

July 21, 2015

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

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor  
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Sarah Church, Councilmember  
Mark Howard, Councilmember  
Rita Langlely, Councilmember  
Susan Middaugh, Councilmember  
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark. There were twenty people in the audience, including two members of the media.

Before public comment, Mayor O'Neil introduced members of the Charleston Running Club, and President Paul McDonald presented a \$2,300 donation to Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue. Fire Chief Anthony Stith stated the Charleston Running Club has been instrumental in conducting the Floppin' Flounder race here, and they have made it one of the premiere races in Charleston. The Sullivan's Island Fire and Rescue appreciates their support, and this donation will help tremendously in their rescue efforts. Mayor O'Neil expressed appreciation to the club and to club member and owner of Prime Time Fitness, Meredith Nelson, for their contributions to the fitness and wellness of the Island and greater Charleston community.

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

Ward Lasso, 2802 Jasper Blvd., stated Council members have received his correspondence for a request for access across town-owned property, and inquired if it would be discussed tonight. This item was referred to the Public Facilities Committee in June, and they are scheduled to meet this Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Addison Ingle, 1719 Atlantic Avenue, congratulated the Police Department on the security of the entire Island, and jokingly said also the Police station, as there is a Sonitrol sign in front of the building.

Residents Abby Kobraski and John Fradella expressed their support for the proposed bird banding project by Sarah Harper Diaz.

## **II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Council Minutes – Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on June 16, 2015,**

carried unanimously. Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Church, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 Special meeting, carried unanimously.

### **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. General and New Correspondence** – Correspondence was received from Dr. Patrick Kelly expressing his appreciation for assistance from Firefighter Ryan North; from Dr. Rick Reed expressing support for the bird banding project request; and from Ward Lasso regarding access across town-owned property to build a dock.

**2. Mayor's Report** – Mayor O'Neil noted Council will try different ways to allow more audience participation. Tonight is the regular Council meeting, which is focused on action items and official action rather than discussion among Councilmembers. The audience will have the opportunity after each agenda section to ask questions. The Council Workshop and individual Committee meetings are the main forums for discussion among Councilmembers. The audience will have the opportunity after each Committee section to ask questions. He continued that these slight changes are a work-in-progress, and welcomed comments and suggestions.

#### **3. Administrator's Report**

Citadel Street Tennis Courts – The expected completion of this project is mid-August.

Town Hall and Police Station Building – Hill Construction has completed site preparation and sub-soil compaction, and will begin foundation work later this week. A pre-construction meeting between the general contractor, Creech & Associates and Town staff will be held August 4, 2015.

DHEC Beach Monitoring Results – The water quality samples for May and June indicate water samples for enterococcus exceeded the requirements by DHEC.

Battery Thompson Fence – A new perimeter fence is currently being installed at Battery Thompson, through a donation from General Dynamics.

Right-of-Way Encroachment – As a precursor to the parking plan, staff is contacting various residents who have placed encroachments in the right-of-way.

South Carolina Department of Transportation Resurfacing – The Town will conduct a final walk through of the areas recently resurfaced by SCDOT before the end of July.

**4. Attorney's Report** – no report.

#### **5. Board and Commissions Reports** –

Planning Commission – Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson reported that the Planning Commission continued its discussion on text amendments to allow stand-alone structures on residentially zoned properties when a conservation easement has been established. They decided to convene an ad hoc committee on July 31, 2015 to refine the language for text amendments.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee** – Mayor O’Neil. Monthly report rendered.

Comptroller Blanton stated the financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 showed the majority of revenue accounts finished above the projected amount. Also, during this year the Town received \$85K from the Toler’s Cove Yacht Club for use of the Town’s spoil area. The report will be discussed at the Council Workshop.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Town Audit - The auditors will be conducting the FY15 audit beginning the first week of August, with their report presentation tentatively scheduled for the September Council meeting.

**Public Safety Committee** – Councilmember Clark. Monthly reports rendered.

Public Safety Committee Minutes – **Motion was made by Councilmember Church, seconded by Mayor O’Neil, to approve the Public Safety Committee Minutes from July 16, 2015, carried unanimously, 3-0.**

Parking Plan Engineering Study – The parking plan engineering study will be paid from the hospitality fund. This study will capture the volume of traffic on the Island during the Labor Day weekend, and the information will be used in the parking plan to submit to the State. **Motion was made by Councilmember Langley, seconded by Councilmember Church, to hire Stantec to conduct the parking plan engineering study for the Town using funds from the hospitality tax, carried unanimously.**

Coyote Management – Police Chief Howard reported a few coyote sightings, occurring mostly at night.

Unmanned Aircraft System (Drones) – Staff and Councilmembers will continue to monitor this situation, and will address as needed. Administrator Benke stated the FAA technically has authority of air space, and it has not made a ruling on the matter. In the absence of any FAA guidance, cities and counties have adopted local ordinances regarding drones. Councilmember Middaugh expressed concern that a kiteboarder along the beach could be affected by a drone.

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Councilmember Middaugh. Monthly reports rendered.

I&I Project Phase I – The Town is waiting on the final report.

Status of FEMA Grant Application – The Town is waiting on the results of the grant application. The Town cannot begin any work submitted in the grant application scope of work, including any associated engineering, because it would disqualify the application. Councilmember Middaugh stated the Committee will meet this month with the engineer who prepared the application to go over the actual plans. While waiting on the results of the FEMA grant, the Committee will start working on a funding package for Phase II of I&I.

**Administration Committee** – Councilmember Howard. Monthly report rendered.

**Application for Boards and Commissions – Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Church, to accept the revised application for the Boards & Commissions, carried unanimously.**

**Land Use and Natural Resources Committee** – Councilmember Langley. Monthly report rendered.

**Plastic Bags, Historic Guidelines, and Bird Banding Project and Environmental Program** will be discussed at the next LUNR meeting set for July 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

**Public Facilities Committee** – Councilmember Smith. Monthly report rendered.

**Committee meeting** – A Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The agenda includes discussion on the Station 17 Street Water Plant fencing; the Flag Street access trail for SIES; boardwalk construction at 29 and 23, and ADA improvements at Station 18-1/2 Street, a beachpath boardwalk from SIES to the beach, and the Island Clubhouse status and potential upgrades.

**Raven Drive Extension** – Discussion will resume after Mr. Horan obtains information from area residents' regarding the name change.

**Recreation Committee** – Councilmember Church. Monthly report rendered.

**Island Clubhouse** – The Island Club structure is in poor condition and needs to be improved, and/or alternatives should be considered. The Recreation and Public Facilities Committees will work together on this item.

**Farmer's Market** – This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**Park and Mound Engineering Study** – Administrator Benke stated the Town's funding portion was authorized, and the Park Foundation will match to cover the total cost of the study, if Council is ready to proceed. After discussion, Councilmember Church stated the engineering study will be put on hold until after the Committee meets with the Park Foundation in order to clarify what the park needs.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Howard, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to go into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. for legal advice on 2015-CP-10-0449 SC Wild Olive Group et al. v. Town of Sullivan's Island et al.; 2014-CP-10-2623 Boehm v. Town of Sullivan's Island et al.; 2014-CP-10-5776 Coste v. Sullivan's Island; and 1401 Middle Street short term rental, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Langley, to come out of Executive Session at 8:02 p.m., carried unanimously. Mayor O'Neil noted that no votes or action were taken during Executive Session.**

Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Howard, to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Miller