

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC. This meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website: www.jamesislandsc.com/livestream-townmeetings and was held in accordance with the SC Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

The following members of Council were present: Dan Boles, Lewis Dodson, Cynthia Mignano, Troy Mullinax, and Mayor Brook Lyon, who presided. Also present: Brian Quisenberry, Town Attorney, Becky Heath, Finance Director, Mike Hemmer, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Keith LaDeaux, Public Works Coordinator/Project Manager, Master Deputy Sheriff, Chris King, Island Sheriff's Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the public to silence their phones. She then introduced the members of Town Council, Town Attorney, and staff. Councilman Mullinax led Council in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town encourages the public to provide comments prior to Town Council meetings. Residents wishing to address the Council are limited to three-minutes to speak and must sign in. Comments may also be sent ahead of the meeting by emailing comments to info@jamesislandsc.us, mail to PO Box 12240, Charleston, SC or placed inside the drop box outside of Town Hall.

Presentation to Town Council by Coach Matthews, JI Little Trojans: Coach Matthews presented the Town Council with a plaque for its donation that helped to sponsor a banquet for the James Island Little Trojans football league. The banquet was held to show appreciation to the kids for the work they did on the teams this year. This year's Little Trojans ranged from ages 7-12 with five cheerleading squads. Coach Matthews thanked the Town for showing its appreciation to the kids and for helping them to grow up and become good citizens. *The plaque was presented to Council and followed with a photo op.*

Public Comment: Mayor Lyon asked those wishing to comment to please speak into the microphone for purpose of recording the minutes, to state their name and address for the record, and to limit comments to three (3) minutes.

Rev. Dr. Brian C. Henderson, 308 Monarch Ct: Rev. Henderson, Senior Pastor, Saint James Presbyterian Church, Fort Johnson and Secessionville Rds. Rev. Henderson offered thanks to Town Council for the opportunity to speak. He offered condolences to the family who lost the loved who is being considered for naming of the intersection at Fort Johnson and Secessionville Rds. He said Saint James has been doing ministry on that corner since 1866; and, as many know, the name of the road has a connection to the war battles that were fought in the community. It made sense to him when he heard that the name of the intersection would potentially be identified for one of the former pastors of the church, and he had heard that for some time. His assumption was that the delay was due to signage at that intersection and installing a light there. He said the church was consulted about the light, engineers came, and the church also sold a portion of the land to make room for the light. He was surprised to hear that consideration was being given to name the intersection for another person. He commented that the loss of any child is grieved. To lose a child is something that no one should have to deal with, and as a parent he could not imagine. But, at the same time, the members of Saint James are concerned about that possibility and he hopes the entire body of Saint James and the community would be considered about changing and identify the naming of the intersection for someone who made great contributions to the community.

Karen Richardson-Holmes, 1820 Folly Road: Ms. Richardson-Holmes said she was raised in Saint James Presbyterian Church as child. She spoke to Council about her sister who was killed at that intersection at the age of 5. She said the Church stands on a historical corner since the 1800s and many lives have been

lost there. She expressed her condolences for the young man killed there but asked that consideration be given to naming the intersection in memory of her sister or for Reverend Sanders.

John McGee, 1134 Sigsbee Rd: Stated that his wife's family has lived on James Island for four generations and he has lived here for 42 years. The road they live on is named "Sigsbee", after his wife's grandfather. He expressed concern about some recent decisions made by Council that were done hastily and without much information to the residents. He began with the decision to discontinue the Cost Sharing Agreement with the James Island PSD. He said according to the Post and Courier; this would cause a 28% tax increase by the PSD resulting in a 15% increase to property taxes to the residents of James Island. This is a reassessment year and Charleston County says there are some properties that have increased up to 34% in the last five years. Insurance and mortgage rates will go up causing a domino effect placing a big burden for a lot of residents. He commented that *"the good thing is, we might have a Cultural Art Center that all can move into when we're all homeless"*. He mentioned three recent expenditures that Council made without a lot of transparency or input. 1) Cultural Center, \$3 million. A problem he is unclear about is the Town's Engineer works for a firm that has a proposal to build the Center and that seems like a conflict of interest to work for both. 2) Purchase of property for over \$1 million for a waterfront park. 3) Purchase of a vac truck for over \$500,000. He retired from SCE&G after 38 years and operating a vac truck takes a lot of training and experience. It is something that could do a lot of damage if you don't have the right people to operate it. He is unsure if legally they are allowed to use the equipment on PSD lines because the PSD will make sure the person is certified and is able to operate the equipment before hooking to their lines. He said when all of this is added, it is \$4.5 million, which is enough to pay the PSD in a Cost Sharing Agreement for almost three years and would benefit taxpayers a lot more.

Karen Tucker McGee, 1134 Sigsbee Rd: Stated that she is strongly opposed to the removal of the \$1 million to the JIPSD. The PSD does an excellent job in providing services to the residents and the rates will definitely go up more without that money. As her husband said, she has four generations on the island... (almost six) with her great grandfathers and some still live here, as well as a two-month old that was born recently. She attended the Council meeting and has listened to the proposals, and in a matter of minutes, it was decided to push forward. She commented that not one neighbor, friend, church member, or family that she's spoken with is in favor or happy with any of it. She would be glad to provide the names to Council and it will be many. The town is small; it is not New York or Chicago. There are not a whole lot people in the Town to pay for these things. She told Council if they cared, she would give the names of everyone that she spoke to, and there is plenty. She has lived here for a long time and talks to a lot of people. Everyone thinks it's a complete misuse of their hard earned tax dollars. Town residents should at least have a vote on such important and costly issues. She mentioned the long-term costs to retirees, single parents, and young families. Inflation has been extremely hard for many and with additional taxes, increases, and rates, it seems like a "big slap in the face" to her and old James Islanders that nobody seems to care about anymore. She would rather have the money used to help families and for things like Coach Matthews' little league team. Things like that makes her really happy; to help the children. She stated that Mayor Lyon said after the voting that *"maybe one day we will have a Police Force"*. She doesn't know about everyone here, but it would be better served to have a full time Police Force.

Tammy Tucker, 1134 Sigsbee Rd: Echoed the comments of the previous speakers. She stated that no one has presented how they will continue to pay for the Cultural Center, and wanting to purchase more land for green space. She is just trying to hold onto the land that she has and preserve it for her children and grandchildren so they can live on James Island. Because of housing costs now, a young family cannot afford to buy a house here. They cannot come back home. She asked Council if they are looking into the future for these things or just saying *"we've got the money...check"*. Everything has to be maintained -- nothing stops after the construction ends.

Lauton Lines, 1212 Chicorie Way: Spoke in support of the resolution to name the Fort Johnson and Secessionville Roads intersection after Gabriel Seagraves. He said on the night of September 12, 2015, two days after his 15th birthday, Gabriel's life was cut short by a drunk driver on Secessionville Rd. He described Gabe as a bright light to all who had the privilege to know him. He believes that he speaks for many when he says the tragedy that was bestowed upon Gabe's family deserves to be commemorated by naming the intersection in his honor. It would not only commemorate him, but it would serve as a reminder of the thousands of lives that are taken by reckless driving every year and raise awareness for pedestrian walkways in places like the "blind curve" on Secessionville Rd. where the incident took place. He said these are issues that will only get worse as James Island becomes more developed with higher amounts of traffic every year. He asked Council to take this into consideration when naming the intersection.

Bill "Cubby" Wilder, 1894-B Sol Legare Rd: Mr. Wilder commented that the members of Council are all new except Councilman Mullinax. Mr. Wilder served as one of the original founders of the Town and on Town Council in previous iterations of the town and he serves on the Town's History Commission. Mr. Wilder extended condolences for the Seagraves' family. He also talked about the historical significance of the intersection in the African American community. A book on the History of James Island was written by him and Inez Brown-Crouch. He said the church was founded in 1886 after slavery had ended and he talked about the members of the church and their plight for independence. The intersection is significant for African Americans and he would like Council to reconsider naming the intersection after one of the pastors of the church; for Reverend Saunders or for Reverend Campbell.

Hannah Smith, 4925 Lincrest Rd: Spoke that Gabriel Seagraves was one of the sweetest kids you would ever know. She described him as outgoing, creative, artistic, and a beautiful soul. She came to know Gabriel in middle school and for a brief time in high school. He was one of her best friends. When Gabriel was taken from this world, it was one of the most painful things she had to go through. At 15 years old she attended her best friend's funeral and as the months went by she saw how it changed everyone's life. Parents were fearful and nervous about having their children ride their bikes or walk home from school and friends and families everyday lives were changed. Today she has two beautiful boys that made him an uncle. A piece of him lives in them and she is proud to call him her forever family. She said if the resolution passes, not only would it mean a lot to Gabriel's family and friends, it would impact the community in positive ways and be a reminder to future generations to be safe, and to others to be cautious. Not only would Gabriel live through the community, he would be protecting everyone through his legacy.

Edward Greene, 1115 Seaside Lane: Mr. Greene spoke that he has been a resident on James Island for 80 years. He went to school here, entered the military, and came back home again. He said years ago in the 60's there was a church in the front of Fort Johnson Road. He said after the church service, a nine year old came out and ran into the traffic and was killed. Mr. Greene offered condolences for everyone who has lost a life at the intersection. However, there is a pastor who has made many contributions for the people; both white and black... the Rev. C.L. Campbell. Rev. Campbell also served on the school board and pastored St James Church for many years. He would like Council to consider renaming the intersection for Rev. C.L. Campbell. He knows that many people lost their lives there but this pastor has done many good works for the island.

Mayor Lyon announced that last month we had a number of people speaking and she inadvertently did not call on someone who had signed up to speak. Mayor Lyon called Ms. Teel and offered her apologies because we want our citizens to be heard. Ms. Teel could not be present tonight but gave Mayor Lyon permission to read her comment publicly.

Wendy Teel, 1290 Hampshire Rd. (read into the record by Mayor Lyon): There is community value in JIPSD using its funds and land sales to build updated fire stations, operate waste and pickup/disposal, and operate and update failing infrastructure. There is also community value in the Town of James Island

securing some of the remaining green spaces on James Island for parks and community activities. Even passively, the community benefits from parks, unpaved, treed areas as they help absorb excess rain and storm water. This helps lessen or prevent flooding in the neighboring areas. The Town of James island should be able to better the Town for the community, and I am in support of ending the Cost Sharing Agreement with the JIPSD in order to do so.

Mayor Lyon announced that she and Council are happy to meet with any resident regarding their issues or concern. Residents may attend the “Morning with the Mayor”, call, schedule an appointment, or send an email. She said there is a lot of misinformation and we would love the opportunity to correct them.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting, March 20, 2025: Motion to approve by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Becky Heath, provided the Finance report. There were no questions from Council. Mayor Lyon thanked Ms. Heath for going a great job.

Island Sheriff’s Patrol Report: Master Deputy King gave an update on recent car break-ins and encouraged citizens not to leave their vehicles unlocked. He also reported on various crimes and infractions that occurred during the month. He said the Sheriff’s Office is investigating a death that occurred on Sol Legare Road. Councilwoman Mignano expressed sympathy for the loss of that person’s life. She also shared that 45 families were served dinner for Easter through the Easter Food Drive. She thanked the Island Sheriff’s Patrol for all the work that they do.

Public Works Report:

Vac Truck: Mayor Lyon referred Council to the new vac truck estimate in their meeting packet and said that Melissa Flick is looking at other companies as well. The staff is partial to Carolina Industrial Equipment because it can be used longer in the field before having to dump the contents. We have located a company in Columbia who has offered to come and do a demo and Council and the public will be invited to see the operation. Mayor Lyon said there are ditches and culverts in many neighborhoods that have been neglected for more than 30 years and the Town is looking to purchase its own vac truck to use instead of paying exorbitant costs to the County and private contractors. Councilman Boles commented that the intent of the vac truck is for stormwater runoff, not black water. Mayor Lyon agreed that this would have nothing to do with the PSD or their sewer lines. It would be used strictly for clogged drainage pipes.

Public Works Report: Keith LaDeaux, Public Works Project Manager, gave an overview of the Public Works Report provided in Council’s meeting packets. He encouraged citizens to attend the April 30 Drainage meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Councilman Mullinax asked about the status of the radar sign on Fort Johnson Road and Mr. LaDeaux said the sign was repackaged and sent to the manufacturer for refurbishing. Once it is received we will schedule the installation with the contractor. Councilwoman Mignano asked about the flashing crosswalk sign in front of the high school between Grand Concourse and Bayview Farms. She knows this is in the City. Mr. LaDeaux confirmed that the City is aware of this and plans to replace it.

Requests for Consideration by Staff:

Corrugated Pipe Repair/Replacement- Chicorie: Mayor Lyon gave an overview of the request and explained this was approved a few months ago for a section of pipe on Peregrine. PDC Pipeline made the repair using slip line instead of concrete piping, which is less expensive. The County does not install slip lining so this work has to be contracted. Mr. LaDeaux added that most all of the pipes in the area were installed at the same time is why we are seeing a lot of failures (sink holes). Councilwoman Mignano asked

after these are done, how many more would need to be done in the neighborhoods. Mr. LaDeaux answered that these are the only ones as far as inspections shows but he could reach out to John Davies (County) to determine if there are others.

Councilman Boles moved for the approval of the corrugated pipe repair at 1243 Chicorie Way by PDC Pipeline and Drainage at \$17,881.65, for the slip line installation, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Corrugated Pipe Repair/Replacement – Peregrine: Councilman Boles moved for the approval of PDC Pipeline for the slip line installation at 1230 Peregrine Dr at \$25,361.02, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Requests for Consideration by Council: None.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Mayor Lyon reported that the BZA met on April 15 and approved a variance request for an increase to the Town's Supplemental Stormwater Design Standards to allow the impervious lot coverage to 47% for an inground pool. The Planning Commission did not meet this month. Mayor Lyon complimented Mike Hemmer for his work on the Budget and the Comprehensive Plan.

Environment and Beautification Committee: No Report.

Children's Committee: No Report.

Neighborhood Council: Councilman Boles reported that the Neighborhood Council met on March 27 and heard an interesting lecture by Mr. Rod Welch. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 and Randy Hilyer, guest speaker will give a lecture on the History of the Sea Island Cotton. Everyone is invited to attend.

History Committee: Mayor Lyon announced that the Town Market will be held the first Friday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair: A motion to appoint Michael Williams as Chair and Jim Morrisett as Vice Chair of the History Committee was made by Mayor Lyon, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

ReThink Folly Road: Mayor Lyon announced the next meeting of ReThink Folly Road on Wednesday, May 14 at 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. She also announced a meeting with SCDOT on May 22, from 5-7 p.m. at James Island Middle School where discussion will take place regarding the raised medians on Folly Road.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Drainage Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The public is invited to come and address their drainage concerns. Councilman Mullinax said attendance at the meeting will include Chris Wannamaker, (Charleston County); Phillip Sexton, (SC DOT Flood Task Force) and Abbi Razabi, (SCDOT).

Business Development Committee: Councilman Dodson announced that a meeting was scheduled this month but there was no quorum to meet. The members were given homework to discuss at the next meeting which will be determined.

Tree Advisory Committee: Mayor Lyon moved for the reappointment of the following persons to serve on the Trees Advisory Committee: Paul Cantrell, David Tomblin, Jenny Welch, and Julie Hallman. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyon moved for the appointment of Robin Hardin as Chair and Julie Hallman, as Vice Chair of the History Committee, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Councilwoman Mignano announced that the James Island Intergovernmental Council meeting would be held on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town hall. She encouraged everyone to participate and is looking for a good turn-out.

Councilwoman Mignano gave an update on the Easter meal food drive. She considered it an honor to work with all of the entities who participated including the Sheriffs Office. 45 families were served and able to have a nice meal for Easter. Councilwoman Mignano thanked Mayor Lyon, and everyone who came out to help distribute the meals. Food Lion also helped to meet the food goal by offering special prices on some of the items that were purchased.

Accommodations Tax Committee: No Report.

James Island Arts Council: No Report.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2025-07: Naming Intersection of Fort Johnson and Secessionville Rds. "Gabriel Seagraves": Mayor Lyon spoke that this Resolution is to rename a section of Fort Johnson and Secessionville Roads and it is the authority of the State to approve. Our legislators has told us that the State will not agree to any type of naming when there is controversy or discourse. She stated that a number of people are here tonight for this and everyone has a side and a good point, and we want to honor those who have lost their lives there and to those who have made a difference in the community. But, it is not up to the Town to do that, it is a decision by the State. Because of these issues, she has talked with Councilman Mullinax and with Rep. Spencer Wetmore, and it is her understanding that we may consider tabling this agenda item and look at some other way to honor Gabriel, his family, and community leaders that may not be controversial. Also preserve the historical nature of the church and the African American community. Though she cannot speak for Councilman Mullinax, she noted that it was not his intention to create discourse or disharmony, but was trying to do something to help a family that is hurting as the mother has recently lost another son and it has been a difficult time for them.

Mayor Lyon moved to table consideration of the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Boles. During discussion, Councilman Mullinax said he did not know about the history of the church that Mr. Wilder, Ms. Martin and others had mentioned. He is in favor of tabling the motion to fine tune it in order to find a balance where Gabriel Seagraves is permanently honored and the pastor mentioned would be considered also. He agreed with Mayor Lyon that the ultimate decision on the naming of the intersection is the SCDOT and it is regulated by the General Assembly. Councilman Mullinax said this item would be taken up next month after it is fine tuned so both sides come away with permanent recognition.

Mayor Lyon added that she spoke with Councilman Mullinax today after speaking with Rep. Wetmore and in the spirit of transparency and giving everyone food-for-thought from the discussion was that Gabriel was killed near the Mapleton intersection of Secessionville. She said it is possible that intersection could be named or a memorial placed there. She understands there was once a memorial there but it was taken down by a hurricane. She said we want to find a way to honor the young man and his memory and help his family. Rep. Wetmore said she would do whatever she could to support other ideas that we could come up with.

Councilman Boles said based on the comments heard tonight from the residents it is clear there is a way for us to help everyone for a good result. He was unaware of the history of the church and is glad that everyone came and spoke about it. He also did not know about the loss of Gabriel and is glad that everyone was educated about it. This is something that has not been on his radar and it is refreshing to see so many people came to educate us. He thinks that we can get close to what everyone wants by tabling this tonight; also with other governmental entities participation, i.e., SCDOT.

After discussion, Mayor Lyon called for the vote:

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Passed unanimously	

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Old Business: Mayor Lyon announced that the flagpole should be finalized by the end of the month and the American Legion would like to conduct an honor celebration. More information to follow.

New Business: Mayor Lyon announced that the SC Department of Transportation will hold a Public Safety Meeting on May 22 from 5-7 p.m. at James Island Middle School.

Executive Session: Mayor Lyon announced that the Town Council may enter into an Executive Session in accordance with Code of Laws of South Carolina 30-4-70 (A) (1) & (2) regarding discussion of employee matters, and the receipt of legal advice for the litigation matter KT properties, LLC vs. Town of James Island. Upon returning to Open Session the Council may act on matters discussed in the Executive Session.

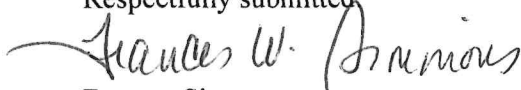
Councilwoman Mignano moved to enter into the Executive Session at 8:11 p.m., seconded by Councilman Dodson and passed unanimously.

Return to Regular Session: Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to return to open session at 8:42 p.m. Motion made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Mayor Lyon announced that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

Announcements/Closing Comments: Councilman Dodson thanked the public for coming and sharing their comments on naming of the intersection and the Cost Sharing Agreement. All members of Council thanked everyone and wished all a Happy Easter. Councilman Mullinax added that he hopes a compromise could be made for naming of the intersection for the Seagraves' family and Mayor Lyon also thanked all of the citizens for their comments and thanked Councilwoman Mignano for spearheading the Easter Food Drive.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons
Town Clerk