

September 5, 2012

A Special Meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem
Hartley Cooper, Councilwoman
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman
Pat O'Neil, Councilman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

Mayor Pro Tem Perkis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the public and press were duly notified according to State law. The Town Hall was overflowing with citizens, and there were representatives from five television and newspaper organizations. **Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to defer Executive Session until later in the meeting, carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pro Tem Perkis opened the floor for public comment. Over twenty-five citizens commented their support of the school. One resident agreed with 95% of everything about the school, but stated we can do better than what we have.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkis stated the project has been fully vetted and eight regulatory agencies have reviewed the project. He read a portion of correspondence received from J. Rutledge Young, III of Duffy & Young, LLC. It explained that he was retained to represent residents Jim Marianski and Barbara Spell, who initiated (with others) the process to initiate an ordinance by citizen petition. It further states that Sullivan's Island Town Council appears to be disregarding the S.C. Statutes regarding this process.

Councilman Kaynard responded to a question earlier concerning the purpose of tonight's meeting. He stated that Council will receive legal advice in Executive Session in order to respond to Mr. Young's letter. Also on the agenda for Council's consideration is a resolution of support for the school. He commented that he, along with some other Council members, is not just supportive of the school; they are passionate about the school. He continued that this is the most fun he has had while on Council; and it makes every tough decision and every tough meeting worthwhile. He thanked Charleston County Schools Superintendent Nancy McGinley, SIES Principal Susan King, as well as resident Loren Ziff for the great job they are doing for the children.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to adopt a resolution by the Town of Sullivan’s Island reaffirming its support and commitment to the Charleston County School District for the rebuilding and operation of an elementary school on Sullivan’s Island. Mayor Pro Tem Perkis then read aloud the last paragraph of the resolution, urging the Charleston County School Board to expedite construction for the rebuilding of the school on Sullivan’s Island in consideration of the 413 enrolled students displaced from their school. **Motion carried unanimously.** School Principal Susan King commented the actual number of enrolled students is 412.

Councilman Kaynard stated another paragraph in the resolution that was not read aloud commends the Charleston County School Board for their courageous and prudent decision to rebuild five elementary schools that were in danger because of seismic substandard conditions. He continued if he could consolidate the resolution into a few words, it would be “Act now. Rebuild SIES.”

Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman O’Neil, to go into Executive Session for legal advice – petition for referendum of Sullivan’s Island Elementary School at 7:12 pm, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman O’Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to come out of Executive at 8:42 pm, carried unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Perkis stated that no votes or action took place in Executive Session.

(Councilwoman McGee left the meeting at this time).

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve a resolution as amended, changing the language of 413 students to 412 students enrolled, carried unanimously with five votes.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to adjourn at 8:45 pm, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller