of the holiday season. Mrs. Kellahan said that she would like to speak on "Coffee with Cops" because Deputy Martin was not there, but she noted it was successful. Next time the location may change to a location such as Chick-fil-A, in order to engage a larger crowd.

Requests for Approval:

Town Facilities Policy: Mrs. Kellahan explained the request for a Town Facilities Policy, stating that the Town now has available for use meeting space, including conference rooms. She stated that there has been a lot of interest to use the space, so we need a policy to protect the Town from any liability and to keep the facilities nice. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Stokes and passed unanimously. Mrs. Kellahan stated that Frances Simmons, Town Clerk, deserves the credit for the great job she did in creating the policy.

Tree Maintenance at Camp and Folly: Councilman Milliken spoke on the request to clean-up the trees that were saved as part of the Camp and Folly Improvement Project. He stated that these trees have become overgrown and could use fertilizer and possibly some pruning. He said that the trees provide great shade on that part of Town. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Blank said he was in favor of this request because of the need for these trees to be fertilized and pruned. Councilman Stokes asked the cost, and if the Town utilized on-call contractors for this type of work. Mrs. Kellahan responded that the cost should be around \$1,500, similar to what the Town funded on Fort Johnson road in front of the high school. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilman Blank made a motion to reappoint Planning Commissioner Zennie Quinn for another term on Planning Commission. Councilman Stokes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken stated that the Environment and Beautification Committee but the Citizen Committee, James Island Pride, for which he is Council Liaison for, does have a few items to report. James Island Pride hosted an Adopt-a-Highway litter pick-up on November 3 and citizens were able to remove 51 bags of trash from island roadways in 2 hours. He would like to give special thanks to the employees of Autobell Car Wash for participating. He would also like to give thanks to Paisano's Pizza for rewarding their efforts with some tasty pizzas. The next litter pick-up is scheduled for February 2. He wanted to let everyone know that nomination forms are available on the Town website for the James Island Community Hero Award. He said that Helping Hands took care of 10 yards on October 20, with the help of the First Baptist Church Youth Group. Councilman Milliken said that Helping Hands can still use more volunteers, and any citizens or community groups who wish to get involved with Helping Hands can contact Stan Kozikowski at 860-847-0544. An Arbor Day celebration will be held at Camp Road Middle School on December 7, around 1pm and the celebration will include the plating of two Live Oak trees, a performance by the school's band, tree poems by English students, and a display of tree posters by middle school artists.

Children's Commission: Councilman Stokes would like to thank everyone who came out and helped with the annual Lights On event sponsored by the elementary schools' Kaleidoscope program. There were more people in attendance this year than any other year, with an estimated 450 people. He stated that the Town's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony would be the Thursday after Thanksgiving, 11/29/2018, from 6-8pm, here at Town Hall.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax reported that the normally scheduled meeting of the Neighborhood Council has been postponed because of Thanksgiving, to December 6. This meeting will be more of a "drop-in" type event and will combine the meetings of November and December.

History Commission: Mayor Woolsey stated that the James Island History Commission approved the final draft of the booklet and hoping to complete soon. Also the Commission is participating in a Victory Day

Celebration on December 16. He said that Victory Day celebrates the date that the British troops abandoned Charleston.

Rethink Folly Road Committee Report: Mayor Woolsey reported that the Rethink Folly Steering Committee approved staff's recommendation to move forward with plans to install an 8' sidewalk and to restripe Folly Road as to widen the bike lanes to standard width on Folly Road from Ellis Creek to Pittsford Street (which is the entrance to Queensborough Neighborhood). The hope of the Committee is that with the changes to the Folly Road, SCDOT may re-evaluate the Committee's former request to lower the speed limit. Woolsey stated the Committee has issued an RFP for a Consultant to implement the plan, with the Town taking the lead. He would also like to report that Councilwoman Anna Johnson has been appointed by Charleston County Council to replace Councilman Joe Qualey as the County's representative on the Steering Committee.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Stokes reported that he is in the process of creating the Drainage Committee and is currently defining the function of the Committee, while working on the timing of the meetings to coincide with monthly Stormwater Managers meetings. He hopes that the Committee will meet quarterly, with the first meeting on the second Wednesday of January at 3pm.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2018-13: An Ordinance to Adjust the Boundary Between the City of Charleston and Town of James Island: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Blank. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #2018-14: An Ordinance on Proposed Changes to Special Events: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Blank in order to discuss, seconded by Councilman Stokes. Councilman Blank stated he would like to make a motion to amend the proposed change to strike out the change in the definition of 50 people, and to amend it back to 100 people. Councilman Stokes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Councilman Blank made a motion to amend the proposed change to strike out the change in the definition of the addition of "neighborhood/block parties" and add the language "or events that require road closures or restricts traffic". Councilman Stokes seconded the motion. Councilman Milliken asked to make a motion to amend the amendment to remove "restricts traffic" because the wording was redundant. Councilman Mullinax seconded the motion to amend the amendment. Councilman Milliken explained his reasoning behind his amendment. Councilman Stokes stated that he agrees with Councilman Milliken, but that it was confusing. There was discussion and Councilman Milliken agreed that it was confusing. The vote on the amended amendment was Councilman Milliken and Councilman Mullinax – yes; Councilman Stokes, Councilman Blank and Mayor Woolsey – no. The motion failed. Councilman Blank stated that he still believed all of the wording, "or events that require road closures or restricts traffic" needs to be in the definition. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it passed unanimously. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote on the remaining amendments to Special Events. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #2018-15: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 51: Stormwater Management: Mrs. Kellahan explained the reason for the amendments to Chapter 51, including changes to replace "Zoning Administrator" with "Stormwater Manager" and changing the Appeals process from the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals to the Charleston County Construction Appeals Board. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Stokes, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Executive Session: Not needed.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kristen Crane
Planning Director