

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 17, 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, 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 Mullinax offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Casimer Kowalski, 1108 Pauline Ave: Resident at 1108 Pauline Ave. since 1988 addressed Council on the speeding issues and offered some suggestions. He stated that Pauline Avenue is 9/10 of a mile with no stops from the cemetery at Fort Johnson, all the way to Camp Road. He suggested having three 4-way stops to cut the momentum by having cars to stop at each intersection before proceeding to the next and noted that he had previously sent an email Mayor Woolsey about this. The stops are not evenly spaced; from the cemetery to the first stop is probably the longest stretch of road. He mentioned there is a school at the end of Camp Road but no school zone signs. Mr. Kowalski said the speed limit is 30 mph but he would like to see it reduced to 25 mph. He said that was done on Folly Beach. There were some who complained but they were the ones trying to get somewhere quickly. Generally this has not caused much of a problem. He is fine with the other issues in the Town. He was asked to annex into the City and he refused to do so.

Erich Murray, 1111 Pauline Ave: Spoke on behalf of his wife, Judy, his eleven month old Sky, and 10 yr. old family dog, Quest. He is also speaking on behalf of the residents on Pauline Ave. about the initiation of a Traffic Calming Program because in his opinion, it's a drag strip, and 9/10 of a mile is a racetrack. He said Deputy King has been sitting in this front yard numerous times in previous months and while there, he has seen multiple cars pulled over for speeding as he walked the neighborhood with his child and dog. The two main points he would like to make: first, the report does not show findings from the last road counter that works well in instances where cars are travelling in excess of 80 to 99 mph. Through Niki Grimball, Town Administrator, his wife, and neighbors were made aware of this information from the final location where the counter was placed. He stressed the 12 vehicles travelling at 80-99 mph was within a two week period. He said that information was not included in the report and he wanted Council to know about that. He commented that his bedroom window is across from the road and how insanely fast people drive is unacceptable. Second, during the time the counter was on the road, they saw an increased presence of deputies which could be why the lower speeds. He said having a counter and police presence will cause people to slow down and that throws data off. He wants that included in the report. Finally, he spoke of the careless operation of vehicles, a major issue since he purchased his house in 2004. He said the Town does not provide documentation for complaints, which is another issue on top of that. It has taken months of his wife's documentation for the Town to take this seriously and he now appreciates having an audience with Council. He is confident that the letters, emails, neighborhood, media, and counter on Pauline Ave. would make them eligible for some kind of traffic calming. In closing, he thanked Council for their time; and thanked God there hasn't been a tragedy. He pleaded for Council to help and asked them to put themselves in his position if they lived on Pauline Ave. having to deal with safety for families, children, and animals every day with the speeding.

Colleen Kenny, 1060 Pauline Ave: Ms. Kenny stated that she has lived at 1060 Pauline Ave. since February of this year. She has two children; 2 and 4 and this is why speeding is a serious and immediate issue for

her. Since living there less than a year, she has seen people on motorcycles in front of her house and drag racing. With two children that frequently play in the front yard, this is a very personal concern. She mentioned that one day her 4 year old was playing in the yard when someone sped through the neighborhood. Her husband called out to the driver and her child was nearly hit. They don't want to imagine what could've happen. She said the neighborhood is full of small children, people walking their dogs, biking, and running, and children waiting on buses in the dark. She stated that people just want to live on the street and be able to walk on the road. She is convinced that the people speeding do not live in the neighborhood because everyone there knows it's a serious concern. Aside from the documents given to Council, there are no shoulders for people to walk. She mentioned mailboxes that are on the other side of the street is also a concern. She asked Council to please take this into consideration.

Bradley Stober, 1127 Pauline Ave: Mr. Stober has lived on Pauline Ave. since 2001. He said 20 years ago it was an older neighborhood but as time went by it has become a neighborhood with young families with children. He said there are a lot of children running around and playing. He has a 5 and a 7 year old. They have had cars run into ditches and mailboxes. There is speeding all the time. It's not safe and used as a cut thru. He said people come off of Folly, hit Pauline, and jam it down to Camp. Along with stop signs and speed humps, he asked if there is a way to block off Pauline @ Folly by the church so it's not used as a cut thru.

Susan Mohle, 1206 Pauline Ave: Ms. Mohle purchased her home in 2000 and has experienced since then many incidences of speeding on Pauline Ave. In 2004, she had three cats that were killed on Pauline that could've been prevented if people followed the speed limit. That year she reached out to Mary Clark, the Mayor at that time extensively about the problem and was rudely told that if she had \$2,000 per speed hump, she could pay to have the speed humps put in. She did not have it and didn't feel that it was her responsibility. She knows that Pauline Ave. is a State road and she has been in contact with Mr. Lonnie Powers several times about these concerns. She sent him an extensive email on yesterday about the speeding problem on Pauline Ave. that is absolutely out of control. The neighborhood is full of kids, moms pushing kids in strollers, runners, joggers, and dog walkers. The neighborhood is being used as an alternative to Folly Road, especially when there are accidents, or people who know that Pauline Ave. is a cut thru to get to wherever the need to get to quicker. She stated this is unacceptable. She thinks it is extremely important that the neighborhood either get street signs, stop signs or both. It doesn't make sense as she travels to work that she sees wealthy neighborhoods with speed humps; that should not matter. What matters is they are a community and a neighborhood on Pauline Ave. She has been working on this problem since 2004 and has talked to neighbors about their feelings on this. Ms. Mohle mentioned just find out about this meeting on yesterday and thought it was extremely important to show up to share her passion for how important this is. She is praying and hoping that all of Council will listen to her and the other people that have kids, pets, runners, and joggers, that this is taken care of and not go on anymore.

Brian Duffy, 1210 Stone Post Road. Mr. Duffy said his reason for attending tonight is to ask questions and share his thoughts on the relocation of the Stone Posts. He asked Mayor Wooley how and when this would be done. Mayor Woolsey explained the purpose of public comments and suggested that Mr. Duffy speak with Mark Johnson, PW Director. Mr. Duffy spoke of the historical significance of the stone posts and its importance to him and other members of the community. There is a mural of it in the Camp Road Middle School. He said the posts were erected in 1922; some say 1926, but they are over 100 years old and a historical landmark on James Island, made of Belgian block. He noted there has been accidents there that damaged them and that the SCDOT wants them removed. He shared the importance of them being relocated to an area close by and not removed or completely destroyed. He mentioned some people who had significance with the stone posts, such as City Mayor, Joe Riley, Robert Red, and the Welch family.

Mary Foisy, 813 Tennent St: Ms. Foisy shared with Council that a neighbor that resides at 719 Tennent St. comes to every Council meeting to badger them about what he thinks is a speeding problem in the

neighborhood and speaks on behalf of the neighborhood. Ms. Foisy said she has lived on Tennent St. for 14 years and never saw any speeding. She said a petition has been signed by neighbors stating that they do not agree with what this neighbor is saying. There is no speeding problem. You have to slow down to make a turn. That person has put up stop signs in the neighborhood that the Town has had to remove. That person is a renter, not an owner. She wants Council to hear the other side, that is not the consensus of the neighborhood.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of October 20, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting: Councilman Milliken moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination of Councilwoman Mignano to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore; seconded by Councilman Mullinax. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, gave a brief overview of October's Budget Report. Some highlights included: Franchise Fee, WOW; Local Option Sales Tax, September; Grant Writing, Thomas & Hutton; an error in vehicle maintenance expense, \$316.32 was moved to a different line item; JI Pride, Arbor Day expense for trees; drainage, \$15,000 final easement for Oceanview.

Councilman Milliken commented that the snowflakes are slightly different from each other. Ms. Roe noted there are four (4) that are slightly different designs. Councilwoman Mignano commented that some snowflakes are not lit and Ms. Roe explained a problem with the pole that Dominion is working to resolve.

Town Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Niki Grimball reported that the History Council hosted a successful Remembrance Day event at Ft. Johnson to commemorate James Island's significance in the Revolutionary War. This year's event focused on the Stamp Act Rebellion and the Battle at Dills Bluff.

Over the last month, the Town has received many thanks from residents regarding its assistance in the removal of the storm debris that the James Island PSD was unable to remove. Overall, Mr. Phillip Johnson reported removal of 125 tons of debris, equating to 2,065 yards. The Town appreciates Mr. Johnson's efforts and hard work in getting this accomplished.

Solar panels at the Town Hall and the JI Arts & Cultural Center will be installed before the end of the year.

The Town will host its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in coordination with the Holiday Town Market on Friday, December 2. The Town Market will open at 6:00 p.m. The staff at the Arts & Cultural Center will host children in building a gingerbread house. This activity will be done on the porch at the Town Hall.

The Arbor Day Celebration will also be held in the afternoon on December 2. Details of this celebration is forthcoming.

Public Works: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson provided an overview of the monthly report. Some highlights included: 10 new requests for service; monthly stormwater meeting; staff conducted a hot-wash after Hurricane Ian, continued planning efforts with Clemon Extension for the offering of its Coastal Adopt-a-Stream training classes for James Island residents; staff participated in meeting with the James Island PSD and FEMA for post Ian debris clean-up efforts; staff in partnership with Pet Helpers and Dog Tired, hosted another successful Rabies Clinic at the Town Hall whereby 39 animals were vaccinated. Pet Helpers has requested to host all of its rabies clinic at the Town Hall, four (4) times a year.

Mr. Johnson provided statistics in response to Councilwoman Mignano question about servicing of the septic tanks: 200 letters mailed; 48 responded (24%); 18 completed (37.5% of respondents) and 10.5% of the total sent out; two homeowners had contracted with Knights for service, which the Town reimbursed homeowners. Councilwoman Mignano asked if the plan is to have the process continue and Mr. Johnson answered yes. Mayor Woolsey added that the process has been very slow and we have a ways to go, but it will continue.

Councilman Milliken asked if there is a recourse for anyone that refuses and Mayor Woolsey replied that the recourse is in the Ordinance. Councilman Milliken asked if more inspectors are needed and Mayor Woolsey said more are needed and we plan to pursue other contractors. We have two contractors; one that has not performed any inspections. Councilman Milliken noted it would be nice to be able to identify the failures.

Island Sheriff's Patrol: Lt. James gave an updated Island Sheriff's Patrol Report. He reported to Council that there is a speeding issue on Pauline Ave and ISP will dedicate unmarked cars in the area next month for a strong police presence in the neighborhood. He believes having law enforcement will help resolve some of these issues. Lt. James reported that the situation with the Stop Sign has been forwarded to detectives for investigation. They are investigating where the Stop Signs were purchased since they were not approved by the SC DOT. An updated crime report was given related to an incident on Seaside Lane. A reminder was extended to the public to lock their cars and not *donate a gun for Christmas*. In other words, don't leave weapons in an unlocked vehicle.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

2022-2023 Community Assistance Grant Requests: Mayor Woolsey requested without objection to separate the request for the James Island Outreach Program because he serves on the Board as an Ex-Officio Officer and it was granted.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Community Assistance Grant Requests was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Mignano took over as Mayor Pro-Tempore and called for the approval of the James Island Outreach request (\$2,000). Councilman Mullinax moved for approval; seconded by Councilman Milliken. Motion Passed; Mayor Woolsey abstained.

Traffic Engineering Study Scope & Fee: Pauline Avenue: Mrs. Grimball presented a proposal from Johnson, Laschober & Associates (JLA) for the planning, design, and permitting for traffic calming devices along Pauline Ave. between Camp and Folly Roads. JLA will evaluate all-way and three-way stops at key intersections and speed humps where they have the greatest impacts. JLA recommends that they research crash data for the intersections if it appears to have sufficient data to initiate the warrant of studies. They will also prepare exhibits and participate in up to two public meetings for public comment on the plan. The fee is \$12,300. Councilman Boles moved for approval, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Councilman Milliken said in looking at the road, it drains a lot of neighborhoods and perhaps this could be considered for a future sidewalk project to allow for safe walking routes to school and to other places on the island. Mayor Woolsey replied that in the Master Plan there is a section for sidewalks that we could possibly move up on the list and could work on that.

Councilman Boles recalled the steps for traffic calming devices. He said we are in the phase of gathering data to make recommendations on speed humps/bumps/or stop signs and think it is helpful to have prices. He noted that Council's rule is 2/3rds of the neighborhood in favor and public input. Mayor Woolsey said we are done with the basic studies and in his opinion it clearly shows speeding issues and this is the point

where we spend monies to have an engineering firm to come up with solutions, then public input on those solutions. He said this is a DOT road and there have been instances where the Town thought the DOT would reject its requests but they didn't. Requests will come before Council for the approval and expenditure of monies. Councilman Boles remembered some past projects where it got pretty heated and asked everyone to keep in mind that we all live here and need to work together. He said sometimes pitch forks and torches comes out but we need to work together. Passed unanimously.

Safety Upgrades at Town Hall (ArmorCore Panels and Shatterproof Window Film): Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, presented a request for safety upgrades, describing the benefits of the window film. Ms. Grimbball stated that a general dollar figure had been obtained for shatterproof window film to be installed at the Town Hall, Administrative Offices, and the JI Arts & Cultural Center @ roughly \$14,000. Mr. Johnson went on to describe the next request for the ArmorCore Panels for which a quote was provided for \$4,164.00. Mr. Johnson displayed a sample bullet resistant fiberglass panel showing how the product works and stated that it would be installed at the reception desk in the Administrative Offices. Motion to approve by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Councilman Milliken expressed concerns for safety in the Council Chambers for Council as well as the public. He noted there not being any metal detectors and at risk. Mr. Johnson noted there being an expenditure in a future budget for other areas and Ms. Grimbball said she would get proposals for potential upgrades to include Council Chambers. Deputy Chris King shared an incident that occurred during a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting regarding the staff's safety. Even though he is stationed at the Town Hall, he agreed that additional safety methods are needed. There was brief discussion that the safety film on glass would keep it from shattering and that would be good during a hurricane event. Motion passed unanimously.

GOGov Software: Ms. Grimbball reported that this request started as a search for a citizen request for application/website integration to allow residents to report problems, i.e., potholes or code enforcement issues (including photos) so staff could respond and track them more efficiently. Ms. Grimbball noted that after looking into what GOGov had to offer, and where she thought we could make improvements in our service to the public she thought this software program would allow staff to be more productive and accountable. The quote of \$23,568 includes modules where cases from zoning permits, code enforcement, stormwater reviews, etc. could be entered, tracked, and prioritized. It would allow direct access to pending items, set performance measures, contacts with citizens, as well as provide all types of reporting tools that could be shared with Council.

Ms. Grimbball shared the experience she had at Charleston County as a permitting software administrator for three (3) departments and saw the benefits of this type of system could do both internally and externally in managing work across departments, and in providing an external line of communication with the public. Ms. Grimbball said most entities have some sort of software program, but this particular one is simple to use, effective, and is the right size for the Town.

Councilwoman Mignano moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Boles. Councilman Milliken asked if a training element is available or would a representative train staff to use the various functions. Ms. Grimbball said yes, training is unlimited and a representative would come in-house. She answered specific questions regarding the software's ability to issue citations and how the staff would be able to follow-up. Councilman Milliken asked if all of the components recommended are essential; i.e., business licenses app and Ms. Grimbball explained that we use Charleston County's system for business licenses and she would check to see if it could interface with this system. Councilman Boles asked what other municipalities use this system and Ms. Grimbball indicated that locally, she thought Beaufort Count also utilized this platform. She said there are some municipalities that only use applications that are pertinent to them, i.e., such as the citizen request management feature. Councilman Boles asked if we sought this company, or did they reach out to us and Ms. Grimbball replied that we sought them. Mayor Woolsey explained that the previous Town

Administrator researched these types of software programs in previous years and recommended that we pursue a similar system and added a line item for it in the budget at that time, but the cost was much more so it wasn't pursued any further. Councilman Boles said \$23,000 a year seems to be a lot of money and he doesn't know a lot of about the program. Mayor Woolsey explained that this program is automated (rather than Excel or Quick Books) and it would allow staff to be more consistent with our interactions with the public. He said \$23,000 is worth the expense. Councilman Boles asked about data security and Ms. Grimbball explained that the software is user based and we would have internal user rights. He asked if the software would provide social media features and Ms. Grimbball answered no.

Councilman Boles moved to defer this request to obtain further information. No second was offered and the motion failed. Councilman Milliken asked if we could be given a test-drive and Ms. Grimbball said we could see if a representative could provide a demonstration. Mayor Woolsey asked if other vendors were sought for this type of software and Ms. Grimbball answered yes. In further discussion, it was determined that the contract is annual with option to renew annually, which could act as a test drive to answer Councilman Milliken's question. Ms. Grimbball will find out if a notice of termination requires 30 days. She noted that there were several additional features that could be utilized for the Town's benefit, including a solution for the History Committee's projects to develop their pathway app for historic sites. Motion passed. Councilman Boles opposed.

Swagit Livestreaming and Agenda Management Solutions: Ms. Grimbball reported that the Town has been looking at the AV upgrade project. She noted this is a two-fold project; one is the livestreaming and public access side, and the other is the actual equipment upgrades that would allow better sound and video quality both in Chambers and for those participating virtually.

Swagit is a product that could be integrated into the Town's website and tied in with the equipment installed in Chambers. This would utilize the future hardwired microphones and video that will be built into the room. The livestream option would happen on the Town's webpage directly and would be managed remotely by a Swagit staff member. She said another feature is that once we have an agenda ready, we will send it to be posted and integrated into the livestream, so once a meeting has concluded it will be indexed, provide an unofficial transcript, and linked throughout the video recording by agenda item, then archived for future use and viewing. The upfront cost, including extended warranty is \$16,957 and annually at \$9,540. Councilman Boles moved for approval, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Councilman Milliken asked if the quality of the sound would be resolved with this system and what would the initial improvements be. Ms. Grimbball answered yes, and that previous Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan saw a presentation from the company during a conference in Beaufort and had recommended this for this Town. Councilman Milliken asked the budget for sound, and Ms. Grimbball said \$70,000. She said that a third quote will come before Council in December for microphones and cameras. Councilman Milliken moved to defer to December for the full packet, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Pass unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No Report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced a Gorilla Litter Pick-up, on Saturday, December 10, 9-11 a.m. A pizza lunch will be served after the pickup at Town Hall. Helping Hands is on break for the winter months. Councilman Milliken invited everyone to attend the 8th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, December 2 @ 2 p.m. at the Town Hall. The Town Market and Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held that same evening at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Neighborhood Council will not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey announced that the History Committee is excited about the development of the historic pathway application using the GoGov app. Councilman Milliken announced a good celebration of the Remembrance Day event at Ft. Johnson that it was something to be proud of.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced the next Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 14 @ 3:30 p.m.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Drainage Committee meeting is postponed to a later date to be announced.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that the Trees Committee did not meet in November.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting on Wednesday, January 25.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Proclamation Honoring James Island Community Heroes, 2022: Councilman Milliken read the Proclamation Honoring the 2022 recipients for James Island Community Heroes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken announced that this year, nominees are special because we did not receive any nominations from the community, however, Town staff took the initiative to nominate those that they consider to be heroes in our community.

Stan Kozikowski: Nominated by Mark Johnson, Public Works Director

Stan has been a dependable volunteer with James Island Pride for years. Several years ago he took over the Helping Hands Program. The leadership of that group, which uses volunteer youth groups to perform basic yard work for elderly and disabled residents, has enabled this program to grow and thrive. His ability to lead youths and their adult advisors has been a real asset for our whole community. Stan received a certificate and was applauded and recognized for his service to the community

Henrietta Martin and Zennie Quinn were absent and will be recognized at the December meeting.

Resolution #2022-19: Recognition of Arbor Day: Councilman Milliken read the Resolution stating that the Town of James Island will designate an annual community Arbor Day Observance and Celebration in conjunction with the SC State Arbor Day on the first Friday of every December. Councilman Mullinax seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second Reading: None.

Executive Sessions: Not Needed.

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Boles thanked everyone for coming out. Island Sheriffs Patrol for doing a good job and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Mignano thanked everyone.

Councilman Milliken thanked staff and residents for bearing during a long meetings: Council, BZA and Planning Commission.

Councilman Mullinax thanked and wished everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.

Mayor Woolsey thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk