

August 18, 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 Langley, 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 approximately 15 people in the audience, with no members of the media present.

Mayor O'Neil introduced Johnna Murray, Director of Community Development for Charleston County, who presented information regarding the 2017-2021 five year plan to be submitted to HUD. It is for infrastructure, housing, sidewalks, etc. for low to moderate income county residents. The past five years the plan was geared toward infrastructure and housing rehabilitation of substandard homes.

Mayor O'Neil introduced Jeff Burns, Director of Operations and Planning for CARTA. Mr. Burns gave an overview of CARTA operations last year, as well as their 2016 budget. The budget for 2016 shows a fare increase, as there has not been an increase in five years. Three buses have been ordered and five to seven more will be ordered, as they have the oldest fleet in the United States. While there is not a route specific for Sullivan's Island, the service is available for door to door for medical needs. The shuttle service to the beach project previously researched has been tabled. Mr. Burns stated the CARTA budget reflected that the local jurisdictions (Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms) needed to fund 50% of the project, and those jurisdictions have not pursued this idea.

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

Jessica Hardesty Norris, 1227 Oakcrest Drive, James Island, President of the Charleston National History Society/Charleston Audubon Society, expressed support for the proposed bird banding station by Sarah Harper Diaz.

II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Council Minutes – Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meeting on July 21 2015, carried unanimously, 6-0.

2. Resolutions of Appreciation were presented by Mayor O’Neil to former Councilmembers Hartley Cooper, Jerry Kaynard, and Mary Jane Watson.

3. Resolution Identifying the Dangers of Single-use Plastic Bags was unanimously approved, 6-0.

4. Appointment to Boards and Commissions – Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Church, to amend the agenda to move this item to after Executive Session, carried unanimously, 6-0.

(Councilmember Langley came into the meeting at this time.)

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. General and New Correspondence – No new correspondence was received since the Council Workshop on August 3, 2015. Administrator Benke noted that at the Workshop Council did not direct staff or assign to a Committee two items: Request for reconsideration of tree planting along Station 18-1/2 Street beach path; and request for consideration of Eagle Scout project to paint the front side of Battery Thompson.

- Reconsideration of Tree planting along Station 18-1/2 Street beach path: Mr. Sellers’ landscaper will not begin any work until after Mr. Sellers and Mr. Myatt have met, and Council asked Chief Stith and Mr. Benke to also attend this meeting.

- Request to paint front side of Battery Thompson: Mr. Benke will meet with the Coastal Defense Study Group to determine what the color should be.

2. Mayor’s Report – No report.

3. Administrator’s Report –

Citadel Street Tennis Courts – The project has reached substantial completion and the courts have been released for play. Staff is expected to have a final walk through with the architect and contractor before the end of August.

Town Hall and Police Station Building – Hill Construction began foundation work and planned to pour concrete in the elevator pit today; however, were unable to do so due to the heavy rain. A construction progress meeting between the general contractor, Creech & Associates and Town staff will be held on August 25, 2015. The first pay application in the amount of \$201,932 has been submitted to the architect for review.

Labor Day Holiday – Town staff will observe Labor Day on Monday, September 7, 2015. Town Hall will be closed; however, all essential departments will be fully staffed.

September Council Meetings – The previously published meeting schedule shows the Council Workshop on Wednesday, September 2 at 6 pm, and the Council meeting on the third Monday, September 21 at 6 pm.

4. Attorney's Report – no report.

5. Boards and Commissions Reports –

Planning Commission – Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson stated that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on September 9, 2015 regarding potential zoning ordinance language changes on conservation easement uses and structures.

Design Review Board – Mr. Henderson reported that at its September 16, 2015 meeting the Design Review Board will have discussion of revising design guidelines as requested by the Land Use and Natural Resources Committee.

Park Foundation – Kay Smith of the Park Foundation gave a brief history of the Park Foundation. One of the main goals is building the community and promoting civic pride and public spaces. It was formed twenty five years ago as a community-based response to the devastation suffered during Hurricane Hugo. The master plan for the park was developed years ago, with a few minor revisions through the years. Council approved a \$14,500 expenditure in the Town's FY2013-14 budget for an engineering study of the mound at Stith Park. It was not done, and the funding was carried over to the FY2014-15 budget. The total cost of the study is \$36,350, with the Park Foundation committed to paying the difference. A meeting was held on June 2, 2015 with Thomas and Hutton, an engineering firm selected by the Town. The study was to begin immediately, with completion in 25 working days. The Park Foundation needs the engineering study in order to determine what, if any, improvements can be made to the mound. Because the study has not yet started, she asked Council if they have decided to not fund the study.

Councilmember Church stated she informed the Park Foundation that Council decided to suspend the study in order to review its purpose before making any decisions. She continued that the four newly-elected Council members were not familiar with the study, and different ideas had circulated about what may be done as a result of the study. Because of that, the Recreation Committee wanted to meet with the Park Foundation in September to hear directly from the Foundation about its plans. Some of the circulating ideas involved projects that may not have the support of Council; therefore, Council did not want the Town or the Park Foundation to spend money on a study that may not be needed.

Kay Smith, along with resident Manda Poletti, expressed concern because the point of the study was they were unsure what they could actually do with the mound without an engineering study. The study was supposed to move forward on June 5th and should have already been completed.

This item will be placed on the Recreation Committee agenda for further discussion, to include meeting with the Park Foundation.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mayor O’Neil. Monthly report rendered. Comptroller Blanton reported items to note in the July statement were the receipt of \$37,000 from Charleston County to help with the cost of additional police officers during the summer and other busy times; and the first installment payment of \$22,627 was made to the State Revolving Fund for the sewer line rehabilitation. The auditors are completing their research and will present the audit at the September Council meeting.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember Church. Monthly report rendered.

Committee Minutes – **Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Langley, to approve the Committee minutes of August 14, 2015, carried unanimously, 3-0.**

Battery Gadsden – The Committee will report to Council after further information is received.

Island Club – Information regarding structural findings and anticipated repairs still needed before presenting to Council.

Farmer’s Market – The Committee will give a recommendation to Council at the next Workshop. The recommendation will include having an advisory board for detail work and to have a one-time farmer’s market”test-run” in the spring.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilmember Smith. Monthly report rendered.

Island Clubhouse – As mentioned in Recreation Committee, further information is needed before proceeding.

Station 17 Street Water Plant Fence – The Committee will discuss a plan to present to Council for next year’s budget. In addition, an island-wide program to address the aesthetics of some of the Town’s facilities will be discussed.

Committee Minutes – **Motion was made by Councilmember Howard, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to approve the minutes of the Public Facilities Committee meeting on August 5, 2015, carried unanimously, 3-0.**

Raven Drive Extension – Input from the residents regarding the name change is needed before discussion by Council.

Sullivan’s Island Elementary School Bicycle/Walker Access – An alternative to the proposed Flag Street access path was developed at a Committee meeting along with Chief Howard, Chief Stith, and Principal Susan King. Vehicles will use Station 19 to access I’on Avenue; and cyclists/walkers will cross at Station 18-1/2 to Middle Street to go towards the Fire Station, and then cross at Station 20-1/2 to go to school. This temporary alternative may become permanent if it works adequately. Cross-walk striping will be placed at Station 18-1/2 and Middle Street. The

cross-walk striping erroneously placed at the front of Mike Perkis Place was removed and it is now at Station 20-1/2 Street.

Sullivan's Island Elementary School Boardwalk to Beach – At the Council Workshop on August 3, 2015 the boardwalk to the beach was authorized; however, the funding will be through non-Town monies.

Boardwalk Construction and Improvement – At the Council Workshop on August 3, 2015, it was agreed the boardwalk construction at Stations 29 and 23; and ADA improvements at Station 18-1/2 which was previously approved and funded through Greenbelt funds, would begin.

Right-of-Way Cutting along SC703 Bike Path – At the Council Workshop on August 3, 2015, it was agreed for Maintenance staff to cut the current vegetation in the right-of-way on SC703 bike path.

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

Bird Banding and Environmental Program – **Motion was made by Councilmember Langley, seconded by Councilmember Church, to approve a bird banding project and environmental program in the accreted land; however, if any new scientific evidence states that such banding harms birds, the project will be suspended, carried unanimously, 7-0.**

Resolution regarding Single-use Plastic Bags – Resolution was unanimously approved earlier in the meeting.

Review of Historic Guidelines – The Design Review Board will be reviewing this at their regular meeting on September 16, 2015.

Invasive Species (Popcorn Trees in Accreted Land) – Consensus of Council was to ask Tree Consultant Jeff Jackson to provide a price quote for the hack and squirt method for eliminating popcorn trees in the accreted land.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Howard. Monthly report rendered.

Boards and Commissions – The applications for the Boards and Commissions terms expiring in September will be discussed during Executive Session tonight, followed by return to regular session for appointments.

Establishing Procedures – This is still in research mode and will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

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

Distribution System – Lead and copper samples will be taken this week; this procedure is done every three years.

Waterline Project – The new 800 foot water main on Poe Avenue was installed, pressure-tested and vacuumed. The service will be tied-in this week.

Lien Placement – Correspondence regarding non-payment of bills by property owners will include placement of lien on property if needed.

Sewer – The I&I project effectiveness study will be completed later than expected in order to include two more rain events in order to capture more information. Related to that, four inches of rain was received today between 2-6 p.m. with a flow rate of 800K gallons. Before this project, the same rain event would have had a flow rate over one million gallons.

Committee meeting scheduled – The next Water and Sewer Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss funding for Phase II of I&I.

Public Safety Committee – Councilmember Clark. Monthly reports rendered.

Managed Parking – Work continues on the Managed Parking project.

Unmanned Aircraft System (drones) – The FAA is looking at limits of 400-500 feet and also the weight and size of drones.

Rescue Boat – The rescue boat obtained through the Port Security grant is at the Fire Station, and the inspection will take place on August 25. The rescue boats received through this grant are scheduled to be under the Arthur Ravenel Bridge on September 11, 2015, as firefighters (including two from Sullivan’s Island Fire Department), will be walking with full gear across the bridge in a remembrance walk of September 11, 2001.

Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Howard, to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m., carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to come out of Executive Session at 8:35 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 Smith, to re-appoint Gary Visser, Hal Currey, Carl Hubbard and Sydney Cook to the Planning Commission, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Langley, to re-appoint Elizabeth Tezza and Summer Eudy; and appoint Jody Latham, Peter Richardson and James Elliott to the Board of Zoning Appeals, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Church, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to re-appoint Steve Herlong and Rhonda Sanders; and appoint Beverly Bohan to the Design Review Board, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Langley, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to re-appoint Ken Spicer and appoint Mary English to the Tree Commission, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mayor O'Neil, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to send a letter of thanks to all applicants, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Church, to adjourn at 8:40 pm., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Miller