

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, June 17, 2021. 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, Lt. Shawn James, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Opening Exercises: Councilman Milliken opened by asking Council to offer a moment of silence in remembrance of the Emanuel Nine victims then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: None

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of May 20 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Merrell Roe, gave an overview of the Finance Report and it was received as information.

Administrator's Report: Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan gave an overview of the Administrator's report and it was received as information. Mrs. Kellahan added by giving an update on the American Recovery Fund. The Town has not received its portion but is expected to by the end of August. Mrs. Kellahan indicated that the Town expects to be reimbursed \$3.7 million and will have three (3) years to spend it. She will begin to look at shovel-ready projects and provide a summary of them to Council at the July meeting.

Councilman Milliken asked if Town staff would populate the 501C-3 Board and Mrs. Kellahan answered yes. She is in the process of completing the Articles of Incorporation and the Board of Directors.

Public Works Report: Public Works Director, Mark Johnson gave an overview of the Public Works report and answered questions from Council. He added that at the June SW Manager's meeting, information was shared that municipalities would begin to place snipe signs in neighborhoods informing them when drainage cleaning would be done.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Lt. Shawn James gave an update of recent crimes within the last 30 days. He noted an increase since summer; not only in the Town, but across the County including break-ins of unlocked vehicles. Lt. James gave an update on the parade held today for James Island Charter High School that congratulated them on their AAAA State Championship wins.

Requests for Approval:

Davis & Floyd, Brantley Park Scope and Fee: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval the Scope and Fee from Davis & Floyd for planning services, agency coordinator and parking revisions for Brantley Park. The total cost is \$16,300. The previously designed on-street parking will be revised to accommodate a single, pervious ADA parking space. Mrs. Kellahan said Chris Haynes was present to answer questions. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if the Town had communicated with the City regarding TRC (Technical Review Committee) related issues. Mrs. Kellahan replied that City Councilwoman Jackson did not see a problem that it needed to go through TRC. She also answered Councilman Boles' question about costs

relating to A&B of the scope and fee.

LPR Camera on Harborview Road: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval two options for an LPR camera on Harborview Road. Lt. James and Henry Beck with NDR-IS was present and answered questions from Council. Solar option \$24,510; annual service agreement of \$2,937 and a monthly utility cost of \$40 with Verizon and a Power-fed option with a 12ft. arm @ \$23,380, annual service agreement of \$3,106 and monthly utility fees of \$40 from Verizon. Councilman Milliken moved in favor of the solar option and to study the best location for the system to work, Councilman Mullinax seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dominion Smart Meter Request: Councilman Milliken presented for approval a request for a representative from Dominion Energy to attend an upcoming Town Council meeting to provide information on the Smart Meter installation and its opt-out process. Councilman Mullinax seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Temporary History Exhibit: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval the request for the Temporary History Exhibit at the James Island Arts & Cultural Center. The exhibit would feature photos from the History Booklet on the panels (not private homes). The cost for layout & design, print production & fabrication and installation is \$18,825. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Mayor Woolsey. Councilman Milliken made reference to the panel “fiery secession” under panel draft 1 and suggested an editorial change due to the rhetoric used. Mayor Woolsey noted that he did not think that was going to be the actual language but is an example of size, font, and color. Councilman Milliken suggested having sensitivity moving forward. Mayor Woolsey said these comments would be taken under advisement. Motion passed unanimously.

Driveway Apron Repairs: Mr. Johnson presented a request to repair the driveway apron repair at W. Piccadilly Drive. There was discussion and Councilman Milliken asked if the three (3) requests could be taken together and moved for those approvals, Councilwoman Mignano seconded. Councilwoman Mignano asked if this request was the same as the others and if the repairs were drainage related. Councilman Boles asked who requested the repair and Mr. Johnson replied that the owner did. Mr. Johnson further stated that staff does not support this request. As seen by the photographs, he commented that the broken portion of the driveway apron is by the roadway and not near the culvert. There is no erosion or other cracking on or near the culvert that would suggest this is drainage related. Additionally, the Town has already replaced two driveway aprons at this property, which has three and this is not preventing vehicles from traversing the driveway. Councilman Milliken asked if this was caused by stormwater and Mr. Johnson said “no”. Mr. Johnson was asked about the other driveway apron requests, and he responded that they were drainage related and caused by joint separation of the culvert pipes.” Mayor Woolsey asked that the agenda items be voted on separately without objection based upon the staff’s recommendation and Councilman Boles stated his reasons and objected to voting separately on the requests. Councilman Milliken reasoned they be voted on together because they are in the right-of-way. After discussion, the motion passed 4-1 for the three requests together: 1) W. Piccadilly Drive, \$9,8052); Waterloo Street, \$9,9683); and League Street, \$8,710. Mayor Woolsey voted no.

Foxcroft Undergrounding Preliminary Cost and Public Meeting: Mrs. Kellahan reported that the staff met with Dominion representatives on June 10 to review preliminary plans for undergrounding powerlines along Foxcroft to Stillwater and what the project would entail should Council decide to move forward. A memo was provided to Council with information about the project in addition to a map of the designated area and photos of the transformers and boxes. She said approval of the request would move it to a public meeting for input from residents. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Mrs. Kellahan answered Councilman Milliken’s questions about the number of transformers and boxes that would be required. He asked if there could be more than two houses on a transformer if they are

on the ground, which was answered by Mr. Johnson. Councilman Boles spoke of other places that has them, i.e., Bayview Farms. Councilman Milliken asked if neighborhoods had been notified and Mayor Woolsey answered yes and noted there are 11 houses in the Town and 4 in the City. The motion passed unanimously. The public will be advised of the meeting date and time.

Hale Street Inlet Box Sinkhole Repair: Mr. Johnson presented an inlet repair box on hale St. caused by a sinkhole at \$3,895. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No Report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken reported on the James Island Pride litter pickup held last Saturday. 30 volunteers picked up 24 bags of litter. Thank you to the JI Charter HS Football and ROTC. The next pickup will be a gorilla pickup on Riverland Drive. An Adopt-A-Highway pickup will be held in late August. Helping Hands now has plenty of volunteers. Thank you to Stan Kozikowski.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Public Safety: Councilman Mullinax reported that the Neighborhood Council meeting is Thursday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Councilman Mullinax moved for the nomination of Mary Ann Henry to serve on the Neighborhood Council representing Centerville. Councilman Milliken seconded and motion passed unanimously.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Committee met June 1 and discuss the historic trail and establishing a missions statement.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey reported that the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 23 at 3:30 p.m. on virtual platform.

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

Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: No Report.

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting: Mrs. Kellahan announced that Chairwoman Honeycutt would like to schedule a meeting in September. Date and time to be determined.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Proclamation Recognizing JICHS 2020-2021 State Championship Teams: Mayor Woolsey read the Proclamation recognizing the JICHS on winning AAAA Championship status. Mayor Woolsey moved in favor and Councilman Milliken seconded to modify the proclamation to include all Councilmembers because they are proud of the teams accomplishments and want to congratulate them also. The proclamation passed as modified. Mrs. Kellahan added that awards and recognition to the athletic program and head coaches will be presented at the August 19 Town Council meeting.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

New Business: Councilman Boles made a motion to amend the agenda to vote that the Town destroy the checks that are saved in the recycling bins that were dumped onto the floor; Councilman Milliken seconded. Mayor Woolsey stated that state law requires that if Town Council find that there is an emergency that it must pass by a 2/3 vote. The motion to amend the agenda passed upon a vote of 4-1. Mayor Woolsey opposed.

After the motion passed to add shredding the documents to the agenda, Mayor Woolsey said, “Now we will consider this motion, however it is not an emergency and discussion ensued. Councilman Milliken said he thinks the bins of paper are a fire hazard and Councilman Boles said the data on the checks need to be destroyed. He continued that he requested this item to be placed on the agenda on Thursday thinking we were still operating under the COVID rules and was told that the deadline had passed; but to him, this is an emergency because these are cancelled checks and learning that they have been stored unsecured for decades serves no useful purpose, as well as the risks of them being misused. There is no benefit to having them, and we can vote tonight properly to dispose of them. When the risks are balanced against the benefits, there is no benefit. To him, they need to be shredded tonight or tomorrow morning. Mayor Woolsey corrected that they are not cancelled checks, and Councilman Boles said they are checks that has citizens’ names and banking information on them. He again stressed that the checks has no benefit, and we should get rid of them. Councilwoman Mignano talked about images on the front and back of checks. Mayor Woolsey asked the Town attorney if we are obligated to get rid of the checks, to which Mr. Wilson said we are not obligated to get rid of the checks; but Councilman Boles said it is prudent to do so. There was discussion of what constitutes an emergency which was noted as a fire hazard, security of the information contained in the documents, and Councilman Milliken’s opinion of the Mayor’s health when he carried the bins of checks. Councilman Milliken commented that he does not see what the problem is in getting rid of the checks now because there is nothing that requires us to keep them; and he asked if there is anything legally binding for the Town to keep them. Councilman Boles said we have 2/3 votes to add to the agenda and it was properly added. Councilman Boles said if we don’t vote on this now he is going to bring it up again at next month’s meeting, so what is the difference in waiting to next month when we can destroy them now. He explained in a month’s time the checks are still sitting in a conference room where he is told that contractors are coming and going through the building and the checks are unsecured. He said to get rid of them as there is no reason to keep them. Councilwoman Mignano said the checks were in Council Chambers during the Planning Commission meeting and she would not want her private information out there; it is not safe or secure. Mayor Woolsey explained that the information on the checks is about property tax, it is not private information and is on the County website. Councilman Boles talked about check fraud, and it is mind blowing that the Mayor is defending keeping them as they have way outlasted any purpose. There was brief discussion about holding an emergency meeting. After discussion, the Mayor called for the vote. Vote passed 4 to 1 with the Mayor voting in opposition.

**Some portions of the recording were unclear due to a temporary air conditioning unit running in the background.*

Executive Session: Not needed.

Announcements/Closing Comments: Councilman Boles congratulated Lt. James on his recent promotion. He is glad that we are able to meet in person. Hopes the A/C is fixed soon.

Councilwoman Mignano congratulated Lt. James and thanked everyone for their hard work. She asked if we could put microphones in front of Council because it is difficult to hear one another.

Councilman Milliken thanked staff for their hard work.

Mayor Woolsey announced that 60% of persons has had one COVID-19 vaccination. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated that those numbers increase.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Frances Simmons Town Clerk