

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC on Thursday, August 20, 2020 by Zoom. The following Councilmembers were present: Boles, Mignano, Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, who presided. Also, Town Administrator, Ashley Kellahan, Town Attorney, Bonum S. Wilson, Finance Director, Merrell Roe, Public Works Director, Mark Johnson, Code Enforcement Officer, James Hackett, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Sgt. Shawn James, Deputy Christopher King, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons. A quorum was present to conduct business.

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.

Public Comment: Resident, Larry Fisk sent in a comment via email (attached).

Consent Agenda:

Minutes: July 16, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports: Finance Report: Written report provided with an overview by Town Administrator Kellahan. Councilwoman Mignano was informed that the \$3,400 in miscellaneous income was for Hurricane Dorian.

Administrator's Report: Written report provided by Mrs. Kellahan with an overview. Mrs. Kellahan added that the all-way stop on Wildwood was not approved by the SCDOT. She spoke briefly with Councilwoman Mignano about the trimming of Magnolia trees; whether the arborist could look into this. Councilwoman Mignano complimented the speed humps on Stiles Drive and residents are pleased and see a decrease in speeding.

Emergency Management Update: James Hackett, Town MEOC Liaison, presented an update of the 2020 Emergency Plan and focused on hurricanes. He said recent Hurricane Isaias was handled well by staff. Mr. Hackett noted that less shelter space would be available this year with the outbreak of COVID-19 and the requirement for social distancing. The emphasis will be for people to evacuate rather than go to a shelter.

Public Works Report: Written report provided with an overview by Mr. Johnson.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Sgt. James announced that he missed having the National Night Out event this year. He shared a policy that Charleston County will allow officers to grow beards and goatees. Sgt. James thanked Mayor Woolsey for 8 years that the Island Sheriff's Patrol has existed. He introduced Deputy Christopher King as the full-time deputy assigned to the Town. Deputy King was complimented for helping to save a man's life during a drug overdose the second week he began working at the Town. Sgt. James said he will be recommending him for the Life-Saving Award. Deputy King shared a few words; that he moved here three years ago from Ohio and has been in law enforcement for 12 years. He loves James Island and the interaction he has with the people. Council thanked Deputy King for the job he is doing and for saving the individual's life.

Deputy King spoke about complaints he received about speeding on Clearview Dr. He has spent time there clocking cars but none were speeding. He will continue to monitor the area. The Crime Statistics and the Island Sheriff's Patrol Reports were received as information.

Requests for Approval: Driveway Apron Repairs: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval two driveway aprons for repairs: 1) 946 Mount Vernon, and 2) 754 Waterloo, where the pipes are sinking into the ground and causing drainage problems. She and Mark Johnson are developing a policy so that residents understand that when they request an apron repair it will not be a cosmetic fix but an actual drainage repair. The estimate for Mt. Vernon is \$8,000 and Waterloo @ \$10,000.

Motion in favor made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Councilman Milliken commented that this is a great thing to do. He asked about the process for getting this done, or if there is a form for citizens to complete. Mrs. Kellahan said citizens can call the Town to make a request and there is also a work order request form is on the Town website for citizens to complete.

Councilwoman Mignano asked the reason the pipes collapsed was that they were old or were full of mud and water underneath the pipes. She asked what could be done to prevent this from happening to other aprons. Mr. Johnson said it could have resulted from an infrastructure failure overtime or a joint failure causing the pipes to sink. Mayor Woolsey said he does not believe the driveway aprons were new and they suddenly failed; but they were old. He said we should not expect the concrete and pipes to last forever and it will be a continual process to repair them.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Lighthouse Point and Cedar Point Pond Investigations: Mrs. Kellahan asked to defer this item for additional information. She said there has been recent developments in that the two ponds are interconnected. The Cedar Point Pond residents would like the Town to take over maintenance, not only of the road, but also the pond, which is privately owned. The Seaward Drive pond is in the Town's jurisdiction; it is public and most affected with algae blooms. Mrs. Kellahan explained when a neighborhood wants the Town to take over maintenance of a road or of private infrastructure, an engineering report is required so we know the state of the infrastructure before accepting maintenance. She said the neighborhood has been moving forward on this and hired Seaman Whiteside so the scope of this request will change. She noted that Seamon Whiteside may be able to look at the Seaward Drive pond also, so this request needs to go back to the engineer for re-evaluation. Mayor Woolsey asked Council to defer action without objection and it was granted.

James Island Arts & Cultural Center (JIACC) Furniture Proposal: Mrs. Kellahan presented the furniture proposal for the James Island Arts & Cultural Center. She said the stakeholders reviewed the options and layout and provided their insight on the furniture. She said \$50,000 was budgeted but we were able to get it to \$40,000 because we will be using some furniture that we already have. Sarah Glass and Jennifer Charzewski with Liollo, and Becky Ness, with PMC Interiors, were available to answer questions. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Underground Powerlines Priority Locations: Councilman Boles stated that the purpose of the agenda item is for Council to agree upon a list of priority locations to bury powerlines underground. Councilman Boles said that when he first came on Council and brought this subject up, the Town Administrator had already working on this. He was interviewed on Live 5 News and gave credit to Mrs. Kellahan as the originator, but that portion of the interview was cut, and he was upset about that. He said Mrs. Kellahan has worked with Dominion who supplied us with a map that shows problem power outages on the island. He said Foxcroft is the area with the highest power outages; there are some powerlines that runs through people's backyards. After Foxcroft is Fort Johnson Rd. Councilman Boles asked Council to identify the Foxcroft corridor as first priority then Ft. Johnson Rd. as second priority. He would like to see Dills Bluff Rd. added at some point. Councilman Boles said this is a very expensive endeavor and Council would have to find the funding later but asked for a vote to begin the process to bury powerlines in the Foxcroft corridor that feeds 1,606 customers and has the most outages. He said the corridor runs through his backyard and tall tree limbs gets caught in the powerlines. Even with trimmings, the trees looms over powerlines.

Councilman Boles motioned that the Foxcroft corridor be given first priority to bury underground powerlines, Councilman Mullinax seconded. Councilwoman Mignano stated that she would abstain from voting and provided a recusal for the record.

Councilman Milliken asked if the budget of \$657,028 is the estimate to do the short stretch of Foxcroft. Councilman Boles said Dominion would match half of that amount and the Town the other; and anything beyond that would be an expense of the Town. Mayor Woolsey said \$328,514 is what Dominion would provide and the Town would have to come up with that amount from other budgeted funds for power related activities, including repair to powerlines. He said we are already working toward burying powerlines on Folly Rd and an unknown amount for that is spoken for that project. He explained the Non-Standard Service Fund balance information that was provided to Council. He said some money has been spent from that fund for streetlights on Camp and Dills Bluff, and we anticipate using some of it to match work on Folly Rd. Mayor Woolsey recalled at the Budget Workshop held last February that a consensus was reached to focus on Ft. Johnson Rd. because it is a scenic bi-way and hospitality tax funds could be used for beautification. He said matching funds for burying powerlines in peoples' backyards in Foxcroft does not qualify for hospitality tax funding. He said burying powerlines in Foxcroft is a good plan, but he believes Council should stay with the plan for Ft. Johnson Rd. near the DNR which is the #2 place where power outages occur.

Councilman Milliken asked if both places could be done because we have the ability to use hospitality funds on Ft. Johnson Rd. with Dominion. He asked if it is possible to have enough money for Folly, Foxcroft, and Ft. Johnson. Mayor Woolsey said it would be reasonable to know estimate costs before committing to a particular place; however, it is very expensive, and we do not have enough money to do all of them. Mrs. Kellahan said she has tried to get good estimates for both places. She said in order for Dominion to devote their time, energy, and staff, they need a prioritized list from Council, and they can only do one project at a time. Mrs. Kellahan used as an example, the Sam Rittenberg project @ \$300 per linear feet, and an estimate for a quarter round on Dills Bluff would be roughly \$825,000 depending on other factors. Mrs. Kellahan gave a brief update on the Folly Rd. project that the County has committed to pay for relocating 13 poles in Phase I, but we do not have that number yet.

Councilman Milliken said he would like to get the ball rolling and asked the length to bury powerlines on Foxcroft and Ft. Johnson using \$300 per linear foot as an estimate. Councilman Boles said he calculated on Google Maps using a post-it-note and measuring the scale of Foxcroft at approximately 3,000 feet and it was roughly \$900,000 which is more money than we have. He focused on safety and functionality as reasons for burying the powerline in Foxcroft. Aesthetically he said Folly Rd. is a great place and Ft. Johnson is also because it is beautiful but asked Council to focus on the safety issues associated with extensive power outages on Foxcroft. He said that Dominion has chosen Foxcroft as the area where most power outages occur. He said that Dominion will not give us a cost until we agree on the location, then we need to find the funds. Mayor Woolsey emphasized focusing on Ft. Johnson Rd. in the area that Dominion also said is a safety issue. He said Ft. Johnson Rd. is important for aesthetics and it is a beautification corridor. We would be eligible for funding, not only for safety issues, but also for tourism. Mayor Woolsey said we are working towards getting a park on Ft. Johnson Rd. He thinks the best way to do this is not to do the entire length from Ft. Johnson to Harbor View Rd., but do a part, and that is what we should tell to Dominion... we should do 1,000 feet or 500, whatever we have enough money to do. He does not believe that we should do Foxcroft in people's backyards, but we should do what was discussed at the budget workshop. Councilman Boles said there are hurricane mitigation grants available and although Foxcroft is not eligible for hospitality funds to bury powerlines would prevent most residents from losing power during hurricanes and high wind events. He also said that Council did not have a map of priority locations at the budget workshop. He does not see Foxcroft and Ft. Johnson as mutually exclusive to each other, they are inclusive. Mayor Woolsey commented that if Foxcroft is selected as a first priority and we find out the cost all of the money would be used for many years to come.

Councilwoman Mignano asked if the 1602 people affected are impacted by Ft. Johnson and Foxcroft or Foxcroft only. Councilman Boles said according to the map outages are caused by tree conditions along Foxcroft and additional tree conditions along Ft. Johnson but occur more frequently on Foxcroft Rd.

Councilman Milliken said his conflicts has to do with the trees and aesthetics because the trees along Ft. Johnson Rd. are gorgeous, in particular near the soccer club. He asked if it would be viable to use hospitality funds for this purpose. He needs more information about the costs rather than rough estimates and would like to defer for more information

then move forward. He would like to see the powerlines buried and the two options are equally viable, but we cannot afford to do both.

Councilman Milliken moved to defer the item for additional information; Mayor Woolsey seconded.

Councilwoman Mignano asked if the motion passes if we could get the measurement for Ft. Johnson Rd. to make a decision. Mayor Woolsey said his understanding of Ft. Johnson, including the soccer club is not that we would measure the entire length and determine a total cost; rather something would be done in bits and pieces for years for what part and how many feet we could afford. He said it may be the same for Foxcroft. Mrs. Kellahan said she would reach out to Dominion for a better idea of cost for Ft. Johnson and Foxcroft.

Motion to Defer

Councilman Boles	No
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	No
Mayor Woolsey	Yes

Motion Failed

*Councilwoman Mignano abstained

Main Motion: Authorize prioritizing Foxcroft for underground powerlines (highlighted section on map) using match from NSF funds.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	No

Motion Passed

*Councilwoman Mignano abstained from vote

Purchase of Kubota Tractor: Mrs. Kellahan presented the purchase of the Kubota Tractor from Steen Enterprise @ \$44,908. Motion in favor by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Boles asked if training would be required to operate the equipment and Mr. Johnson said that training would not be required.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes

Passed Unanimously

Oceanview Drainage, Phase II Easement Acquisition: Mrs. Kellahan presented for approval the Phase II drainage acquisition @\$8,500 by Michael Baker International. Motion in favor by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes

Passed Unanimously

Rip-Rap Installation on Schooner Road: Councilwoman Mignano requested approval for installation of Rip-Rap at 549 Schooner Road. She reported that the property owner had a portion done; this request is for the unfinished portion causing erosion in the property owner's yard. Cost is \$5,602 by the County. Motion in favor by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Boles.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Security Cameras at Pinckney Park Pavilion: Mrs. Kellahan requested approval for the purchase of an Arlo GO security camera @\$1,200/\$50.00 month. Motion in favor by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilman Mullinax.

Councilman Milliken asked if we could get a case that blends in with the environment. Mrs. Kellahan said she would look into this. There was brief discussion with Sgt. James regarding the effectiveness of cameras being visible/non-visible as a deterrent for crime/theft.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee: Councilwoman Mignano reported that she and Mrs. Kellahan met with John Rhoden regarding the Repair Care Program. They are discussing a program for high school students that do not plan on attending college to work with Habitat. Councilwoman Mignano will meet with faculty at the school in September to share this program.

Nominations to Board of Zoning Appeals: Councilwoman Mignano opened the floor to nominations for the Board of Zoning Appeals: Mayor Woolsey moved for the reappointment of David Savage; Councilman Milliken seconded and passed unanimously.

Councilman Boles moved for the appointment of Corle Erdman; Councilman Milliken seconded and passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax moved for the reappointment of Brook Lyon; seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Nominations to Planning Commission: Councilwoman Mignano opened the floor to nominations for the Planning Commission.

Councilwoman Mignano moved for the appointment of Kay Kernodle; seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Councilman Milliken moved for the appointment of Deborah Bidwell; Councilman Boles seconded and passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax moved for the reappointment of Bill Lyon; seconded by Councilman Boles and passed unanimously.

Councilman Milliken asked that we look into honoring those that served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission for their service to the Town and community.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced that an island-wide litter pickup will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 9 a.m. Meet at the Town Hall. No lunch will be served, and social distancing will be adhered.

Children's Committee: No report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax plans to have a Neighborhood Council meeting in September. He thanked Mrs. Kellahan and staff for working with the SCDOT for the approval of a radar sign on Ft. Johnson @ Lighthouse Blvd.

History Committee: Mayor Woolsey reported that the History Council met in August and discussed hosting three major events. 1) in November, the Stamp Act Protest; 2) an event will be scheduled in honor of Black History Month; 3) First Shot events @ Fort Johnson, April.

Nominations to History Council: Mayor Woolsey opened the floor to nominations to the History Council:

Councilwoman Mignano moved for the nomination of Michael O'Neale, seconded by Councilman Boles, and passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax moved for the reappointment of Paul Hedden, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano, and passed unanimously.

Councilman Boles moved for the appointment of Jim Morrisette, seconded by Councilman Milliken, and passed unanimously.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey reported that all of the jurisdictions renewed the IGA with Toole Design group. The next Steering Committee meeting is Wednesday, August 26 @ 2:30 by Zoom.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax reported that the Drainage Committee held its quarterly meeting on August 12 and received status updates on three Town properties as well as information on the James Island Creek Basin.

Business Development Committee: No report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Councilman Milliken reported that a virtual meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11. Items of discussion included: discussion of recommendations for Dominion contract, recommended tree list, and input for Town Arborist for review by staff and City.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced that the group met on July 22 and elected County Councilwoman Jenny Honeycutt as Chair. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 and the time will be determined.

Proclamations and Resolutions

Resolution #2020-11: Community Support of Armed Services and Veterans: Councilman Mullinax spoke in support; an idea he got from the City of Waynesboro, GA, where they display various flags behind their welcome sign. This would be a series of flags displayed at the newly acquired Subway property on Camp & Folly) of the American Flag, State Flag, and other branches of service in honor of our armed service and veterans. Councilman Mullinax moved in favor, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Vote

Councilman Boles	No
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	No
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Motion Passed	

Emergency Ordinances:

E-03-2020: Emergency Ordinance Pertaining to Electronic Meetings: Amended to Expire August 22: Councilman Milliken move to extend the emergency ordinance to expire on September 19, seconded by Councilman Boles.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2020-10: Electronic Meetings: Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Boles.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

New Business: County Feedback Request for HUD Funding: Mrs. Kellahan presented the Charleston County Community Development HUD survey for information. The survey determines community input into 5-year goals for housing and urban development. Applications can be accessed online starting November at www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/community-development. Councilman Milliken asked to advertise the information on the Town's website.

Request for Action: "Letter to Parties/CWS Fuel Spill of August 14-15, 2020": Councilman Milliken spoke regarding the recent fuel spill by Charleston Water System at Plum Island where some Town residents reside along the marsh. A letter was drafted to Kin Hill, Chief Executive Officer, at CWS regarding the spill with reference to federal legislation that specifies the use of secondary enclosures for preventing spills into the marsh. Councilman Milliken moved in favor of sending the letter from Council, seconded by Councilman Boles.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Yes
Councilwoman Mignano	Yes
Councilman Milliken	Yes
Councilman Mullinax	Yes
Mayor Woolsey	Yes
Passed Unanimously	

Councilman Milliken has reached out to Senator Campsen and incumbent Spencer Wetmore, SC House Seat 115 to look into this also.

Announcements/Closing Comments: Councilman Boles thanked everyone. Councilman Milliken reminded everyone about the September litter pick-up.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Frances Simmons, Town Clerk