

June 16, 2015

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: Pat O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Mark Howard, Councilmember
Rita Langley, Councilmember
Susan Middaugh, Councilmember
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember
Former Councilmember Jerry Kaynard

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by former Councilmember William "Red" Wood. Town Hall was filled with residents, including a few members of the media.

Mayor O'Neil expressed his appreciation of Councilmember Kaynard's service to the Town over the past eight years, particularly as Mayor Pro-Tem after Mayor Perkis' death. Mayor O'Neil also expressed appreciation for the service of former Councilmembers Mary Jane Watson and Hartley Cooper, who could not be present this evening. Mayor O'Neil then administered the Oath of Office to Mark Howard, Rita Langley, and Bachman Smith, IV, for four year terms ending in 2019.

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

Ashley Hall students Auburn Jeffries and Margaret Quinn, and also Cecile Fletcher, presented information in support of a ban on single-use plastic bags, which are harmful to marine life.

Mike Horan requested Council's consideration to change the Raven Road extension name to the proposed name of Conlon Avenue, in honor of the family that lived in the area for over 110 years. Mr. Horan stated he would talk with neighbors to determine if they would support a street name change.

II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Council Minutes – Mayor O'Neil noted that only the members present at the meetings would vote on these tonight.

Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Church, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 19, 2015, carried by a vote of four (Councilmembers Church, Clark, Middaugh and O'Neil).

Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to approve the minutes from the Special meeting (Council Retreat) on May 27, 2015, carried by a vote of four (Councilmembers Church, Clark, Middaugh and O'Neil).

Motion was made by Councilmember Church, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on June 2, 2015, carried by a vote of four (Councilmembers Church, Clark, Middaugh, O'Neil).

2. Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Clark to approve a Resolution to Increase the Fund Balance from fiscal year 2014, carried unanimously. Comptroller Blanton stated Town Council passed a Resolution in 2011 to create a policy for the fund balance of the general fund, with stipulations as to how the surplus should be distributed. This process is usually done in the Fall, but due to Mayor Perkis' death, it was delayed. Mayor O'Neil summarized by stating the Town received more money this year than was spent, largely because of the \$4.1 million general obligation bond issuance, and a sold lot for over \$600,000. Those two amounts go directly to the capital improvement reserve. The remainder supplements emergency reserves, which should be between 25-30 percent of operating costs.

3. Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to approve a Resolution to Increase Water and Sewer Fees for fiscal year 2016, carried unanimously. Councilmember Middaugh explained these fees are for services such as water meter installations or change-outs, not for rates.

4. The Proclamation of June 28, 2015 as Carolina Day was approved.

5. Motion was made by Councilmember Church, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to approve the award of the Victim Advocate Fund, carried unanimously. The S.C. Code of Laws authorizes a surcharge on certain sections of the SC Code of Laws, and these funds provide direct services to victims of crimes and to organizations which provide services to victims of crimes. The Town recognizes the important contribution that People Against Rape (PAR) has made to victims and survivors of sexual assault in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties, and resolved to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 as requested by the organization.

6. Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Howard, to approve the Council Committees as presented, carried unanimously.

The Committees are:

Finance – Chair Pat O'Neil; Members - all Council members

Administration – Chair Mark Howard; Members Sarah Church, Susan Middaugh

Land Use and Natural Resources – Chair Rita Langley; Members Chauncey Clark and Pat O'Neil

Public Facilities – Chair Bachman Smith IV; Members Chauncey Clark and Mark Howard

Public Safety – Chair Chauncey Clark; Members Sarah Church and Pat O'Neil

Recreation – Chair Sarah Church; Members Rita Langley and Susan Middaugh

Water/Sewer – Chair Susan Middaugh; Members Mark Howard and Bachman Smith IV

7. Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Howard, to appoint Councilmember Clark to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem, carried by a vote of six, with Councilmember Clark abstaining.

III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **General and New Correspondence** – Correspondence received since the last Council Workshop included letters from Alys Anne Wiedeke regarding the Nature Trail; Jane Mundell regarding the location of turtle nests; and a letter from Mayor O’Neil and IOP Mayor Dick Cronin to Charleston County Council regarding emergency medical services on the islands.

2. **Attorney’s Report** – no report.

3. Boards and Commissions Reports

Planning Commission – Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson reported that the Planning Committee has scheduled a public hearing on July 8, 2015 to consider possible text amendments that would allow accessory-type structures on vacant properties without the existence of a principal building. The Planning Commission is expected to develop a recommendation to present to Town Council in August.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Comptroller Blanton reported the financial report for May 2015 shows all General fund and Water & Sewer fund revenue was as projected. Major expenses noted for the period were the new ladder truck of \$1,007,388.40; the Station 16 Nature Trail of \$53,800 (reimbursed to the Town from the Charleston County Urban Greenbelt grant); and the cost for design and construction to date of the Town Hall was approximately \$480,000.

Hospitality Tax - The Sullivan’s Island Business Association has submitted a request for hospitality tax expenditures. This will be discussed at the July Workshop.

Public Safety Committee – Councilmember Clark. Monthly reports rendered.

Managed Parking – The parking space inventory is complete and is being reviewed by staff. Quantifying summer traffic and parking needs continues to be studied.

Commercial District Parking – The no parking areas on Middle Street have been well-received and work well for the emergency vehicles.

Coyote Management – Chief Howard reported that the sightings have decreased slightly in the past month.

Fire Vehicles – The new fire truck is currently at the Fire Convention in Myrtle Beach, and will be featured in the Emergency One calendar. The fire boat is currently at the Fire Convention also, and will be here in about two weeks.

Fish Fry – The Fire and Rescue Fish Fry will be held on June 27, 2015 from 5-8 p.m. under the “Big Tin”.

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

Resolution to Increase W&S Fees for FY 2016 – was approved earlier in the meeting.

Approval of W&S Committee Minutes - Motion was made by Councilmember Clark, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to approve the Committee minutes of April 9, 2015 and May 13, 2015, carried unanimously, 2-0.

Status of I&I Project – W&S Manager Gress stated the I&I project has been extended until the end of the month for additional work.

Status of FEMA Grant Application – Councilmember Middaugh stated the results of the grant application should be available in September.

Water & Sewer Plant – Councilmember Middaugh mentioned that the City of Isle of Palms dedicated their new wastewater treatment facility. The upgrades for the Sullivan’s Island Water and Sewer facility appear to be very cost effective.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for Submersible Pumps – The Town may apply for this grant to help toward the pumping stations.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Howard. Monthly report rendered.

Boards and Commissions - Administrator Benke stated there are four vacancies on the Boards and Commissions: three members on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and one vacancy on the Design Review Board. These vacancies have been advertised, and to date two applications have been received. In addition to those four vacancies, there will be an additional nine Board and Commission seat terms expiring in September, which will also be advertised. The current member can reapply for seats if interested. Mayor O’Neil has appointed two past chairmen of the Board of Zoning Appeals to attend the BZA meetings until September to ensure a quorum. Council members will talk with residents interested in public service. The Committee will consider revising the current Board/Commission application.

Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Councilmember Langley. Monthly report rendered. No matters for discussion at this time.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilmember Smith. Monthly report rendered.

Station 16 Nature Trail – The nature trail was opened on June 12, 2015.

Raven Drive Extension – This was presented during public comment - a resident has requested to change the name of the street.

Station 26 Street Boat Landing – A resident has requested maintenance on Station 26 Street Boat Landing Road. It will be a budget item to explore.

Councilmember Clark reported on new matters to Council:

Sullivan’s Island Elementary School – The school wants a boardwalk to the beach, and various locations for that are being discussed.

Boardwalk Construction and Improvement – The boardwalk construction at Station 23 Street and ADA improvements at Station 18-1/2 Street are in discussion.

Sullivan's Island Elementary School Access Trail – Currently children riding bikes from the west end of the island along I'on Avenue to school ride into oncoming traffic due to parked vehicles. A possible access trail on Flag Street is in discussion in order to alleviate this safety issue.

Station 17 Street Water Plant – Water and Sewer Manager Gress met with residents Everett Presson and Todd Abedon about the possibility of new fencing around the property of the Station 17 Street Water Plant. Mr. Gress has also discussed with the owner of the adjacent property at 1714 Middle Street, as a portion of the current fence encroaches onto the property. Mr. Gress is obtaining prices for new fencing and possible removal of trees for further discussion and consideration.

Town Hall Construction – Groundbreaking for the new Town Hall took place this afternoon. The fencing will be put up after the July 4th celebration in the park. Because the parking lot between the Park and Fire Station will be closed for construction, visitors and employees will be notified of possible parking areas.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember Church.

Independence Day Celebration – The Committee has tentatively scheduled a Committee meeting on Friday, June 19th at 9:00 a.m. if the Town Hall is available at that time.

Park and Mound Engineering Study – Administrator Benke reported that the contract language is being reviewed with Thomas and Hutton.

Motion was made by Councilmember Middaugh, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to go into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. for legal advice on split-zoned lots, and legal advice on Violations of Section 21-117 et seq. (Vacation Rentals), carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Langley, to come out of Executive Session at 8:26 p.m., carried unanimously.

Mayor O'Neil stated that no votes or action were taken in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Middaugh, to adjourn at 8:27 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Miller