

March 16, 2010

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
Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem
Buddy Howle, Councilman
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman
Patrick O'Neil, Councilman
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

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

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. There were no comments from the public.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve minutes from the regular meeting on February 16, 2010, carried unanimously.

Reports and Communications

General and New Correspondence – Correspondence was received from residents of the Jasper/Myrtle area west of Station 22-1/2, asking Council to be mindful of the residential area in split-zoned lots.

Attorney Report – No report.

Board and Commission Reports – Hal Currey, Chairman of the Planning Commission, stated the Commission met last week concerning the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources of the Comprehensive Plan. He added for Council to provide as much detail as possible regarding the overlay district so the Planning Commission can hold a public hearing and receive good public input.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. The Sullivan's Islanders and the Sullivan's Island Elementary School PTA hosted John W. (Billy) McCord of the Department of Natural Resources on March 11, 2010 for a talk about the ecological value of the Accreted Land. Principal Susan King explained the relation of the Accreted Land to the effort by the school to achieve partial magnet status with emphasis on marine and environmental science. Potential jurors have been mailed a summons for jury duty in Municipal Court beginning April 14, 2010. The Tree Commission is planning several

events for the State and National Arbor Day Celebration. Council has authorized the use of Tree Fund money for the purchase of signs and banners. Congratulations to Chloe Stapleton who was the winner of the 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest. Correspondence was received from Jan Merritt of 2514 Goldbug Avenue, Paige B. Sawyer, III of Georgetown, SC, and Elizabeth Durst Majeski of Mt. Pleasant, SC, regarding the renaming of the Ben Sawyer Bridge. Correspondence was received from Paula Skinner of 3302 Jasper Boulevard and Mary Hull and Sandy Frazier of 3206 Jasper Boulevard, regarding the Hunley Memorial; and Paula Skinner of 3202 Jasper Boulevard submitted a letter regarding marsh hen hunting. Special Event applications were received by High Thyme Cuisine and The Body Garden to participate in the St. Patrick's Day celebration; and the application submitted for the Seel's and Dunleavy's Half Marathon and 10K Race on April 11, 2010 was withdrawn.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. Councilman Perkis gave an overview of the February 2010 financial statement. Revenue is as expected, although dog tag sales are down, apparently due to the recent inclement weather. Expenditures appear to be as expected, with the exceptions of equipment and vehicle repairs. Staff has begun work on the FY2011 budget. The certificates of deposit at one institution will be maturing this month; the plan is to reinvest the money in 6 month and 1 year certificates of deposit. Councilman Perkis, a member of the Charleston County Grant Administration Advisory Board, stated that although the Town does not receive funds from this, there were requests of \$9.6 million and only \$1.3 million was available. He gave a brief overview of items funded. The Board makes their recommendations for use of these funds to Charleston County Council.

Personnel Committee, Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. Paul Fouchecourt has given his notice of retirement for June 25, 2010. There are two openings in the Water and Sewer department that have been advertised. The unfortunate passing of Betsy Richardson has created a vacant seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. The term of the open seat will expire in September 2010. The Mayor may appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term or staff may advertise for applications from residents interested in serving during the unexpired period. Mayor Smith stated that he would like to appoint Thom Hiers, who previously served as chairman and a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for years. Dr. Hiers has agreed to serve on the Board until the term expires in September 2010. The majority of Council agreed with this appointment, with Councilwoman McGee expressing the seat should be filled after advertising for applications. Chief Stith gave a preliminary report on an Island wide audible alert system. He stated the Island had an emergency warning siren system until it was damaged during Hurricane Hugo. He added the siren would be placed at two spots on the Island, probably near Station 16 and Station 27 areas. The basic price is \$25-\$50,000. Council will discuss placing in the next fiscal year budget.

Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly reports rendered. The Town potable water system received a satisfactory rating from the sanitary survey by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Water and Sewer Manager Greg Gress stated that they have completed about 400 feet of the current

waterline project, with 600 feet remaining. He added that the water table is extremely high, making the work more difficult.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Howle. Monthly report rendered. Building Official Randy Robinson gave an overview of the recent Community Rating System (CRS) review, and the new classification for the Island. The good news is the Insurance Services Office (ISO) stated the Town has gone from a Class 8 to a Class 6, which is a \$327,000 savings for insurance policy holders on the Island. This rating still needs to be reviewed and accepted by DHS/FEMA, and then should take effect in October 2010. Customers should notice a community discount on their insurance bill. This rating will continue for the next five years, until the next CRS review is done.

Fire Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The ladder truck has been repaired and is back in service. The Sullivan's Island Volunteer Fire and Rescue Oyster Roast was a success. A good size crowd was in attendance, with approximately \$8,000 raised.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Watson. Councilwoman Watson reported that the Park Foundation made approximately \$2,300 at the "Bridging the Island" party. She stated that the Park Foundation is sprucing up the Park for the rededication of the bridge. She questioned when the dirt on the ball field will be removed. Greg Gress stated his department is still using the dirt for their project, and it would cost approximately \$2-3,000 to move/dispose of the dirt. Mr. Gress will work on having the dirt removed. Councilwoman Watson stated the Park Foundation is not holding a spring dance this year, and needs help with funding the Fourth of July celebration. The Foundation has already made a \$5,000 deposit on the fireworks, but wants to ask The Town to pay for the remainder; and to pay for the celebration in future years. It will first be determined if that deposit is non-refundable. Hal Currey reported on the Bike-Friendly concept meeting, and stated the next meeting would be in April; and the application should be completed by mid-July. There was discussion concerning a northbound bike lane on the causeway. Administrator Benke reported that the Town could apply for a joint \$250K grant application for ½ cent sales tax funds with the Town of Mount Pleasant. It is a 80/20 match, with the Town of Sullivan's Island responsible for \$25,000. **Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to participate in the joint grant application with the Town of Mt. Pleasant, carried unanimously.**

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil.
Open Space Protection - Attorney Larry Dodds is researching information concerning parcels for the open space protection. Administrator Benke will explore getting the cost to have the parcels surveyed. Mr. Dodds stated that there might be a survey in place for the Old Bridge; however, the survey for the Dump would cost about \$5,000.
Community Commercial District Master Plan – The review of the consultant recommendations resulted in a list by Council containing three sections: (I) Suggestions which the Town has no interest; (II) Suggestions which the Town has immediate interest; and (III) Suggestions which may be of interest but require more study at a later time.

Revisions to the list included moving II (#1) Creation of commercial area overlay zone district to Section III; and add to Section III – look at means to limit parking on Middle Street. Administrator Benke will discuss the parking plan with Urban Edge Studio, and possibly obtain competitive bids.

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. Mayor Smith reported on the Police Committee meeting held February 23, 2010. Chief Howard will review several ordinances related to disturbing the peace, destruction of property and shouting/yelling in public for enhancements to the existing code language.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilwoman McGee. Councilwoman McGee presented minutes from the Streets and Maintenance Committee meeting on March 10, 2010. Items discussed were consideration of paid parking options and the review of possible changes to be made with the repaving of Middle Street. Chief Stith is coordinating the construction and placement of new beach signs. Mr. Mark Yodice of Thomas and Hutton had previously presented a preliminary review of the stormwater pump at Station 18. Councilwoman McGee suggested perhaps meeting with residents of the area who were not at his presentation. Councilwoman McGee, Councilman Perkis, and Greg Gress will schedule a meeting with the residents.

Mayor Smith duly ratified Ordinance 2010-01, An Ordinance to Amend Section 14-29 8 (A) of Chapter 14 of the Sullivan's Island Code of Ordinances.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for legal advice on the accreted land, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to come out of executive session, carried unanimously. Mayor Smith stated no action or votes were taken during Executive Session.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney