

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of James Island, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd., James Island, SC Thursday, April 15, 2012 in person. Councilmembers present: Boles, Mignano, Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey presided. Also, Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, Town Attorney, Bonum S. Wilson, Finance Director, Merrell Roe, Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, Island Sheriff's Patrol Deputy Chris King, and Sgt. Herman Martin (for Sgt. Shawn James) and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. This meeting was held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island. Information was provided to the public for participation in this meeting.

Roll Call: Town Clerk, Frances Simmons, called the roll. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Public Hearing on Ordinance #2021-02: Draft FY 2021-2022 Annual Budget: Mayor Woolsey opened the Hearing to receive comments from the public. No one signed in to speak.

Public Comment: The following comments were received via email and are attached to the minutes: [Karen Beard](#), [Lance Sudano](#), [Melanie Bonow](#). [Alison VanHorn](#) appeared in person. Comments linked.

Without objection the Proclamation Honoring James Island Community Heroes was moved up on the agenda and read into the record by James Island Pride Chair, Amy Ball. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously. Councilman Milliken thanked the community and service personnel that worked through the pandemic and Mayor Woolsey thanked Town PW and Administrative staff that also worked during the pandemic. Proclamation:

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of March 18, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, gave an overview of the Finance Report and answered Councilwoman Mignano question regarding the \$10,500 expenditure under JI Arts and Cultural line item for cabling.

Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan presented the Administrator's Report adding that she is seeking solutions for Zoom with live-stream/hybrid options. She also added that Council will meet in a workshop setting on Wednesday, April 28 @ 6 p.m. for discussions of Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), Property Tax, and the James Island PSD Cost Sharing. Councilman Boles asked if we are able to use funds from the American Rescue Act for communications, i.e., Zoom/hybrid options and Mrs. Kellahan said she would look into that. Councilman Milliken asked if the change in business licenses requirements would have effect on our budget to which Mrs. Kellahan said no as the Town has no manufacturing businesses that would mostly be affected.

Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave an overview of the PW Report. He added that if Council receives calls from constituents about markings on the street it is because County Civil Engineering Inspectors are double checking the quantities needed for resurfacing prior to putting the work out to bid. This resurfacing is part of a larger, county-wide project done each year to resurface roads showing wear and tear.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Sgt. Martin (substituted for Sgt. James) gave an updated crime report noting that it has been pretty quiet and not much activity. Deputy Chris King gave the Island Sheriff's Patrol Report.

Requests for Approval:

Award of Brantley Park, Phase I: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval an award for Phase I of Brantley Park. She reported that the Town received eight (8) bids and staff recommends award to ES Integrated base bid including Alternate 1, for a cost of \$151,590. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if the City would be contributing to the cost and Mayor Woolsey responded 'no, that the City's contribution was with their Greenbelt funds and the Town is responsible for everything else and manage the park. Councilwoman Mignano asked if the Town could be placed on the title of the land with the City and Mayor Woolsey answered 'no and explained why the Town would not have a joint title with the City. Councilman Milliken asked about liability if there is a suit, who would be responsible. Mayor Woolsey said that our IGA with the City lists us as a liable party, however Attorney Wilson responded that both parties would likely be listed in any lawsuit. There was lengthy discussion about the condition of the dock on the property and all members of Council agreed that it needs to be taken down. Councilman Boles asked if it were secured and if signage is posted to keep people from going onto it, to which staff replied yes. There was also discussion about the permitting process for a dock with OCRM, and a timeframe for using the permit. Mrs. Kellahan said we would need to get a public use permit because the dock on the property was for residential use. Councilman Milliken spoke about the surfaces for parking, if it is pervious, and discussed various types of pervious materials as options; Mrs. Kellahan said she would look into this. Councilman Mullinax asked what percentage was made by the Town and what was the City, which is 50% Town, and 45% City.

After further discussion, Councilman Boles amended the motion to defer consideration of the request to the May 20 Town Council meeting and Councilwoman Mignano seconded. Mayor Woolsey spoke in opposition to the deferral saying that we need to move forward because of upcoming plans for the Rethink Folly Rd. groundbreaking and opening of CudaCo as well as the possibility of having to rebid the project. Councilman Milliken stressed concerns about the dock and to demolish it for safety reasons. He would also like to see the City share some investment in the park, have pervious trails and surfaces. Mrs. Kellahan commented that the trails are pervious. In summary, Councilman Boles noted that his reason for deferring is to learn more and about taking the down the dock.

Motion to Defer Passed 3-2

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye

Councilman Milliken	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Nay
Mayor Woolsey	Nay

Scope and Fee for Development of Municipal Wastewater Regulations: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval a request for Weston & Sampson to develop an ordinance and policies for requiring and enforcing regular maintenance of septic tanks in the Town, as well as developing policies and procedures for connecting to the sanitary sewer system. The cost for the service is \$12,150. Motion for discussion was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Boles asked if this would qualify for use of the COVID money. Mayor Woolsey replied that while sewer infrastructure was explicitly listed as an allowable expense, it is not clear if costs associated with the development and implementation of regulations connecting to sewer was eligible for reimbursement. Councilman Milliken stated that he is all about dealing with the issues of sewer and septic but expressed concerns about paying \$12,000 to an engineering firm to write an ordinance when we can do it ourselves. Councilman Boles also expressed this concern and asked if we could use an ordinance from another municipality. Councilwoman Mignano shared information on sewer from the Snowden Community and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) that may be available. She noted that the sewer and septic needs to be cleaned up in the Town. Councilman Boles asked if we could look at other municipalities ordinances and have the Town Attorney review it.

Motion failed 4-1

Councilman Boles	Nay
Councilwoman Mignano	Nay
Councilman Milliken	Nay
Councilman Mullinax	Nay
Mayor Woolsey	Aye

Repair Care – Roof Replacement: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval a roof replacement, window, and door work for an elderly homeowner. The cost of the work is \$17,250 with Habitat providing \$4,000; Repair Care \$10,451, and the remaining \$2,799 from the Community Services fund. Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, Councilman Mullinax seconded. Passed unanimously.

Mulch for Town Hall: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval a request for mulch at the Town Hall from Heart Pine at the cost of \$5,120. Motion to approve by Councilman Mullinax, Councilman Boles seconded. Councilwoman Mignano asked how often this is done and Mrs. Kellahan replied this is first time at the Town Hall. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilwoman Mignano gave an update of the Repair Program with the students at JI High School. She hopes the program will begin in the fall as the students will be very helpful to the community.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that James Island Pride will host a litter pickup on Saturday, May 15, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The group will meet in the parking lot of Town Hall to pick up supplies. Stan Kozikowski, Chairman of Helping Hands still needs volunteers. Please contact Stan at (860) 847-0544.

Children's Committee: No report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced the Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, April 22 @ 7 p.m. This will be a hybrid meeting. Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan will speak about the JI Arts and Cultural Center.

Nomination to Neighborhood Council: Councilman Mullinax moved for the nomination of Norman Adelsflugel to represent the Lawton Bluff neighborhood; Councilman Milliken seconded. Passed unanimously.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Council met on April 6 at the JI Arts and Cultural Center for a kick-off meeting with Brockington for the exhibits for the Center.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting on Wednesday, April 28, @ 3:30 p.m. the format will be determined.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11 @ 3:00 p.m.

Business Development Committee: No report. Councilman Boles mentioned that the committee is short a member and plans to meet in May.

Nomination to Business Development Council: No nominations presented.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken gave an update on the progress the interns are making. They have surveyed trees down to Honey Hill. The Cub Scouts has planted 70 acorn pots of their goal of 200.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced that the next meeting is Wednesday, April 21 @ 7 p.m. on Zoom. The agenda was distributed to the members today.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

National Public Works Week 2021: Motion to approve made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Passed unanimously.

Emergency Ordinances:

Emergency Ordinance E-07-2020: Providing for Required Face Coverings in Public Places due to COVID-19 Virus and Exceptions Thereto: Expires 04-15-2021: Councilman Milliken moved to extend the Emergency Ordinance to the May 20 Town Council meeting; Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Council engaged in discussion with each member of Council stating their reason why the ordinance should or should not be extended. Councilwoman Mignano shared data that the cases are very low, and that the ordinance has expired in other municipalities, i.e., the Town of Mt. Pleasant. She said the Town has been very diligent and now we need to let the businesses determine whether or not to allow face coverings in their establishments. Councilman Mullinax asked if there was data on how many people have gotten the vaccines by zip code which was not determined. Councilman Boles expressed his concerns about wearing masks but think the cases are low because they are being worn and it is wise to extend the ordinance for another 30 days. Councilman Milliken spoke in support of extending the ordinance and noted that there is no data on the variants. Mayor Woolsey responded to the comments made. He also compared the City, County, and Town Ordinances and that our Ordinance does not apply to individual persons but for business owners. After additional discussion, the motion came to a vote for the extension.

*Extend Emergency Ordinance E-07-2020 failed 3-2

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Nay
Councilman Milliken	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Nay
Mayor Woolsey	Nay

*Businesses are able to decide whether or not they choose to require face coverings and are not subject to Town fine if they choose not to enforce.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2021-02: Draft FY 2021-2022 Annual Budget: Motion to approve made by Councilman Boles, Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Boles asked if the 1% administrative fee for the Cost-Sharing Agreement would remain on the balance sheet this year. Mrs. Kellahan said this version of the draft does not include it. Councilman Milliken asked if the budget needs to be amended to include the COVID monies. Mayor Woolsey noted that once the money is confirmed and received we would need to amend the budget. Mrs. Kellahan noted that we have three (3) years to spend the funds. Monies not spent would need to be returned. There was some discussion about sewer and infrastructure expansion. Councilman Milliken commented that he did not see a line item for solar panels for the JI Arts and Cultural Center and asked if it was under Hospitality Capital Projects. Mrs. Kellahan confirmed that the line item was increased, and she will research where line item was placed or make an amendment to add it before the second reading of the budget. Passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Executive Session: Not needed.

Announcements/Closing Comments: Councilman Boles thanked the staff for their hard work and commitment. He said he will reach out to staff to find out about issues before meetings and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Councilman Boles mentioned that there are no grocery stores in the Town (re: Emergency Ordinance). Mayor Woolsey said the grocery stores are in the City and the County and those entities still requires face coverings to enter the business.

Councilman Milliken reminded everyone of the JI Pride Litter Pickup on May 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances W. Simmons". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk