

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 16, 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 Town Council were present: Boles (via Zoom), Milliken, Mullinax, and Mayor Woolsey, presided. Absent: Councilwoman Mignano (gave notice). Also, Niki Grimbball, Town Administrator, Merrell Roe, Finance Director, Mark Johnson, PW Director, Bonum S. Wilson, Town Attorney, Lt. Shawn James, Island Sheriffs Patrol, Deputy Chris King, Patrol Division, 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: Councilman Mullinax opened in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Clerk Simmons called the roll.

Presentation by Lowcountry Local First for Community Business Academy: Jacquie Berger, Executive Director, Lowcountry Local First (LLF), thanked Council for the opportunity to come before them to present this two-part program for the Town. Lowcountry Local First is a local non-profit organization that invests in local and independent businesses and shared having the opportunity to do exciting things in the Town. LLF focuses on local businesses because they are neighbors that helps to create jobs, sponsors kids sports teams, and makes donations to local non-profit organizations; they are the fabric of the community. She stated that Lowcountry Local First works to assure that local businesses are connected to one another and has the resources they need to operate; they provide public awareness campaigns and advocacy work, and partners with local municipalities to promote seasonal and year-round campaigns to attract people to our local independent businesses. Ms. Berger introduced Raquel Padgett, the Director of Good Initiative with Lowcountry Local First, to provide an overview of the Community Business Academy.

Raquel Padgett thanked Council and provided an overview of the "Good Initiative" program that encompasses the Community Business Academy, the Business Acceleration Services, and the newly launched Credit to Capital Program. Community Business Academy, a 12-week Program offering hands-on training in business planning and management to existing local businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. The Business Acceleration Services (BAS) offers graduates from the Academy 12 months of services to excel their business to the next level. Then businesses have the option to pair with a business coach for a 90-day one-on-one coaching and access to workshops that are held throughout the region. Credit to Capital – Rising Tide Capital, when an entrepreneur is ready to pursue financing, Good Enterprise provides them with comprehensive assistance and resources through their relationship with community banks and institutions for financing. Ms. Berger asked Council to consider participating in this two-part program for the Town.

Public Comment: The following persons addressed Council:

Chris Benson, 991 White Point Blvd., Mr. Benson stated that he owns a couple of investment properties in the Town with the intent to maximize his return on them. He expressed concern about the Town's Air B&B requirements in the Ordinance that the owner must live in the property. Mr. Benson asked what the logic is for that because he pays three times more in taxes. He said the Town should not prohibit investors from maximizing on their return. He has lived in his primary residence for 20 years. The ordinance is unfair because he should be able to recoup a return on his investments and asked Council to reconsider this in its ordinance.

Jim Boyd, 719 Tennent Street: Mr. Boyd thanked Council for consideration of speed humps in Clearview and asked Council to look into having more police presence. He said Lt. James (Island Sheriffs Patrol) does

a good job but the Town needs to have more than one police officer because the population is growing too fast for one officer on a Monday through Friday schedule.

Minutes of May 19, Regular Town Council Meeting: Motion to approve was made by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Report provided. Finance Director, Merrell Roe gave a summary of May's Revenues and Expenditures. She stated that Town Administrator Grimball would give an update on the American Rescue Plan funds.

Town Administrator's Report: Report provided. In addition to the Town Administrator's Report, Mrs. Grimball said we are on course for solar panels to be installed at the Town Hall and JI Arts & Cultural Center in July. Final approval for Brantley Park is expected any time. Staff is working to secure service for regular landscaping and maintenance to be presented to Council next month for approval. An update on American Rescue funds was provided and Mrs. Grimball reported on May's activities at the James Island Arts & Cultural Center.

Public Works Report: Report provided. In addition to the PW Report, Mayor Woolsey asked Mr. Johnson about the data for a traffic study in the Clearview subdivision. Mr. Johnson responded that in Clearview/Tennent, the mean speed was below, and the 85th percentile was above, but the full data had not been received from the Sheriff's Office to be analyzed yet. Mayor Woolsey asked the criteria for speed humps and Mr. Johnson replied if the average speed exceeds the posted limit, or if the 85th percentile speed exceeds the posted limit of 5 mph or above.

Mrs. Grimball added to the PW Report that Johnson, Laschober Engineering (JLA) will present an update on Town sidewalks (Dills Bluff, Regatta and others) at the July meeting. Public Works sent letters to neighbors regarding the underground wiring project in Harbor Woods/Foxcroft. Staff received one letter disagreeing with the project and staff is waiting for other responses. Once all responses are received, a report will be presented to Council.

Island Sheriff's Patrol: Lt. James provided the Island Sheriff's Patrol Report and updated Council on recent crimes that are open and those resolved. Lt. James reported that the LPR camera is installed on Harborview Rd. and is already successful in capturing footage in both directions. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2 at the Town Hall and will display the SWAT truck, dive tank, and canines.

Mayor Woolsey asked Lt. James about police coverage in the Town. Lt. James confirmed one full-time deputy at the Town. However, there are 31 part-time deputies that work 160 hours/week that equals 650 hours a month; equivalent to four full-time officers.

Requests for Approval by Staff: None

Action Items:

Acceptance of Charleston County Local Option Sales Tax: Mrs. Grimball presented for approval an Agreement between Charleston County and the Town for Accommodations Tax collected on behalf of the Town. As of May 1996, Charleston County has been authorized to provide monies to municipalities with lodging establishments within their boundaries to offset operational expenses of tourism promotion and its support. The Town's share of the Accommodations Tax for Fiscal Year 2021, is \$2,712. Motion in favor by Councilman Milliken, seconded by Councilman Mullinax and passed unanimously.

Request to Approve the Community Business Academy of Lowcountry Local First: Mrs. Grimball presented a request to approve the two-part program through Lowcountry Local First. The Community Business Academy @ \$34,500 and the Storefront Challenge + Business Attraction @ \$37,800, a total of \$72,300. Mrs. Grimball informed Council that the cost could be paid one program at a time and that the funds had been included in the FY 23 Adopted Town Budget. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken and passed unanimously.

Request to Approve JLA Engineering to conduct a Traffic Calming Analysis in Clearview Subdivision: Mrs. Grimball presented a fee proposal from Johnson, Laschober & Associates (JLA) for planning, design, and permitting for traffic calming in the Clearview and Tennent subdivisions. JLA will prepare a presentation for a public meeting and present traffic calming alternatives, such as all way stop intersections or speed humps. Once the scope of the traffic calming facilities is determined, they will prepare plans and coordinate the permitting and bidding for installation for a cost of \$8,500. Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Mullinax added that he had planned to have a separate request for a radar sign to be installed like the one on Ft. Johnson Road. He recalled the accidents that has occurred in that area and how radar signs were effective to determine speed. During discussion Councilman Milliken spoke about Public Works doing a preliminary study to gather in-depth information as the numbers received for speeding in the area were inconclusive or on the border. Mayor Woolsey agreed and noted that the fee proposal provided merit but there is no sufficient evidence to move forward at this time. Councilman Milliken moved to defer approval until conclusive information is gathered for a complete study, Councilman Boles seconded. Motion to defer passed to the July meeting.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: No report.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilman Milliken announced a successful James Island Pride Litter Pick-up on Saturday, June 11. Sixteen (16) volunteers collected 36 bags of litter off of Harborview, Dills Bluff, Camp and Ft. Johnson roadways and enjoyed a pizza lunch afterwards at the Town Hall. Councilman Milliken said most of the volunteers were the James Island Pride Committee and he encouraged others to volunteer. James Island Pride is on Facebook. Councilman Milliken also encouraged others to participate in the Helping Hands Committee. Helping Hands is the committee that cleans the yards of citizens who cannot do it themselves. An upcoming event is scheduled for Saturday, June 25. Those interested in helping should contact Chair, Stan Kozikowski (860) 847-0544.

Children's Committee: No report.

Public Safety Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the next meeting is Thursday, June 23 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

History Committee: No report.

Rethink Folly Road: Mayor Woolsey announced that the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 23 @ 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax announced that the next meeting is due in September. A date for the meeting will be announced.

Business Development Committee: No report.

Trees Advisory Committee: No report.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Woolsey announced the new Chair as City Councilwoman Caroline Park and the date for next meeting will be announced.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

Resolution #2022-10: Request Town Partnership with the SC Battleground Preservation Trust for a National Park Service Grant (Ft. Johnson): Mrs. Grimball reported that the Town was approached by the SC Battleground Preservation Trust to partner with them and support a grant application to the National Park Service. The SC Battleground Preservation Trust has contracted to purchase 1.58 acres of the Ft. Johnson property from the Medical University of SC. Fifty (50) percent of the purchase price will be raised through a Federal Grant by the American Battleground Protection Program of the National Park Service and the other 50% is to be paid by the SC Battleground Preservation Trust. Mrs. Grimball said no fiscal impacts or match would be required by the Town. The legislation that establishes the American Battlefield Protection Program requires the SC Battleground Preservation Trust to partner with a local government agency in order to apply for and accept grant funds and the Ft. Johnson property is located in the Town of James Island.

Motion in favor by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilman Milliken. Councilman Milliken expressed excitement for this great opportunity and is looking forward to seeing what is developed there. Mayor Woolsey also expressed that he is glad the SC Battleground Preservation Trust is working with the Town. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinances up for First Reading: None.

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: Not needed.

Announcements/Closing Comments: None.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Simmons
Town Clerk