

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 20, 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 YouTube Channel.

The following members of 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, 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 prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Jim Boyd, 719 Tennent Street: Mr. Boyd addressed Council about traffic calming in Clearview and the immediate effects it has to his family. He looked at the \$50,000 the Town has budgeted for traffic calming and that tells him the project on Tennent Street would eat up half of the budget this year and Council is not going about this the right way. He (noted that Clearview is a State-maintained road which makes it difficult for the Town to get things passed through the State). He said the intersection of Clearview and Tennent Street is a bus stop for elementary aged kids. He and his wife sit every morning and watch people pass the bus when the red lights are on at least twice a week. He guaranteed Council that he has talked to parents all over James Island and they have the same issue. It is extremely upsetting what was budgeted and how we look at things. He said honestly, he doesn't get it. He is appreciative that Council is voting on radar signs tonight and asked them to please do so. He and his wife represents the residents that could not be at the meeting tonight.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of September 15, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting: Councilman Boles moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Milliken made a correction under Committee Reports: Trees Advisory Committee: the date for Arbor Day is the first Friday in December. Minutes passed unanimously with the correction.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Merrell Roe, Finance Director, gave a summary of September's Budget Report: Local Option Sales Tax Revenue (LOST) for July and August; Local Assessment Fees: \$1,032; Flood Insurance \$1,800; Johnson, Laschober Associates for small cell wireless facilities regulations of \$4,200; Sandbag replacement \$3,200; vehicle maintenance to the Silverado \$979; Acquisition of Hillman Street Property \$226,998.

Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Niki Grimball reported that she had a great trial run of our emergency management procedures during Hurricane Ian and thanked staff for their hard and tireless efforts during the hurricane.

Ms. Grimball expects to receive a final quote for consideration for audio-visual and livestreaming upgrades to the Council Chambers, and she hopes to present a recommendation at the November Council meeting.

The installation of solar panels at both the Town Hall and the JI Arts & Cultural Center is expected in January so that the Town can take advantage of a new Federal program, the Inflation Reduction Act, whereby the Town would get a 30% reduction in cost between the two solar panel installation projects, equating to about \$50,000.

The Town completed its annual Community Rating System recertification. This program provides standards for establishing sound floodplain management practices and provides discounts on residents' flood insurance based on compliance with those standards.

The Town closed on the Hillman property and is in the process of having general maintenance done until it is determined what its use will be.

The James Island Arts and Cultural Center is sponsoring a Fall Fest, Saturday, October 29, from 1-4 p.m.

2022-2023 Community Assistance Grant Requests: Ms. Grimball reported the Town received several submittals for the Town's 2022-2023 Community Assistance Grants Program. The requests totaled \$44,000 and is within the \$50,000 budget. This request will come before Council in November for approval.

Public Works: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson provided an overview of the PW report: eight new requests for service were completed in September; four of which were drainage related. A certification class for Master Rain Gardener has begun. Staff is in discussion with Clemson Extension regarding their Coastal Adopt a Stream Program of which the Town has interest. Mr. Johnson gave a recap of the sandbag operations for Hurricane Ian. The Town distributed 900 sandbags in a cooperative effort with the City of Charleston. The Town in conjunction with Pet Helpers will host a "Howl-o-ween" Rabies Clinic on Saturday, October 29 from 11-2 p.m.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Lt. James reported a successful Trunk-or-Treat at the Town Hall on October 10 and thanked everyone who participated. An estimate of 250 people were in attendance and all had a great time. Lt. James gave an overview and update of the crime report. Overall, situations were relatively quiet last month.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

Riser Board Replacement at North Stiles Outfall: Ms. Grimball reported that the riser board system in the outfall at North Stiles has deteriorated causing a low water levels. It was especially noticeable during the recent dry spell. The cost of the repair work is \$2,650. Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Boles asked the anticipated life span of the system after installation and Mr. Johnson replied that it was installed in 2013, which was nine years ago. Motion passed unanimously.

Quote for two (2) Temporary Radar Signs: Ms. Grimball made request for the purchase of two temporary radar signs @ \$6,730. Motion to approve by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Mullinax spoke in favor, that it is a good idea and a conservative approach and these could be used in other areas in Town. He went on to note that if the Town decides to get permanent signs down the road they can placed on other roads; i.e., such as Ocean View and a few others. Councilman Boles received clarification that the signs will be purchased not leased and Councilman Milliken made reference to its ability to capture data and track speed. Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of Public Works Truck: Ms. Grimball requested approval for the purchase of a truck for additional staff use. This is a budgeted item and staff were able to find a vehicle under the \$50,000 budgeted at \$49,742 and will be purchased through state contract. Motion to approve by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Councilman Milliken asked if the vehicle has a towing package that includes a trailer and Ms. Grimball said it does. It is a GMC, 4-wheel drive, V-8 engine with lights and bed liners. Motion passed unanimously.

Dock Street Park ADA Improvements: Professional Design Services: Ms. Grimball requested approval for ADA Improvements at Dock Street Park. Staff has worked with Stantec on the design to see what the park

would look like with the improvements. The first step towards this improvement project would be the professional design services. \$50,000 is budgeted and the estimated cost is \$58,000 for a design, plans to be drawn, and permitting. Motion to approve by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Motion passed unanimously.

World War I Exhibit at JIACC Framing Project: Ms. Grimboll reported that a resident reached out to the staff at the JIACC who has a collection of post cards that a relative sent to her from WWI; the relative was an artist. The resident offered the post cards for display. Caroline Self (JIACC Development Coordinator) looked at having them appropriately framed as this would be a unique exhibit to bring to the Center. The quote for archival-quality framing is \$3,300. The vendor brought the cost down from \$5,087 and she had gotten a comparable quote of \$5,400. Ms. Grimboll said the display could be used as a travel exhibit or rented out to go to other museums or art centers to help compensate the cost of the framing over time. Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax

Councilman Boles asked if the owner is donating the cards to the Town and Ms. Grimboll said no, they are not willing to give up the ownership and rights to the artwork at this point. Councilman Boles asked how long can we have the display and Ms. Grimboll said there is no time limit and we could host it as a travel exhibit that can help alleviate the cost for the display. There was discussion about the framing and Mayor Woolsey explained that we would pay \$3,300 to have the cards properly displayed and the agreement is that if they are sent to other museums and pay a sum of money, the Town and the owner would each keep half of it. Councilman Boles asked the size of the cards are and Ms. Grimboll said there are 26 cards and they would be individually framed. Councilman Milliken asked if the family is ok with it being a travel exhibit and Ms. Grimboll said yes they are.

Councilwoman Mignano asked if we are getting 26 individual frames or one large frame that holds them all and Ms. Grimboll confirmed they will be 26 cards individually framed. Councilwoman Mignano asked if there is a possibility to use this for something else or do the cards have to stay with the envelopes. Ms. Grimboll said that was not proposed as an option. Councilwoman Mignano asked if we are paying the \$3300 for the time we have the exhibit. Ms. Grimboll said yes and essentially to earn some of the framing cost back with it being on a travel rotation. Councilman Boles said this is a cool idea but it seems to be a lot of money unless it was given to us. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote: in favor: Councilmembers: Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey; opposed: Councilmembers Boles and Mignano. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: No Report

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that James Island Pride met today and identified the following activities: Saturday, October 22, Stan Kozikowski is coordinating a Helping Hands event. Helping Hands is a group of individuals that helps citizens who are unable to care for their yards by raking and mowing. He encouraged others who wish to volunteer to pick up a flyer or show up on Saturday at Pinckney Park. Saturday, October 15, James Island Pride hosted an Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup and picked up 32 bags of litter. The group focused on the James Island Connector and the access roads in conjunction with the Connector Run. Special thanks were extended to the James Island Exchange Club, the Surfriders, Mayor Woolsey, James Island Pride committee. The next litter pickup is Saturday, January 21. James Island Pride is accepting nominations for the Annual Community Hero Award. The deadline for nominations is extended to the third Wednesday in November. The next James Island Pride meeting is Thursday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. James Island Pride is a great group of individuals and he hopes others will get involved and like them on Facebook to see the activities that are planned.

Children's Committee: No Report

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax moved for the appointment of Paul Geier to represent Lawton Bluff on the Neighborhood Council, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Motion passed unanimously.

The Neighborhood Council will meet on Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that the Revolutionary War Commemoration event will be held on Sunday, November 6, @ 2-4 p.m. to focus on the Battle of Dills Bluff and the Stamp Act Rebellion at Ft. Johnson. Mayor Woolsey invited everyone to attend. The day's events may include some reenactors and perhaps a cannon.

Rethink Folly Road Committee: Ms. Grimball announced the Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 26 at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom and live streamed on the Town's YouTube Channel. One item of discussion will be design of Phase II sidewalk.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the date for the next meeting will be determined.

Business Development Committee: No Report

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced the committee met on October 11 and discussed plans for the upcoming SC Arbor Day on the first Friday in December. Trees have been ordered for planting at Town Hall and Pinckney Park and in some locations around the island's rights-of-way. They were able to attend the Public Works Expo and gave away 20 trees to citizens. Yesterday the group met at Pinckney Park to help Scouts from Pack #50 and planted live oak trees in pots and learned about the importance of trees. Next meeting is November 8 @ 4:30 p.m.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the committee met the Wednesday before hurricane Ian and the next meeting is January 25. Quarterly schedule for 2023: April 26, July 26, and October 25.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Small Business Saturday Proclamation: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-17: Recognition of World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #2022-18: Exercise of Eminent Domain to Acquire Title to or Interest in Real Estate Property for the Purpose of the Stone Post/Oceanview Drainage Improvements Project: Ms. Grimball reported that these are the final two parcels needed for the project. She mentioned that the Town had been in negotiations and hoped to reach an agreement but if it doesn't work out we would exercise the eminent domain to obtain the final two easements for the project. Motion to approve by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2022-03: Amending the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance, Number 2013-07: Off Street Parking Schedule A, Section 153.332 (Exhibit A); Off Site Parking, Section 153.332 D2 (Exhibit B); Use Table 153.110 (Exhibit C): Motion to approve was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Boles commented that this will help with the parking at the JI Arts & Cultural Center and Ms. Grimball agreed that it would.

Old Business: None

New Business: Hurricane Ian Debris Removal: Mayor Woolsey reported that the Town is working with the James Island PSD in an effort to remove storm debris within areas in the Town from Hurricane Ian. He said the PSD has picked up most of the storm debris and continues to do so but some of the larger tree branches and trunks are beyond their equipment's ability. He further discussed that in past storms, this type of debris has been picked up by outside contractors as a part of the Town's intergovernmental agreement with Charleston County and was paid for primarily by FEMA. Charleston County did not activate the contract for Ian based upon their estimates of damages countywide. He said the Town anticipates a total cost of no more than \$10,000 to have the debris from the storm removed. Mayor Woolsey moved that Council approve \$10,000 for this expenditure; seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if we could recoup some of the money from the federal government. Mayor Woolsey said yes; but it may not be guaranteed. He explained that FEMA visited James Island and if the threshold damage in Charleston County meets their threshold, the Town's expense could be reimbursed by the federal government, but if not we could use a portion of reserve funds to cover the cost. Mayor Woolsey noted that the Town could submit for its sandbag operations but removing this debris requires assistance. Councilman Milliken asked if the request is approved by Council to share this information with the residents. Councilman Boles asked and it was clarified that this would apply to Town residents; not island wide. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: None

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Boles commented on the good news from Lt. James' report that things were quiet and he hopes that it continues.

Lt. James shared good news about a 10-year old that went missing and complemented the deputies that found him in a matter of 25 minutes.

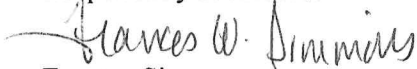
Councilwoman Mignano thanked everyone and will see them in person next month.

Councilman Milliken thanked the staff for their work during Hurricane Ian before, during and after the storm.

Councilman Mullinax also thanked the staff for their hard work during Hurricane Ian and expressed "hats off" for all staff does and for their prompt response.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk