

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023 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 website, www.jamesislandsc.us/livestream-townmeetings.

The following members of Council were present: Boles, Dodson, Mignano, Mullinax, and Mayor Lyon, who presided. Also, Niki Grimball, Town Administrator, Merrell Roe, Finance Officer, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Attorney Bonum Wilson, Lt. Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Deputy Chris King, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk. A quorum was present to conduct business. This meeting was held in accordance with the SC Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island with notification provided to the public.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She introduced herself as the newly elected Mayor and introduced reelected Councilmembers, Dan Boles, Cynthia Mignano, Darren "Troy" Mullinax, and newly elected Councilmember, Lewis Dodson. Mayor Lyon gave opening remarks noting that this is the beginning of a new era. She acknowledged and complimented former Mayor Bill Woolsey on his retirement and for all of his accomplishments during his tenure with the Town. Mayor Lyon led Council in prayer and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Order of Business: Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore: Mayor Lyon moved for the nomination of Darren "Troy" Mullinax to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore, Councilman Boles seconded. Passed unanimously.

Presentation by Charleston County Urban Entitlement RFA: Gail Carson, Charleston County Community Development & Revitalization, gave an overview of the PY 2024-2025 Urban Entitlement Program. The Urban Entitlement Program is the fiscal agent for the Treasury, ARPA Funds, and HUD Urban Entitlement Funds. HUD Funds are separated into three categories: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Home Investment Partner Programs (HOME); and HESG that provides programs and services for homeless individuals and families. Funding is granted to non-profit organizations and participating jurisdictions through an annual Request for Applications (RFA) for programs that provide vital needs within Charleston County. The application process opens November 30 and closes on January 5, 2024 @ 12:00 noon. The application along with supporting documents must be submitted online to <https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/charlestoncountysc/participant>. Ms. Carson asked the Town to help spread the word in the community for non-profits to apply. Councilman Boles asked if non-profits could apply without the Town applying, to which Ms. Carson answered that the Town and non-profits are eligible to apply. However, non-profits may even if the Town does not. Mayor Lyon thanked Ms. Carson for sharing this information with Council. Presentation attached.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of October 19, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting: Mayor Lyon called for a motion to approve the October 19, 2023 Regular Town Council Minutes. Councilman Mullinax moved, seconded by Councilman Boles. Councilwoman Mignano brought forth a correction on page 4, third paragraph to read:

Councilwoman Mignano commented on speed humps that were placed on Nabors Drive that had to be modified; she stated that after those on Nabors Drive were modified, they were never right again. She would like to make sure the speed humps are constructed properly. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Information Report:

Finance Report: Finance Officer, Merrell Roe, presented the Finance Report. Councilwoman Mignano was given explanation of several expenditures: SC Trees Conference under Planning; and a driveway repair on Quail Drive under Public Works.

Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Niki Grimball, reported that plans are underway for this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in partnership with the Town Market, Friday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Camp Road Tree Preservation Project is now complete. Brantley Park Phase I has concluded and a ribbon cutting ceremony with the City of Charleston was held on Wednesday, November 15 @ 10:30 a.m. Other ongoing and upcoming events include: the flagpole and welcome sign at Ellis Creek Bridge, renovations at Dock Street Park, and bids will be solicited for the roof and exterior painting of the James Island Arts & Cultural Center.

Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, provided highlights from the PW Report. He reported that staff is monitoring the closeout for the Greenhill-Honey Hill project; clearing vegetation on right of ways to improve motorists vision at various intersections; Quail Run drainage project contractor, IPW, has started construction of the new elliptical reinforced concrete pipe (ERCP) outfall at the end of Peregrine Drive; staff monitored the Oceanview-Stonepost drainage project that continues to move upstream from Cecil Circle, and, 84 septic tank inspections have been done. No new inspections were completed last month; 13 failed; and 130 remain.

Councilman Boles asked the status of the two additional speed humps for Seaside Lane. Ms. Grimball said the plans were approved today by SCDOT and we expect to have them installed by the end of the year. She was complimentary of the quick decision by SCDOT. Councilwoman Mignano asked about the coyote situation and Mr. Johnson said they have selected places at Pinckney Park where to place traps. Ms. Grimball said a request/complaint category has been added in the GoGov system for the public to enter information on coyote sightings, or residents may call Mark Johnson to make a formal report. Mayor Lyon stated that she knows a naturalist, Jen Tyrell, who works for Audubon that has experience with wild animal management. She will see if Ms. Tyrell is available to speak at the December Town Council meeting.

Island Sheriff's Patrol (ISP) Report: Lt. James welcomed newly elected Mayor, Brook Lyon, re-elected Councilmembers: Dan Boles, Cynthia Mignano, Troy Mullinax, and newly elected Councilman Lewis Dodson. The updated crime report was given. Lt. James announced that the 3rd annual Trunk or Treat event held in October was the most successful yet with 3-400 people in attendance. The Island Sheriff's Patrol will host the annual Thanksgiving Turkey giveaway on Tuesday, November 21. At least 26 turkeys will be given to families in need. Councilwoman Mignano has offered to help deliver the turkeys. Lt. James shared that he and the Town Clerk delivered turkeys last year and everyone that received them were very grateful. He thanked the Fire Department for storing the turkeys.

Requests for Consideration by Staff:

Soils Testing for Flagpole Installation at Ellis Creek Bridge (\$5,250): Mayor Lyon requested that this item be deferred for Ms. Grimball to obtain additional information. Before the flagpole is installed, the soil must be tested to ensure the ground is firm enough to accommodate them. This project at Ellis Creek Bridge will host flags of the various branches of the military to honor those who serve(d) in those branches. Mayor Lyon moved to defer this request; Councilman Mullinax seconded. Passed unanimously.

Requests for Consideration by Council: None.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No Report.

Nomination to Board of Zoning Appeals: Councilman Mullinax brought forth the nomination of Joshua Hayes to serve the unexpired term of former BZA member, Brook Lyon, seconded by Mayor Lyon. Passed unanimously. Councilman Mullinax announced that Mr. Hayes also serves on the Neighborhood Council representing the Lawton Bluff neighborhood. Mr. Hayes thanked Council and that he is honored to serve the Town.

Environment and Beautification Committee: No Report. It was noted that this month's meeting of James Island Pride is the last for the year.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety Committee: No Report.

History Committee: Ms. Grimball announced that the November meeting was cancelled since it fell on election day. The next meeting will be held on December 5 at the James Island Arts & Cultural Center at 6:00 p.m.

ReThink Folly Road: Ms. Grimball announced the next meeting of the Steering Committee on December 13 at 5:30 p.m. At the October meeting, discussion included prospective funding sources for design of Phase II from George Griffiths Blvd. to Grimball Road Ext.

Drainage Committee: The next meeting will be scheduled for January.

Business Development Committee: No Report. Councilman Boles asked if a workshop could be scheduled to review all Town committees. Ms. Grimball agreed and will follow up with Council to schedule

Trees Advisory Committee: No report.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: The next meeting of the James Island Intergovernmental Council will be held in January. PSD Commissioner, Marilyn Clifford, has been appointed Chair.

Proclamations and Resolutions: None.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2023-08 Ordinance Amending the FY 2023-24 Annual Budget: Ms. Grimball gave an overview of the budget amendment stating that the Town has met the \$50,000 revenue threshold (Accommodations Tax Revenue) which requires funds to be used specifically for tourism-related promotion and activities and that the Town is required to report on those activities annually. Additionally, the budget needs to be amended to pay the salary for personnel in the Public Works Department. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

During discussion Councilman Dodson suggested that the formation of the Accommodations Tax Committee be added to the workshop in December. Passed unanimously.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Request to Approve Two-Year Contract for James Island Creek TMDL Monitoring and Sampling (Town's Portion, \$43,350 (\$21,675 per year): Ms. Grimball reported that the State of South Carolina requires

Charleston County, the City of Charleston, and the Town of James Island as permittees, to implement a monitoring plan to measure pollutant levels within a total maximum daily load (TMDL) watershed. The permit requires monitoring to be conducted beginning not more than 18 months after the TMDL effective date, which was January 2020 for the James Island Creek TMDL. She said last year the Town's portion (approved by Council) was roughly \$23,000, but the Town had only been billed about \$9,000. The Town's portion for the next two years would be less than previously estimated. The contract would run through November 2025. Motion in favor by Mayor Lyon, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Dodson spoke that there isn't much that we can do about this; it is our obligation, and a requirement of the State and he offered to help pinpoint where sample locations could be identified. Passed unanimously.

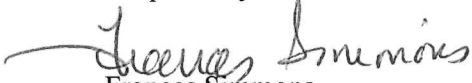
Request to Approve James Island Creek TMDL Implementation Plan: Ms. Grimball introduced a request for Woolpert Engineering Consultants, as an extension to the JI Creek TMDL Monitoring program, to prepare the James Island Creek TMDL implementation plan that is required to be submitted to the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. They will also prepare a James Island Creek TMDL implementation recommendation memo to serve as an internal document for the County presenting options for additional efforts within the watershed to address pollutant concerns. The Town's portion of 34% representing the portion of the Creek that is in the Town's jurisdiction, is \$4,256.80. Motion in favor by Mayor Lyon, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Not Needed.

Announcements/Closing Comments: Councilman Boles complimented Mayor Lyon for doing a good job for her first meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Frances Simmons
Town Clerk