

May 20, 2008

The regular meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied:

Present were: Carl J. Smith, Mayor
Buddy Howell, Councilman
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
Mike Perkis, Councilman
Everett Presson, Councilman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith, followed by the invocation by Councilman Howle. There were sixteen members in the audience, including three members of the media.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Mr. Norwood Smoak, 2607 Bayonne, commented on the cutting of the wax myrtles in the accreted land, and wanted information concerning the investigation of illegal cutting during the pruning season. Henry Hagerty, 2213 Myrtle, stated he was concerned that the bar/restaurant area is getting out of hand and asked Council to consider limiting outside activity at these restaurants after 11:00 p.m., to see if that will resolve the problems. Nona Hastie, 2256 I'on, stated between now and when the commercial district report is completed, that a policeman should be posted at the corner of Station 22 and Dunleavy's after 1:00 a.m. Rusty Bennett, 3124 Marshall, stated he is helping to form the Sullivan's Island Better Business Association to help deal with issues in the commercial district. He stated the vast majority of patrons are well-behaved, but there are problems. Norman Khoury, 1728 I'on, stated he has seen an increase in traffic and people in the streets late at night, and asked Council to consider this is a quiet residential island when the commercial plan is done. Leo Fetter, 2668 Middle Street, expressed concern regarding underage drivers of golf carts. Julia Khoury, 1728 I'on, inquired if the investigation regarding the illegal tree cutting will be made public. Mayor Smith responded that the report would be made public. Larry Middaugh, 2420 Raven, commented on the fire in the accreted land last year. Brian Tezza, 2208 Jasper, stated he would like to see more police protection in the early hours of the morning. Bobby Riggs, an owner of Off the Hook restaurant, stated it is becoming more of a fresh seafood restaurant, to be called "Seels on Sullivan's Island." He added that they tried to change the parking situation by offering valet parking, but this method has not worked; and they have installed windows to help with noise reduction. Pat Votava, 2214 Jasper, thanked the Police and Council for their work, and added that safety is an issue.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from April 15, 2008; the Special Meeting minutes from April 1, April 21, and May 1, 2008, carried unanimously.

Reports and Communications

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve A Proclamation of May 2008 as Mental Health month, carried unanimously.

General and New Correspondence – No report.

Attorney's Report – No report.

Board and Commission Reports – No report.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. A special meeting for the public hearing of the FY09 budget will be held on June 2, 2008. The Cell Tower construction is underway; the operational target date is mid-June. A preliminary survey of local users of the Ravenel Bridge pedestrian/bike lane find that the structure is a tremendous asset for health improvement, attracting tourists, and providing an alternate means of transportation. Town Hall will be closed on May 26, 2008 in observance of Memorial Day.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. Councilman Perkis stated \$950,000 has been moved to SCGIP funds to obtain a better interest rate. Property tax revenue will be less than expected, but the business license revenue will be more than budgeted. Comptroller Blanton commented on the audit progress. He stated there were no serious omissions, and that it should be complete by mid-June. The Town will continue with its Waste Collection Agreement with Suburban. The Town staff has reviewed numerous software packages. The purchase is budgeted in FY08 and staff will be prepared to make a final selection in May.

Personnel Committee, Councilman Kaynard. The Police Department is fully staffed with officers and beach patrol. The Personnel Committee met on May 7, 2008 to begin work on job descriptions and salary analysis. The goal is to have merit/salary system based on regular employee evaluation. Chief Howard received a note from an Island visitor, commending the helpful assistance received from Officer Barton during and after a traffic accident. Officers Botticelli and Mast have completed the six month probation period, and have been recommended for full-time status and the appropriate salary increase.

Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis. The Water and Sewer Committee met on April 17, 2008 and April 20, 2008 to review the proposed FY09 budget. A rate increase for water and sewer was discussed to pay interest on the water bond. Manager Gress gave an update on the waterline replacement project. He said the area of Cove and Thompson should be completed by mid-June. Staff has prepared the Consumer Confidence Report. It will be mailed, along with the new rates, to residents in the near future.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Howle. Monthly report rendered. The annual Community Rating Service notice as required by the Insurance Services Office will be mailed to residents in the near future. Staff has proposed a fee schedule for consideration by Council which would adequately recover the expenses of the Building Department. This is to be reviewed and discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Fire Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Floppin' Flounder, combined with the Angel Touch Foundation, will hold its 5K run on June 14, 2008. All proceeds go to the Cancer Foundation. Chief Stith reported that the new hose and bunker gear have been received.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Watson. Councilwoman Watson will report on the Park Foundation's meeting at the next Committee meeting. Mayfest 2008 was held on May 10, 2008, featuring a golf cart parade, food, games, activities, and crafts. The Recreation Committee met on May 7, 2008 and accepted input from various groups regarding recreational and cultural opportunities on the Island. Creative Spark activities will continue this year. The S.C. Electric and Gas Company will extend the use of the pool to Island residents again this summer.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman Perkis for Councilman O'Neil. The variance granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals for 2662 Goldbug, and the vacation rental ordinance will be discussed in Executive Session tonight. The Raven Drive Extension will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. The Selection Committee met on May 9, 2008 to interview six consulting firms that submitted an RFP for the Community Commercial District Master Plan project. Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc. with Urban Edge Studio, LS3P, and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. were selected as the consultant for the project. **Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Presson, to amend the agenda to add legal advice on the Richardson/Dawsey lawsuit, carried unanimously.**

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. Mayor Smith stated he had spoken with County Councilman Schweers to see if the Town could receive help from the County regarding police staffing. He will speak with him again to see if the Town could receive any help.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilman Presson. A request for projects for the Transportation Sales Tax Program was submitted on May 9, 2008. Items for consideration included funding to supplement Middle Street drainage repairs and pavement; modifications to SC703 to construct a path on the northbound side and widen pavement for bicyclists; and traffic study and round-a-bout construction on Jasper Boulevard. General discussion will continue at the Committee meeting regarding paid parking on Sullivan's island. The County Transportation Committee's "C" Fund Project list is due by June 29, 2008. The project list has traditionally funded design and construction of the Middle Street Drainage Project. The latest update on the Ben Sawyer Bridge is that it will take place within the next two years.

Ordinances

Mayor Smith duly ratified An Ordinance to Amend Section 14-29 (SIC 30) of the Town Code (Smoking Ordinance) by Adding a Definition of “Person(s)” and Amending the Provisions Relating to Violations and Penalties.

Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Presson, to defer Second Reading of An Ordinance to Adopt Budget for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Howell, seconded by Councilman Kayard, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal advice concerning: vacation rental property, Board of Zoning Appeals Variance at 2662 Goldbug Avenue, S.C. Code of Laws 56-5-2540, 5-29-20, and 2-29-30; water and sewer charges for undeveloped lots, contract language from Coastal and Science Engineering, and the Richardson/Dawsey lawsuit, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Howle, to come out of Executive Session, carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith stated that no action or votes were taken during Executive Session.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney