

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 18, 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, Deputy Chris King, Island Sheriff's Patrol Deputy Division, Lt. Shawn James, Island Sheriff's Patrol, 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 by offering a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of Sidewalks Projects Update (JLA Engineering): Laura Cabiness, Civil Engineer, with Johnson, Laschober, and Associates gave an update on the Town's sidewalk projects and the probable costs. Updates included the Dills Bluff Road sidewalk Phases I-III - (\$350,000). Phase IV will pick up at Condon Drive to Ft. Sumter to Harbor View Road (\$446,000). The Regatta Road sidewalk has been designed and is ready for bid (\$250,000). Nabors Drive has been surveyed. This stretch of sidewalk will pick up what is proposed on Regatta Road to behind the shopping center on Nabors Road where a small piece of sidewalk is already constructed before going to Quail Drive (\$470,000). Councilman Milliken asked if there is an estimate on when some of the projects that have been designed and completed would be ready; i.e., Phase III, Seaside Lane to Condon Drive. Ms. Cabiness believed the Town has received the funding through the CTC (Charleston Transportation Committee) but did not have an estimated time it would open. Mayor Woolsey said a report was given on CTC projects at the last JI Intergovernmental Council meeting but staff will contact the County for updates.

Public Comment:

Ryan Wynkoop, 649 Clearview Drive: Mr. Wynkoop spoke regarding the traffic issues in Clearview. He said he missed the last two meetings and wanted an update from Council. He does not know what else can be done to help push this issue. He talked about an incident that occurred a week ago with a speeder that they talked to that the police has on video. Mr. Wynkoop said there are still real safety concerns. It is great to see that the Town is putting in sidewalks and speed humps in other neighborhoods, but they would like to see something done in Clearview.

Jim Boyd, 719 Tennent St.: wanted to reiterate his concerns about Clearview. He was unable to attend the meeting last month because he was out of town but got the notes from the website. He shared a video with Council that he said occurred on August 11th between 11:00 or 11:30 pm. The police has not seen the video because he just got it from a neighbor. He informed Council there were two females in a vehicle that was driven a minimum of 75 miles on a 25-mile per hour speed limit road down Clearview, driving in and out of the subdivision at the same speed. He mentions this because this happens every week. He said the community is asking for a traffic study to be done for traffic calming; i.e., 4-way stops, or speed humps. He said the Town put out a speed sign for 10 days and they still do not know how much it cost Dominion to do that; then it was removed 10 days later. He and someone with him tonight confronted the females by knocking on the car window and asked why she was driving so fast and she said, "*I just need to get my weed*" and screamed {*expletive*} at him. He said police and 9-1-1 has this on a recording. He showed Council on the video the house where the females went where there is a known drug dealer who has been arrested many times which he found after doing a background check on the resident. Mr. Boyd said since they started this process they have been talking to neighbors and trying to do everything they can to prove their point. They understand that the Town shut it down last month but he could not attend the meeting to make their point. He stated that all they are asking is for a traffic study to be done and at this point they are

not asking for that because a traffic study was done in 2019 and why would Council pay another \$8,500 to have another done. He said it was approved by the entire neighborhood and the Town didn't do it. He mentioned at the meeting two months ago that Mark Johnson, Public Works, said the traffic data warranted further study. He stated that everyone at that meeting heard it. Half of those residents in attendance tonight were there, yet it was not approved the next month. He said they are asking for something to be done, i.e., stop signs, stating that he doesn't care if you have to stop every three seconds, they are just trying to watch out for their kids and families.

Ryan Shearer – said he reiterates the comments made by Mr. Boyd. He was there with Mr. Boyd during the incident with the female driver, and it was troubling that somebody was speeding so much to get weed. He understands that you can get weed wherever, but why do you need to go that fast down the same road and not have any repercussions. He said a traffic study is needed and begged the Mayor because this is out of control.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of July 21, Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Merrell Roe, Finance Director gave an overview of the written report. She noted an error under Codes & Safety - benefits, taxes, and fees, should be \$5,545. Hospitality, the first installment was made to Lowcountry Local First, \$4,500. Councilman Milliken asked where the matching funds for the Oak Point Sewer Project would be in the budget and Mayor Woolsey said under Capital Projects. Staff will look into the category assigned in the budget and provide the information to Council after the meeting.

Town Administrator's Report: Niki Grimball, Town Administrator gave an overview of the written report. Staff has been in contact with three companies to provide quotes and plans for audio/visual solutions in Council Chambers and hopes to bring a recommendation to Council in September or October. She provided an update on the solar panel installation project at Town Hall which is in the permitting process with County Building Inspections. Approval is expected soon. Additional quotes are being accepted for moving the electrical meter at the James Island Arts & Cultural Center (JIACC) in order to begin working on the solar panel installation at that site.

Ms. Grimball continued her report about happenings at the JIACC - Caroline Self received a grant through the City of Charleston for advertising the Center in hospitality related publications. A watercolor painting of the Center painted by Betty McMichael, one of the art students, will be used in the advertising methods, which was on display at the meeting. A new sculpture is on display at the JIACC donated by Blaine Steiner. Ms. Steiner is a recent Master of Fine Arts graduate from Tulane University. Her family lives on James Island so she thought the Center would be a great home for the sculpture called "Speaking Color" which is made of glass and metal. The sculpture was a part of several art shows across the country. A small slab will be constructed to help secure it in place.

Public Works Report: Mark Johnson, Public Works Director gave an overview of the written report. He informed Council that the purpose of the Small Cities and Rural Communities Committee (sponsored by the American Public Works Assn). is where public works officials from small cities and rural communities around the nation gather to discuss common issues and ways to solve them.

Councilman Milliken asked what the impact might be to the grand trees with the proposed round about on Ft. Johnson and Camp, and Mr. Johnson said very minimal and believes there are only one or two that need

to come out, opposed to six or eight in the other plan. Some trimmings will be done by Dominion. Councilman Milliken asked impacts to the Stone Post neighborhood entrance gateway. Mr. Johnson said those will have to be moved back. Councilman Milliken asked if they would remain roughly in the same position, i.e., the way they are shaped and Mr. Johnson said this is being discussed and perhaps they would be smaller. He said they are not the originals, and perhaps have been done at least three times over the last ten years. Councilman Milliken complimented Mark Johnson and Matt Fountain on the presentation they gave for the MASC annual meeting tour at Town Hall. Ms. Grimball announced the date for the next JI Intergovernmental Council meeting on September 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. She added to the Public Works Report that in staff's discussions about moving the posts at the Stone Post entrance, and it was suggested that it would be nice if the community could have a visual or a rendering to show what the revised entrance post might look like and where the posts might be located. Councilman Milliken agreed that would be good to do.

Mayor Woolsey asked Mr. Johnson if he put the Town's radar sign out on Tennent Street and he said yes, in two different places and had complaints from both residents that did not want them there. The complaints were that they could not get their boats in or the sign was in front of their house. He said for the moment it is not out and a better location will be sought on where to put them. Mr. Johnson said to keep in mind that it is a temporary radar sign. Mayor Woolsey asked what the cost was for doing this and Mr. Johnson answered there was no cost as the equipment is owned by the Town.

Island Sheriffs Patrol Report: Lt. James reported a successful National Night Out event on August 2nd. An updated crime report was shared with Council on a homicide that took place on August 11 behind the Walmart store. Lt. James complimented Deputy Keon Johnson in his duty by helping to apprehend the suspect. Mayor Woolsey asked how many law enforcement officers work in the Town of James Island and Lt. James answered 31.

Requests for Approval by Staff:

Dills Bluff Phase IV Sidewalk: Ms. Grimball requested approval to fund the full engineering design by Johnson, Laschober Associates (JLA) for Phase IV. This portion of sidewalk is from Condon Drive to Fort Sumter Drive and then along Fort Sumter to the terminus at Harbor View Road @\$39,000. *Councilman Milliken was recused because he lives on Ft. Sumter Drive - [Milliken Recusal](#)*. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Boles. Passed.

Stone Post/Oceanview Drainage Improvements Projects: Ms. Grimball requested approval to change the original scope and fee to include bidding and construction phase assistance from Thomas & Hutton @\$33,500. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilwoman Mignano said as she was reading through this she wondered if the \$19,500 was not the actual construction cost but the maintenance cost and Ms. Grimball said it is for oversight of the project, attending meetings, and checking on-site work. Councilwoman Mignano asked the length of the phase and Ms. Grimball answered roughly one year. Councilwoman Mignano asked if accessibility construction, compliance, landscaping, and landscape buffers would be an additional costs and Ms. Grimball answered yes. Further, is this typical and Ms. Grimball said yes, it is for what the Town has asked them to do through these initial processes so everything is in order but we could ask for additional assistance where other exclusions were listed in the contract. The Town may request additional services at a later point if needed. Mayor Woolsey added the things that Councilwoman Mignano mentioned would be designed and constructed by the contractor once selected, so the engineering firm (Thomas & Hutton) would not be doing things like landscape design unless the Town requested them to. He noted that if the Town decided to pursue these other types of tasks by Thomas & Hutton, they would be brought back to Council for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Landscaping Services Cost Modifications: Ms. Grimball presented a spreadsheet with increased rates from Heart Pine Landscapes. Heart Pine wrote a letter to the Town explaining that they have had to increase their rates due to COVID, supply disruptions, fuel price increase and labor. These events have made it necessary to adjust pricing to their consumers. Ms. Grimball explained the spreadsheet she provided, which showed the previous amount per task the Town paid for its landscape services @ \$4,635 per month and the new amount @ \$5,625 a month, an increase of \$990/month. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilman Milliken said consideration should be given to have the Town to do its own groundskeeping services the next time we go through the budget process. Mayor Woolsey said that he and the Town Administrator are already looking into this and the possibility of adding a staff. Any consideration would come before Council. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Copier Contract: Ms. Grimball presented for approval a copier proposal from Carolina Business Equipment for the Town Hall. This is a different company from the previous one the Town used because of better copy costs. The pricing strategy is less and color copies are based on a tiered system. The contract is five (5) years. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Councilwoman Mignano was informed that this is not the same copier company that was presented in the Town Administrator's report where a cost to provide a copier at the JIACC was provided for information. Motion passed unanimously.

VC3 Information Technology Services Contract Renewal: Ms. Grimball presented the renewal contract from VC3 for the Town's information and technology services. The cost is \$3,471 per month for 36- months noting that due to consolidation of commercial services within Office 365, that the monthly price was reduced by \$200. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Motion passed unanimously.

679 Highwood Circle Drainage Box Repair: Mr. Johnson presented for approval the repair of a drainage box at 679 Highwood Circle @\$7,309 by Charleston County Public Works. Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

Request to Approve \$444,000 Town Contribution to JIPSD's Grant Application to South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) to Fund Sewer Expansion on Julian Clark, Up the Hill Road, and Oak Point Drive: Ms. Grimball reported that this is another multi-jurisdictional grant opportunity that the JI PSD is heading for the community. She explained the way the cost was calculated is that the Town's portion in these neighborhoods equated to 174 septic tanks which equals 81.31% of the total coverage that would be in the project area, which is how the calculation was equated to \$444,000 of the total cost. Ms. Grimball noted that ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) could be used towards the match because there are no stipulations restricting the use of the funds on another federally funded grant. Dave Schaffer, JIPSD Manager, is present to answer questions from Council. Mayor Woolsey moved for approval, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if any public engagement had been done, including directly contacting the people that will be moved from septic to sewer. Mr. Schaffer stated that they have to apply by September 12 and the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has promised to get back to them by the first quarter of 2023 for the selected projects. He said they will know by the end of March if they get the 85% of the \$10 million. To put this in perspective, he said this is a very competitive grant and North Carolina had a similar program where they had \$900 million pushed down from the feds through ARPA but they received \$4.4 billion worth of requests to fund \$900 million so that's what the RIA expects. He said what this project really has going for them, and the difference between the last time he came before Council, is that the JIPSD District received a \$1 million earmark in the state's budget. He said Rep. Spencer Wetmore fought hard to get the \$1 million earmark that constitutes the majority of the local match. He said the \$1 million accounts

for the state budget that can be used towards the local match and they have to come up with the \$500,000 and that is how it details down. He will be going to CWS (Charleston Water System) on August 30 to ask for that portion of the local match and then to the PSD Commission next Monday night to ask for the \$18,000. He does not see any resistance either way. He has spoken with CWS and as he sat here, he received a letter of support from Charleston County and he has a letter of support from Charleston Waterkeeper and the stakeholders from the James Island Creek Taskforce that they all thought would be a fantastic opportunity for them to put \$500,000 into local match to be able to turn around and have a \$10.3 million project to get the 199 septic tanks adjacent to the creek on public sewer.

Councilman Milliken said that sounds very positive but again, asked if the public had been engaged. He asked if they received notice that they might be going onto sewer and Mr. Schaffer said not until the funding is secured. He said they have been trying since last fall with the RIA and got turned down for the \$500,000 and went through SCDHEC after the 319 Funding that did not come through. The \$1 million earmark is the first milestone towards securing the funding to be able to do that. Councilman Milliken said that is a positive step and with all of the monies put together, will that be adequate to take care of the septic tanks as they are programmed for, or will additional monies be necessary to improve the infrastructure to get everything to where it needs to go. Mr. Schaffer said in the \$10.3 million budget for the project it is all encompassing so it is everything. He said a pump station is included within that.

Councilwoman Mignano asked if the people get moved to sewer what happens to their septic tanks. Mr. Schaffer responded that as a part of the project, the interior plumbing of each one of the properties would have to be connected to the low pressure system and abandon the septic tank. As a part of the abandoning process, the septic tank is pumped out and would be included in the project scope and funding.

Councilman Boles asked about the matching funds discussed by Mr. Schaffer when he met before Council in June. Mr. Schaffer answered that when he met with Council before he asked for \$320,000 that was specifically for Oak Point and this \$444,000 request is for the entirety of those communities: Oak Point Rd., Up the Hill, and Julian Clark. Mayor Woolsey asked what happens if the grant fails and Mr. Schaffer answered that they would continue to seek other fundings sources. He commented about several legislators in Columbia working to get the million dollar earmark besides Representative Spencer Wetmore. Representative Leon Stavrinakis and Senators Chip Campsen, Sandy Senn, Margie Bright-Matthews and Kyle Michelle, (PSD lobbyist) is working to get a letter signed from legislatures to send to the RIA as a part of the SCIP application, in addition to the City of Charleston, Charleston Waterkeeper, Charleston County, the Town of James Island, and the stakeholders for the James Island Creek Taskforce, so there is a lot of support for this project and because it is earmarked for \$1 million they want to see it parlayed into a reality.

Mayor Woolsey asked if the project is successful will there be public meetings to explain this to the residents, to which Mr. Schaffer said absolutely, CWS would be a part of that as well as the City of Charleston to engage the residents because these are multi-jurisdictional neighborhoods and explain why this is being done. Councilwoman Mignano asked if the owners would be responsible for pumping out their sewer and Mr. Schaffer said no, that would be a part of the abandoning process. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: Councilwoman Mignano announced that the Planning Commission met on August 11th and discussed proposed amendments to the ZLDR for off-site parking. The BZA met on August 17th and denied KFC's application for a Special Exception for a fast-food restaurant.

Nomination to the Planning Commission: Councilman Boles stated that Ed Steers is desirous to continue to serve on the Board. Councilman Boles moved for the reappointment of Ed Steers to serve on the Planning Commission for a 4-year term, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Passed unanimously.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that James Island Pride met today to set dates and goals. Saturday, August 20, Stan Kozikowski is having a Helping Hands event. Helping Hands is a group of volunteers that clean the yards of citizens that cannot do so. Volunteers are asked to meet at Pinckney Park at 9:00 a.m. for assignment and supplies. Anyone interested in volunteering should see Councilman Milliken for dates for the remainder of the year. Next event is October 24. Councilman Milliken encouraged groups and club interested in volunteering to contact Stan Kozikowski (860) 847-0544. The James Island Pride Adopt-a-Highway event will be held on Saturday, September 10. This will be an island wide clean up. Meet at Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. for assignments. Councilman Milliken thanked the staff for advertising the Nominations for Community Hero Award.

Children's Committee: No report.

Public Safety: Councilman Mullinax brought forth the nomination of William Horsley (representing Farmington s/d) to serve on the Neighborhood Council. Councilman Milliken seconded. Passed unanimously.

History Committee: No report.

Rethink Folly Road: Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 @ 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the Drainage Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 24 @ 3 p.m. at Town Hall.

Business Development Committee: No report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that the committee met on August 9th to make plans for the upcoming Arbor Day event. August is Asian Longhorned Beetle month. He thanked staff for advertising information on the longhorned beetle that poses a threat to trees. Residents were urged to check their trees regularly for signs of the beetle. Report sightings to 1-866-702-9932 and for further information.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the next meeting on Wednesday September 28, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The call for agenda items should go out soon.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2022-14: Exercise of Eminent Domain to Acquire Title to or Interest in Real Estate Property for the Purpose of the Greenhill Drainage Improvement Project: Ms. Grimball reported that this is the last parcel needed to acquire easement for the Greenhill Drainage Improvement Project. The firm the staff has been working with has been trying to resolve this matter for a few years and an agreement has not been reached so the Town is exercising its option through eminent domain to move the project to the next phase. Motion to approve by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Councilman Boles asked the cost and Ms. Grimball replied that legal fees on average is \$3,000 -\$5,000 and the offer was for \$2,090. Councilman Milliken said this has been going on for some time; before he came on Council. Mayor Woolsey added that the project cannot proceed without this parcel. Motion Passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: Mayor Woolsey moved to enter into an executive session in accordance with 30-4-70(a) Code of Laws of South Carolina for discussion of contractual matters, Councilman Milliken seconded. Motion carried and Council entered at 8:03 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Council returned to regular session at 8:15 p.m. Mayor Woolsey announced that no votes were taken during the executive session.

Announcements/Closing Comments: None.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Simmons
Town Clerk