

March 17, 2015

The regular meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall; all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Pat O'Neil, Mayor
Jerry Kaynard, Mayor Pro-Tem
Chauncey Clark, Councilman
Hartley Cooper, Councilwoman
Susan Middaugh, Councilwoman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Councilman Kaynard in relation to the Holocaust, and a prayer by Councilwoman Watson. There were approximately 20 members of the public, and one member of the media present.

Mayor O'Neil stated that some of the Town's business discussed tonight might appear as old business; however, the Town Council did not meet for its regular meeting in February because there was not a quorum of Council.

I. FORMAT – Mayor O'Neil opened the floor for comments.

Mike Walsh, 2530 I'on Avenue, commented that parking on the island should be enforced according to the current law until a new system is adopted. The Town has an opportunity to institute the new parking policy before Isle of Palms since they have delayed the project until 2016. Administrator Benke stated there are concerns to be considered before proceeding with any new plan: a traffic count of the vehicles traveling on the island during the summer months; a complete inventory of the actual parking spaces on the island; potential legal challenges, and the cost savings benefit of using the same vendor as Isle of Palms. Staff will recommend to Council that it consider an ordinance for vehicles to have all four tires off of the pavement to ensure emergency vehicles can easily maneuver through the street. The subject is on the Public Safety Committee agenda tonight.

Sarah Church, 2215 I'on Avenue, attended the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) meeting and distributed information to Council regarding offshore drilling. She stated that in addition to the Resolution opposing offshore drilling that Council would vote on tonight, she encouraged them and residents to make comments through the BOEM website. The website is accepting comments through March 30, 2015.

Rebecca Liebowitz, Program Director of the Charleston Jewish Federation, stated the ceremony commemorating the Holocaust will be held April 19th at 2:30 p.m. at Marion Square. This year the Holocaust Memorial will also be rededicated. She introduced Mr. Engel, who is a benefactor of the Holocaust Memorial, and also a survivor of the Holocaust.

II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Middaugh, to approve the Minutes from the January 20, 2015 Regular Meeting, the January 29, 2015 Special Meeting, and Special Meetings on September 17, 2014 and October 21, 2014, carried unanimously.**
- 2. Mayor O'Neil recognized Mr. Joe Engel, a Holocaust survivor, and thanked him for attending. Mr. Engel gave a brief history of his experience during the Holocaust, and encouraged all to come to the ceremony commemorating the Holocaust on April 19, 2015. Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Clark, to approve the Holocaust Proclamation, carried unanimously. Councilman Kaynard then lighted candles in memory of those lost in the Holocaust. He explained the significance of the candles, and Mayor O'Neil followed with a moment of silence.**
- 2. Motion was made by Councilwoman Middaugh, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve the People Against Rape Proclamation of April 26, 2015 as Shattter the Silence, Stop the Violence Day, carried unanimously.**
- 3. Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Middaugh, to approve the Resolution of Opposition to Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling Activities, carried unanimously.**
- 4. Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Middaugh, to increase the prepaid legal at South Carolina Insurance Reserve Fund to \$235,000, carried unanimously.**
- 5. Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilwoman Middaugh, to amend the agenda to take action on the Planning Commission appointment after Executive Session, carried unanimously.**
- 6. Motion was made by Councilman Clark, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to have First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015-01, An Ordinance for the Sale of Lot 82-1/2 in the Town of Sullivan's Island, carried unanimously.**
- 7. Motion was made by Councilwoman Middaugh, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, to have First Reading of Ordinance No. 2015-02, An Ordinance for the Sale of Lot 11 Block 12; Lot 10 Block 12; and Lot 4 Block 12 in the Town of Sullivan's Island, carried unanimously.**

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. General and New Correspondence – Correspondence received was presented at the March Workshop: from Anita Zucker, Chair of the TriCounty Cradle to Career; David Fortiere regarding the accreted land, Glen Gardner regarding proposed landscape; Will Muirhead regarding school project; Fred Tetor sending appreciation to Council for support of the annual Hunley Memorial; Cary Love regarding People Against Rape event; Allison Kaufman sending appreciation to the Fire Department; and Representative Rick Quinn regarding HB 3490. No additional correspondence was received.**
- 2. Attorney's Report – no report.**

3. Boards and Commissions Reports

Planning Commission - Report rendered. Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson reported that the Planning Commission at its February 11, 2015 meeting considered the study of raising fence heights. They recommended to not amend the ordinance to change fence heights.

Park Foundation – Councilwoman Watson stated the tickets for the Round on the Mound event on April 18, 2015 are available for sale on the Park Foundation’s website, SIPF.org.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mayor O’Neil. Monthly report rendered. Comptroller Blanton was unable to attend the meeting; Administrator Benke reported the six-month financials ending in December were on target, as well as the February financials.

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Clark. Monthly reports rendered.

Managed Parking – Councilman Clark reported that Administrator Benke, Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson and Fire Chief Stith are continuing to take parking space inventory, including those areas with encroachments on the right of way. Administrator Benke stated Council has not yet decided whether to proceed with managed parking, and the timeline would be tight to try to accomplish it for this summer. The inventory needs to be completed and submitted to SC DOT for approval; also finalize details with vendors, order signs, and have public meetings. Councilman Kaynard suggested to prepare and submit the plan to SC DOT so it will be in advance of any potential administrative time delays for submitting. A Public Safety meeting will be scheduled after the parking inventory is completed.

Fire Apparatus on Middle Street – The Public Safety Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss parking on Middle Street relative to the fire trucks. With cars parking on both sides of Middle Street, it is very difficult to maneuver fire trucks to emergency calls. The commercial district personnel and nearby residents will be invited to the public meeting.

Coyote Management – Police Chief Howard reported that the coyote sightings have decreased.

Ladder Truck Construction – The ladder truck is due the first week of May.

Port Security Grant – The Town received a FEMA Port Security Grant of \$310,000 for a fire rescue boat that has a cabin on it for year-round safety of our employees during rescues. The Town also contributed additional funds for the boat.

Water and Sewer Committee – Councilwoman Middaugh. Monthly reports rendered.

Committee Minutes – Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Clark, to approve the Water and Sewer Committee minutes from January 22, 2015, carried unanimously.

Status of I&I project – Councilwoman Middaugh reported that the I&I project will be almost finished this week. Arcadis will review the videotapes of the sewer and return to finish identified priority items. An I&I on-site demonstration of state of the art grouting methods and new technology prototype equipment for grouting longitudinal stress fractures was held on the Island on February 10, 2015. It was attended by 35 professionals from neighboring SC water and sewer systems, including Charleston Water Systems, Mt. Pleasant, North Charleston, Kiawah and Summerton water systems.

Request for ROW landscaping – Councilwoman Middaugh stated they received a request from a resident to plant landscaping in the right-of-way about 20 feet off the road. They have a 60 foot right-of-way, and ordinances prohibit any planting in the right-of-way regardless of the depth. Once the resident submitted a drawing, it was determined the plantings would be over the water main. There are also underground electrical and cable lines. Council turned the matter over to staff for their review and recommendation back to Council.

Administration Committee – Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. Action items were completed at beginning of the meeting.

Council Retreat – Potential dates will be circulated, including possibility of a weekday from 3-6pm. Committees will inform Administrator Benke of items they wish to place on the Planning Retreat agenda.

Special Meeting of Town Council – A Special Meeting of Town Council has been advertised for March 25, 2015 to have Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2015-01 and No. 2015-02 for the sale of Town lots.

Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Mayor O’Neil. Monthly report rendered.

Committee Minutes – Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to approve LUNR Committee minutes from February 5, 2015 and November 20, 2014, carried unanimously 3-0.

Offshore Drilling – Resolution approved at beginning of meeting tonight.

Request of Accessory Use Structure at 3117 Marshall – This request was discussed at the LUNR Committee meeting on November 20, 2014. They discussed the current building regulations and language from the Comprehensive Plan, and why it would not be permitted. Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, that Council put forth to the Planning Commission the request for consideration of accessory use structure absent of a principal building at 3117 Marshall Boulevard, as it would affect the zoning ordinance, carried unanimously. Mayor O’Neil stated the Planning Commission would study the nature of the request and determine what kind of changes in the zoning ordinance would be required, and then study whether this general issue is something they should consider for recommendation to Council.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilwoman Cooper. Monthly report rendered.

Landscape in ROW Request – This was discussed during the Water & Sewer Committee tonight. The staff will contact the owner of 227 Station 31 Street, and report back to Council.

Town Hall Project – Administrator Benke reported that he continues to work on the contract. A complete set of construction drawings have been received and are available at Town Hall for the public to review.

Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Watson.

Committee Minutes – Motion was made by Councilwoman Middaugh, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve the Committee minutes from March 3, 2015, carried 2-0 (Councilwoman Cooper abstained because she was not present at the meeting).

Tennis Courts at Citadel and Artillery – Administrator Benke reported that a pre-construction meeting was held with Truluck Construction, and construction will begin in early April. Councilwoman Watson stated The Park Foundation is giving \$41,500 toward the project.

St. Patrick's Day at the Park – It was a great success with about 350 people attending. Councilwoman Watson thanked everyone for their help with its success.

Round on the Mound – The Round on the Mound will be held April 18, 2015.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to go into Executive Session for Personnel matter and legal advice at 7:32 p.m., carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to come out of Executive Session at 8:35 p.m., carried unanimously. Mayor O'Neil stated no action or votes were taken.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Middaugh, to nominate Charles Cole to fill the unexpired term of Rusty Bennett on the Planning Commission, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, that if the low-bidder of the Nature Trail qualifies, the contract can be executed, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Clark, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, to waive the business license fee for Hill Construction as the general contractor for Town Hall, on the condition that it does not apply to the subcontractors, and it would exclude any work that Hill Construction self-performed, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Kaynard to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Ellen Miller