

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1122 Dills Bluff Rd., James Island, SC on Thursday, November 21, 2019. The following members of Council were present: Daniel C. Boles, Dr. Cynthia Mignano, Garrett Milliken, Darren "Troy" Mullinax and Mayor Bill Woolsey, presided. Also, Ashley Kellahan, Town Administrator, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, Public Works Director, Sgt. Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Woolsey called the meeting to order and led Council in prayer. FOIA: this meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Special Order of Business:

Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore: Mayor Woolsey opened the floor to nominate the Mayor Pro-Tempore. Councilman Mullinax moved for the nomination of Councilman Garrett Milliken, Councilman Boles seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Presentation of 2018-2019 Financial Statement: Mr. Henry Wilson, Wilson & Quirk, presented the 2018-2019 Independent Auditor's Report and Basic Financial Statements for the Town as of June 30, 2019. Mr. Wilson said the audit opinion is unmodified; being the highest opinion that can be given. The Financial Statements presents the conditions and operations of the Town. He gave highlights noting that the Town has paid off a \$2,790,000 bond in two separate transactions and the Town has no long-term debt. The net income for the year on an accrual basis is \$2.1 million; the Town Hall was completed in August, there is a 10% increase in revenue and approximately 6% increase in expenses, the majority of which is depreciation and insurance accrual. Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the Town's net position and detailed assets. Councilman Milliken asked about Hospitality Tax (pg. 3) of \$114,388 and was told these are just the hospitality funds that were received after the end of fiscal year, and had to be accrued back. Councilwoman Mignano received information on the Homestead Exemption Refund. The audit was accepted as information.

Public Comment: The following persons addressed Council:

Susan Fletcher, 646 Beauregard St., spoke in support of speed humps in the Clearview subdivision. She said the people who lives in the back and on side streets are not exposed to the day-in, and day-out traffic as those that lives in the first quarter mile of Clearview and Beauregard about what goes on. She asked Council to support Option #2 but not to get carried away with a lot of Stop Signs, have a conservative number.

Rob Drew, 669 N. Stiles, Dr., has lived in the Clearview subdivision for close to 30 years; perhaps longer than most of the people attending tonight's meeting. He has raised three children, all boys, there without their being four-way stops at every street or speed bumps every few hundred feet. His children were raised with discipline; a word many parents don't seem to understand in many cases; (not personal unless you live in Clearview). His children were raised without penalizing everyone in the neighborhood. He said that parents need to keep their children out of the street and in their yards. He thinks all of the houses in Clearview has nice backyards and there is no excuse for children to play in the street. He often sees soccer nets, the street used as a basketball court, parents and children riding bicycles carelessly, and golf carts. There are laws for golf carts, but he sees kids younger than 16 driving them and this is on the parents. He said the neighborhood has not grown much in 30 years; no more than five to six homes have been built. Clearview is not a cut-thru, so the residents has generated an alleged problem. He said except for landscaping and delivery trucks, the traffic has not changed much because the population in the subdivision has not changed that much. He noted a few simple things that would solve the problem - - slow down, pay attention, and keep children out of the streets.

David Chin, 706 Sterling Drive, has lived on Sterling Drive for 10 years. He does not approve of speed humps on Sterling Drive because there is not enough evidence to support it. Some of the other areas may need it; but not on Sterling.

Tom Lassiter, 653 Beauregard St., said one thing that is probably true, is that people change and what used to be observed, no longer is. He said there is speeding on Beauregard and Clearview every day. He asked Council to support Option #2.

Elsa Caire, 808 Clearview Dr., stated that she was opposed to either of the traffic calming but understands that things change, the need for compromise, and she is willing to move forward. She said the first option given to the neighborhood was very draconian. There were stop signs every few hundred feet and speed bumps every few hundred feet as well and thought that was too severe. She said all of that was done without any input from the neighborhood. She said there were three options; Option 1 was All-way Stops and Speed Humps, Option 2 was mainly Speed Humps, and Option 3 was none of the two. Mrs. Caire said she is in favor of doing things to calm traffic but start with minimum measures (i.e., speed radar, speed limit signs). She asked if someone wanted more or less traffic calming, if their vote would be weighted the same.

Margaret Fabri, 770 Clearview Dr., has lived on Clearview Drive for 35 years and reared two children there. She said there has never been a problem with traffic on Clearview and she still does not think there is a problem. Ms. Fabri said she sent a letter to Town Council that there has never been an accident on Clearview, so she doesn't know what we're fighting about. She understands that there are young families with children; however, as a resident mentioned, all of the houses in Clear View has front and back yards. If someone wants to ride a bicycle in the street, they should follow the rules of the street. Streets are for vehicles and you follow the rules of the road. She has looked at the options and they were drastically different from when it was presented on September 16 by Laura Cabiness, the traffic engineer. She said the study found that 85% of the people were driving 27mph or less. The speed limit is 25 mph so that didn't appear to be a huge problem. The Traffic Study does not support what it's trying to do. At this point she does not know where they are. She is willing to compromise, but not a lot. The last thing that she heard is they were down to one (1) Speed Hump on Clear view Drive, but more on Beauregard. Her option would be none, because she does not see the need for it. She would recommend having one Speed Hump. On Beauregard two or three, and then four-way stops. Ms. Fabri expressed that the Traffic Study had started a year-and-a half ago and did not know anything about it until she received notice from the Town. She does not think there was transparency in the way the Town has gone about it; but the Town has tried to rectify it and she appreciates that. She reiterated that streets are for vehicles, not for bicycles or walking dogs. Sidewalks would be great.

Mark Cryzenia, 726 Clearview Drive, stated that he was disappointed that some of the things he requested were not taken into consideration. He said a lot of variables has changed over the last 30 years and speeding is not the only issue. One major concern he had was scrapped off the list, which is visibility in the areas that the Speed Humps are being considered. He said the curved sloop at the 700 block is a dangerous spot on Clearview, and at the 93 bend there is a double-blind area. He said we need to be responsible parents and pedestrians, but anyone driving at 27 mph in the bend is in an unsafe spot. There is no formal HOA. He invited Council to the Christmas Parade on December 12 to experience the community's support.

City Councilwoman Carol Jackson, 1461 Patterson Ave., congratulated newly elected and re-elected Town Officials. She represents the constituents in Clearview and thanked them for their input. She said the Option #2 was modified to reduce the number of Speed Humps to one (1). She did not know about the doubleblind areas, but it is something that would be studied. Councilwoman Jackson thanked the Town for being flexible.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of October 17, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

- a. Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, reviewed the written report and gave an overview on: franchise fees; Local Option Sales Tax (LOST); Public Works Projects; and general expenditures. Ms. Roe answered questions for Councilwoman Mignano, and Mrs. Kellahan answered Councilman

Milliken's question about the \$12,500 from Hospitality Tax for the Community Assistance Grants that were awarded.

- b. **Administrator's Report:** Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, reviewed the written report and gave an overview on: old Subway property, \$100,000 (for easement) was approved by County Council to sell to Corkey's. County Council will hold a public hearing and third/final reading on December 10. Information will be provided to Council at an upcoming meeting on the cost estimates and timeframes for Brantley Park. Mrs. Kellahan is working on a PARD Grant for Brantley Park. A resolution will come before Council in December. Mrs. Kellahan will present at the December meeting a plan for the use of the Camp Road Library building. Questions from Council were answered.
- c. **Public Works:** Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, reviewed the written report and gave an overview on: the construction of the Quail Drive sidewalk. A ribbon cutting will be held after completion. Councilwoman Mignano asked about the clearing of leftover debris from Hurricane Dorian. Mark Johnson to contact the SCDOT to follow-up.
- d. **Island Sheriff's Patrol Report:** Sgt. James congratulated newly elected and re-elected officials. Sgt. James sported a beard in recognition of "*No Shave November*, that the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement personnel are doing to raise monies for children and families battling cancer. Sgt. James gave the crime statistics and October's Island Sheriff's Patrol reports.

Requests for Approval:

Clearview Traffic Calming Plan: Mrs. Kellahan reported that two public meetings were held; 208 letters were mailed, and 147 responses were received. 11% preferred Option #1; 51% preferred Option #2; and 38% preferred leaving as is for now. She said in speaking with many people, there was an overall sense that favored Beauregard rather than the rest of the neighborhood. Mrs. Kellahan said her recommendation is to modify Option #2. She has spoken to Laura Cabiness, Johnson, Laschober & Associates (JLA) and they thought the request was reasonable. She also noted that Councilman Mullinax (at a previous Council) meeting had made requests for additional Speed Limit Signs to be placed in neighborhoods if the SCDOT would allow them. She said if we are able to do this, then we could use Radar to detect speed. Mrs. Kellahan said the staff's recommendation is a modified version of Option #2; to have one (1) Speed Hump on Clearview (near Harbor View), two (2) on Beauregard and All-Way Stop.

Mayor Woolsey moved for the acceptance of the staff's recommendation; Councilman Mullinax seconded.

Councilwoman Mignano moved to amend the motion to take a graduated approach. She said she is not opposed to the Speed Hump at the front of Clearview; but would like to begin with Stop Signs first, and then based on neighborhood's input, move forward, Councilman Milliken seconded for discussion. He asked if the Stop Signs would be in the same location as it is on the map and Councilwoman Mignano answered yes. Mayor Woolsey said in the information received, that was the least favorite option; the most popular of the three was Option #2.

Mayor Woolsey announced that if the amended motion passes, it would substitute the staff's proposal with Stop Signs. He then spoke that Stop Signs are usually refused by the DOT. He said always discussions with the DOT for proposed Stop Signs, we must obtain their permission. Councilman Milliken asked for clarification on the staff's recommendation: **One (1) Speed Hump on Clearview; two (2) on Beauregard and All-Way Stop.**

Councilman Milliken shared that he has a Stop Sign in front of his house and see people blow through it all the time. They give a false sense of security, and he fears that would create a false sense of security. Mayor Woolsey said generally the DOT does not allow Stop Signs to calm traffic; this is not to say that it does not exist anywhere in our Town; but that is the DOT's position. There were no further discussions on the amended motion. Mayor Woolsey called for the vote and it failed.

Councilman Boles asked if we needed to have 2/3 support before we could do anything and Mayor Woolsey said the Town's policy is 2/3 support; we have 62% support, however, ultimately it is a Council decision.

Mayor Woolsey called for the vote on the staff's recommendation. Councilman Boles requested a roll call. The roll was called, and votes were recorded as follows:

Mayor Woolsey	aye
Councilman Boles	nay
Councilwoman Mignano	nay
Councilman Milliken	aye
Councilman Mullinax	aye

Motion passed 3-2.

Sterling Drive Traffic Calming Plan:

Mrs. Kellahan reported that the percentages were updated but did not change much. 80% supported the plan and 20 opposed. She said an observation was many respondents supported the plan but were opposed to the all-way stop. An alternative, she said is to consider moving forward with a Speed Hump at the entrance and re-evaluate the traffic data at a future time. She said the Option calls for the All-Way Stops. Staff recommendation: **move forward with one (1) Speed Hump at the beginning of the neighborhood, (similar to Clearview) and re-evaluate at a later time.** She said if we are able to get Speed Limit Signs erected in the neighborhood, that would be another option to consider at a later time.

Councilman Milliken moved to accept the staff's recommendation: Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Boles asked if there were public comments on this and Mayor Woolsey said yes, Mr. Chin spoke in opposition. Mrs. Kellahan answered questions from Council. Motion passed: 3-2; Councilmembers Boles and Mignano voted nay.

Purchase of new 800 MHZ Radios: Mrs. Kellahan made a request for the purchase of five (5) new radios. The radios currently used by the Town are outdated and Motorola will no longer provide service on them after the end of this year. If the Town purchases the radios this fiscal year, we will keep our discount through Charleston County. The cost of the radios is \$10,729. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Workshop/Special Council Meeting to Review Town's Committee Structure: Mrs. Kellahan noted that a workshop/special meeting would be scheduled to orient Council on the Town's Committee Structure. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously. Mrs. Kellahan will schedule and advise Council.

Tree Purchase for Arbor Day: Councilman Milliken gave update on the purchase of six (6) trees from Auckland Nursey for the Arbor Day celebration. Three (3) Live Oaks, two (2) Red Buds, and one (1) Jane Magnolia was purchased. The cost is \$600.

Request for Staff to Present Detailed Accounting of Hospitality Tax Fund for FY 18/19: Mrs. Kellahan noted the information provided to Council. An item that was not funded was the landscape at Camp & Folly and funds should be expended in the next several months with construction beginning afterward. No action was required.

Scope and Fee to Develop Ordinance Based on Proposed Stormwater Revisions: Mrs. Kellahan made request for Weston & Sampson to update the Town's Stormwater Policies and Ordinances at a cost of \$5,560. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination and appointment of Councilwoman Cynthia Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilman Mullinax moved for the nomination and appointment of Councilman Garrett Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Milliken reported that during the Pride Litter Pick-up on November 9 that 23 bags of litter were collected. He thanked Public Works Director, Mark Johnson for his help in assisting with the pickup. An Adopt-a-Highway Litter Pickup will be held on the first Saturday in February 2020. It's time to nominate Community Heroes. Nominations will be accepted through January and the awards will be announced in February. Councilman Milliken announced an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, December 6, 12:00 noon at First Baptist Church. Students from Camp Road Middle School will help plant a Live Oak tree.

Children's Commission: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination and appointment of Mayor Woolsey. Mayor Woolsey seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Public Safety Committee: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination and appointment of Councilman Troy Mullinax; Councilwoman Mignano seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously. No committee reports.

History Commission: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination and appointment of Mayor Woolsey, Councilman Mullinax seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Rethink Folly Road Committee: Mayor Woolsey reported that the Steering Committee met November 20 and elected City Councilwoman Carol Jackson to serve as Vice-Chair. The Toole Group is developing bylaws and structure for the committee. Mayor Woolsey said the Steering Committee gave approval on a partial design of Phase 1 (Bike/Pedestrian Improvement Project).

Drainage Committee: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilman Milliken moved for the nomination and appointment of Councilman Mullinax; Councilman Boles seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Business Development Council: Nomination and Appointment of Chair: Councilwoman Mignano moved for the nomination and appointment of Councilman Boles, Councilman Mullinax seconded. There were no other nominations. Passed unanimously.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Proclamation Recognizing a Town of James Island Community Arbor Day Observance and Celebration.

Councilman Milliken gave an overview of the proclamation for recognition and celebration of Arbor Day on the first Friday in December (December 6, 2019) by planting trees and support from the community. The State of South Carolina has designated the first Friday in December as the State's Arbor Day and the Town has followed suit. The proclamation will be read at the event. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Resolution #2019-22: Add an Additional Committee of Town Council and Citizens Committee to be

Named the Tree Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken gave an overview stating that we have lost many mature trees in recent years due to rains and other storm events. The Chair of the Tree Advisory Committee would serve as Council liaison. The purpose of the committee is to plant trees to replenish our urban tree

canopy, support the Arbor Day plantings/activities, focus on the care of newly planted trees and care for older trees along our island roadways, and work with committee members, staff, arborists and the community to accomplish these goals. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-13: Amending the Children's Commission Structure: Councilman Milliken stated that the Children's Commission sponsors a number of events and most of the responsibility is shouldered by staff. He recommended amending the structure of the Children's Commission to utilize a rotation among Council throughout the year to assist with events. Each Councilmember would be assigned to an event. The committee would be comprised of representatives from James Island Schools, nominated by the Principals and members would serve a two (2) year term. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Mayor Woolsey stated that it is undesirable to abolish a committee of Council and rather than having Council rotate and in charge of events, it would be better for all Council to participate; in a way that hasn't been done in the past. During some discussion, Mayor Woolsey suggested that Council discuss the structure of Children's committee in a meeting after the workshop, as well as establish to rules for the committee. He noted the three major events the committee sponsors are: Tree Lighting, National Lights On, and Easter Egg Roll. After discussion, Mayor Woolsey moved to defer this agenda item to after the workshop. Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilman Milliken added that he understands deferring until after the workshop because he can see some responsibility of this committee falling to another. He also noted that our committee structure is for Council to serve on all committees, but that has never happened and it is time that we figure out how to make it happen. He is n favor of deferring at this time. Motion passed unanimously to defer.

Ordinance up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2019-09: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2018-16 Pertaining to Environmentally Accepted Packaging and Products: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Boles and passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2019-10: Amend Ordinance #2019-07 to Modify the Election of Mayor Pro-Tempore: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. The request is to amend Section 30.17, subsection (B) to read that the Mayor Pro-Tempore at the first Council meeting following the election of town officials, whenever a general municipal town election may occur, that Town Council shall elect one of their body as Mayor Pro-Tempore to serve for one year. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore will be held thereafter at a meeting of Town Council annually or as soon as practicable after one has serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year period, or at each November meeting of Council. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall act as Mayor during the absence or disability of the Mayor; and if a vacancy occurs shall act as Mayor until a successor is duly elected and qualified. There was also discussion of a rotation among Council to serve in the capacity of mayor pro-tempore. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #2019-11: Amend Ordinance #2014-06 to Change the Time of Taking Office: Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Council Mullinax. Councilman Milliken explained that since we moved our election, it necessitated modifications so our ordinances are cosmetically clean. He gave as an example that an election held on the first Tuesday, and Council taking office the first Monday (following the election) would always fall on a holiday (Veterans Day) and amending the language would have Council take office the following Tuesday after the election. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #2019-12: Amend Ordinance #2012-07 to Amend the Order of Business on Agenda:

Councilman Milliken said spoke that this is to add announcements at the end of Council meetings for reminders of upcoming dates, events by staff or elected officials, and give Council/elected officials the opportunity to say a few words in closing. Motion in favor was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Woolsey commented that at one time the court decisions for FOIA was any new information

presented at a meeting was in violation. That court decision has been overturned and adding closing remarks to an agenda does not violate FOIA laws. Mayor Woolsey said he wanted to explain why closing remarks/announcements were never placed on previous agendas. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Executive Session: Not needed.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Frances Simmons
Town Clerk