

James Island Intergovernmental Council

October 20, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Town of James Island: Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Garrett Milliken, and Councilman Troy Mullinax. City of Charleston: Councilwoman Carol Jackson. Charleston County: Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt (Chair). James Island Public Service District: Commissioners Kathy Woolsey, Inez Brown Crouch, Alan Laughlin, Marilyn Clifford, Susan Milliken, and Brenda Grant. State Representative Spenser Wetmore.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Following introductions, a motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

1. Public Comments:

- a. Cheryl Wright: She lives on Folly Road and still has a septic system. She requests access to the sewer system. James Island Public Service District Commissioners took note and stated they would be in touch with the owner.
- b. Andy Jebrowski: Resident and civil engineer. He stated concerns with the methodology and solutions proposed for the sewer extension project, offering to work with the James Island Public Service District on their plans.

2. Presentation of ReThink Folly Road - Overview & Updates – Lakesha Dunbar, of Toole Design, gave a presentation, providing an overview of the ReThink Folly Road plan, strategies, and implementation history. Commissioner Laughlin asked about mitigation efforts for traffic issues that may come from implementation of this project. Ms. Dunbar responded that there would be mitigation, as is the standard for any road improvement project. Mr. Laughlin asked how the public could find out information about the current plan. Ms. Dunbar provided a web address where the public could find out more information about the project (www.rethinkfollyroad.com). Commissioner Kathy Woolsey presented concerns with the proposed 12-foot-wide multi-use path, noting that a path of this size is not necessary for James Island, especially regarding the potential for increased flooding. Mrs. Woolsey noted that infrastructure on James Island is already a huge concern and adding an additional 12 feet of concrete or asphalt would exasperate flooding problems along Folly Road. Chair Honeycutt asked for clarification about the composition of the multi-use path if it is intended to contain a bike path adjacent to a sidewalk. Mr. Laughlin also expressed concerns. Councilwoman Jackson noted that much of the path would only extend 8-feet; the 12-foot-wide portion is only proposed to be located in specified sections of the path. Ms. Dunbar provided a map showing the composition of the Phase 1 path and its varying width planned for the corridor, ranging from five to 12 feet.

3. James Island Creeks Water Quality Projects – Commissioner Marilyn Clifford, James Island Public Service District, spoke on behalf of Dave Schaeffer. Ms. Clifford provided a list to the Council, after which she is providing information about funding and updates on the current projects underway. Mayor Woolsey highlighted that communication and outreach to residents was a primary goal of the James Island Water Quality Task Force. Commissioner Milliken stated that direct contact with the exact neighborhoods that would be affected and providing for public comment on any sewer expansion project is required by state law. Chair Honeycutt added that plans to solicit public comment are underway.
4. Richardson House – Councilman Appel brought this item to the agenda but was unable to attend. Chair Honeycutt stated the importance of this historic structure that is owned by Bishop Gadsden. Bishop Gadsden heard the community concerns for preserving this important piece of the Island’s history. Bishop Gadsden plans to collaborate with the community to find the best solution for the site.
5. Litter and Water Goat Grants and ARPA Fund Expectation for Water, Sewer, and Flooding – Senator Senn added these two items to the agenda but was unable to attend the meeting. The Council discussed the process to obtain funding and what types of projects for which it was suited.
6. Redistricting and School Board – Chair Honeycutt announced that redistricting is occurring on James Island. She stated that changes that are being made in this process would require the Charleston County School Board be composed of representatives from specific districts across the county. The current composition is at-large where the members of the school board are representatives from anywhere in the county. Chair Honeycutt stated that it would be beneficial to include the representative for James Island in the James Island Intergovernmental Council once their term begins.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.