

September 18, 2012

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: Carl Smith, Mayor
Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem
Hartley Cooper, Councilwoman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

There were eight members in the audience, and one member of the media present.

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer by Councilwoman Watson.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

Mayor Smith introduced Larry Finney of Greene Finney & Horton Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Finney gave an overview of the fiscal year 2012 audit, and stated the audit opinion is “unqualified,” which is the best opinion the Town can receive. He stated specific reasons for the Town to maintain an adequate fund balance were cash flow, risk of emergency such as hurricane, risk of utility infrastructure repair and replacement, and savings for operational changes. The General Fund fund balance increased by approximately \$.4 million from \$3.2 million to \$3.6 million. The unassigned fund balance for the General Fund is approximately \$3.3 million which is approximately 90% of 2012 General Fund expenditures. Of the unassigned balance, the reserve for emergency expenditures has a balance of \$1 million, and for capital improvements has a balance of \$.25 million. The revenues in FY2012 were higher than budget by approximately \$441,000 primarily due to: \$175,000 for the Charleston County School District impact fee that was unbudgeted; licenses were higher than budgeted by \$121,000; property taxes were higher than budgeted by \$45,000; one-time payment by Charleston County of \$40,000 to help offset additional public safety expenses for the summer was unbudgeted. Expenditures were higher than budgeted by \$103,000 primarily due to Town Hall relocation expenses of \$88,000 were unbudgeted since the majority of these expenses were incurred in the prior year.

Mr. Finney continued that the Water Fund balance looked good; however, the Sewer Fund balance was not as healthy. In the Water and Sewer funds, unrestricted cash increased \$278,000 in the Water fund and increased \$38,000 in the Sewer fund. Cash balances now represent approximately 11.5 months of Water operating expenses and four months of Sewer operating expenses. The net assets of Water and Sewer increased \$77,000 to \$7.8 million; \$973,000 which is unrestricted. 2012 revenues increased by \$85,000 primarily due to rate increases and a Sewer Federal Grant of \$59,000. 2012 expenses increased by \$41,000 over the prior year, primarily due to the Sewer Federal Grant expenses. There was \$197,000 in transfers to the General Fund for reimbursement of expenses paid by general fund.

Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to amend the agenda to add CARTA Resolution as Item number 2 under Council Action Items, carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith presented Resolutions of Appreciation for service to the Town to outgoing Board and Commission members: Aussie Geer (Planning Commission), Kelly Messier (Design Review Board), and Bachman Smith (Board of Zoning Appeals).

The floor was opened for public comment.

Wayne Stelljes, 3104 I'on Ave., asked Council to review the use of the Town's public areas for commercial activity; to possibly use marking tape in the park area to show location of Scenario #2 for a new Town Hall; and to build the new school.

Chauncey Clark, 2119 Pettigrew, stated since the mosquitoes have been so bad this year, he asked the mosquito abatement office about their procedures. Mr. Clark said their office should be notified by anyone who is having problems. Their office will schedule a treatment right away for any hot spots. Administrator Benke stated there is also a form on the Charleston County website under mosquito abatement that can be completed by any person having problems with mosquitoes. Mr. Clark also stated that the Town needs to consider what it and residents can do to help with the situation.

Mark Howard, 1820 Central Ave., stated while he was out of town he noticed a sewage treatment facility that had a tent over it. If the Town Hall is built in the park area and because the mound is used for events, the Town might consider the use of a tent to cover that portion of the sewer plant. Mr. Howard stated he is concerned that the ordinance to shorten the ordinance ratification time might not give adequate public speaking time before a law is passed, and that is coupled with the reduction of public speaking time to two minutes at Council meetings. Mr. Howard inquired if the front beach lawsuit expense was covered by insurance. Mayor Smith answered that insurance does cover a portion of the expenses, but the Town pays for the difference. Lastly, Mr. Howard questioned whether the Park Foundation had an opinion on the location of the new Town Hall. Councilwoman Watson answered that the Park Foundation met last night and is preparing an all-encompassing statement about Town Hall and the Foundation's vision and goals.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 21, 2012 and the Special Meetings of Council on September 5, 2012 and September 11, 2012, carried unanimously.

II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion was made by Councilwoman Cooper, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to have Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2012-05, An Ordinance to Amend Section 2-27 Procedure for Enactment of Town Ordinances. Mayor Smith stated he was voting in favor of this ordinance; however, he disagreed with it. In the past the First Reading has announced that the ordinance was being considered, with two

readings after that time. Councilman Perkis stated the ordinance gives sufficient time with two months, and it will give the public plenty of time. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve a Resolution approving the CARTA 2013 budget as presented by the CARTA Executive Director at the last Council meeting, carried unanimously.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

General and New Correspondence – Administrator Benke stated the only new correspondence was referenced earlier during public comment by Mr. Stelljes regarding commercial use of Town property.

Attorney Report - no report

Boards and Commissions

Planning Commission – Chauncey Clark reported that their next meeting is a public hearing regarding amendments to Zoning Code Section 21-20 and Section 21-139 (B) .

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. The only new item to report is the Town has received notice about the Transportation Sales Tax funding for drainage improvement for Osceola and Thompson Avenue. Mr. Benke received a verbal acknowledgement this week from Charleston County Transportation Committee that they are funding a sidewalk on the seaward side of Middle Street between Station 22-1/2 and Station 23. They could not fund the improvement of the dirt road to the Station 26 boat landing.

Ways & Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly report rendered. Administrator Benke reported that the garbage and trash contract with Suburban Disposal will expire this month. The proposal from Suburban is for a seven percent increase with a lock-in on fuel. **Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to authorize Administrator Benke to execute the two year extension contract with a seven percent increase with Suburban Disposal, carried unanimously.**

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Cooper for Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. The applications are closed for the Zoning Administrator position, as well as applications for the open seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly reports rendered. A meeting of the Water and Sewer Committee is scheduled for September 21, 2012 at 8:30 am in the Water and Sewer Administration office. Water and Sewer Manager Greg Gress presented photographs of manholes, and described sewer capital projects. To date in fiscal year 2013, they have worked on the headworks hydrolic press and SCADA.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilwoman Cooper. Monthly report rendered.

Fire Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Fire Department and Volunteers will host the annual fire prevention display on October 10, 2012.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Watson. Construction continues on the tennis courts.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman Perkis for Councilman O'Neil. Monthly report rendered.

Consideration for a Permanent Town Hall - Councilman Perkis reported the end date for receiving resident surveys regarding Town Hall is September 29th. Council should be ready to discuss narrowing the choices for the permanent Town Hall at the October Council meeting.

Urban Greenbelt Grant Project - Councilman Perkis stated Councilman O'Neil had sent an e-mail asking Council to consider moving ahead with the five foot path with minimal expense for the first phase of the project. **Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to proceed with Jeff Jackson's proposal for Phase I of the nature trail at five feet wide, carried unanimously.**

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered.

Streets and Maintenance, Councilwoman McGee. Administrator Benke reported that the SC Department of Transportation was notified that the Town was not interested in taking ownership of the parking areas at Station 18 Street and Breach Inlet.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson , seconded by Councilman Perkis, to adjourn at 7:10 pm, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller