

August 21, 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  
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman  
Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman  
Patrick O'Neil, Councilman  
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

There were twelve 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 Christine Wilkinson, Executive Director of CARTA, who presented the CARTA draft budget for fiscal year 2013. She stated that with 10 months into their fiscal year, they have spent over \$16.5 million and the budget variance is only \$800. They continue to find efficiencies and savings that will allow expansion of services to the public; as well as ways to link Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms to regular transit service.

**Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to approve the CARTA draft budget for fiscal year 2013, carried unanimously.**

The floor was opened for public comment.

Matt Job, Executive Director of the S.C. United Mt. Pleasant Soccer Club, and Ralph Lundy, College of Charleston Soccer Coach, inquired about the use of the sports field and basketball court. The Recreation Committee will meet to discuss.

Wayne Stelljes, 3104 I'on Avenue, thanked Town Council and Administrator Benke for their efforts with the SC Department of Transportation to have the three-way stop sign removed.

Hal Coste, 322 Station 19 St., asked why the Town would want so many children coming to one area if the soccer club uses the field and basketball court.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 17, 2012 and the Special Meeting of Council on August 6, 2012, carried unanimously.**

## **II. COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to approve a Resolution for Financing Vehicles, carried unanimously.** This financing is for three police vehicles, two fire vehicles, and one water and sewer vehicle.

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to have Second Reading of Ordinance 2012-05, an Ordinance to Amend Section 2-27 Procedure for Enactment of Town Ordinances.** After much discussion, motion was passed by a vote of 6-1, with Mayor Smith opposed.

Personnel Committee – Department Heads and Employee Evaluation Forms. Councilman Kaynard stated the Personnel Committee recommends an annual evaluation process for all employees to help establish specific performance goals as well as provide recognition for additional training for their job. The current process is not changing to a full merit system, but only establishing an infrastructure to have the evaluations. **Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to approve and adopt the evaluation forms, carried unanimously.**

## **III. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**General and New Correspondence** – Administrator Benke stated correspondence was received late this afternoon from Matt Job concerning the use of sports fields presented earlier in the meeting, and from James Marianski requesting Council to reconsider the referendum for the school.

**Attorney Report** – no report

### **Boards and Commissions**

**Board of Zoning Appeals** – Board member Susan Middaugh inquired on the status of the Zoning Administrator position. Administrator Benke stated the application deadline was next week.

**Planning Commission** – Chairman Chauncey Clark reported that the Planning Commission continues to work on the Comprehensive Plan, and it deferred discussion on Section 21-20 (B) (6) and Section 21-139 (B) (2) until the September meeting.

**Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke.** No additional information to report since the last Committee meeting.

**Ways & Means Committee, Councilman Perkis.** Monthly report rendered. The Town received the \$175,000 payment from the Charleston County School District per the lease agreement. The auditors

will present the fiscal year 2011-2012 audit at the September Council meeting. Administrator Benke continues to work with Suburban on the contract renewal.

**Personnel Committee, Councilman Kaynard.** Monthly report rendered. Councilman Kaynard stated there are Personnel items on the Executive Session agenda tonight, including Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Smith stated he had a comment regarding personnel. He stated he was not contacted regarding the Special Meeting held August 6, 2012. He continued that the ordinance states a Special Meeting shall be held at the same place unless prevented by physical conditions at such times the Mayor shall call all designates on his own initiative, or on a written request of not less than three Council members. During discussion, it was stated that there was agreement with Council through e-mail communication, as well as discussing the possibility at a prior meeting. The Mayor's point was he was not contacted about this special meeting. He also asked to be copied on every e-mail regarding Committees because he is a member of all the Committees. Mayor Smith continued with another point regarding the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters that evening. About ten minutes was spent discussing two employees, the other time was spent harassing him and his position regarding the school, as well as why he asked for information about water and sewer that he is entitled to receive. He stated he did not appreciate the approach, and the comments should have been made to him in a public meeting, not executive session.

After further discussion with Council and Attorney Larry Dodds, it was clarified that e-mails among Council members solely to set a date for a meeting were allowed.

**Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis.** Monthly reports rendered. There are no operational issues. DHEC took samples in July and the verbal report was that all samples were satisfactory. Discussion of the possible projects for the State Revolving Fund Project Priority List for FY 2013 will continue.

**Building and Construction Committee, Councilwoman Cooper.** Monthly report rendered. The report shows building permits in July 2001 were \$479,000 and \$2,096,000 in July 2012.

**Fire Committee, Mayor Smith.** Monthly report rendered. No new items to report.

**Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Watson.**

Tennis Court - Administrator Benke reported that the schedule for the tennis court completion has been delayed by the frequent rain; however, the rain has made it obvious there is a problem with the subgrade soil. It is a very non-pervious clay type material. The contractor is removing about two feet of the old fill and replacing it with a more acceptable material. The contractor hopes to begin the asphalt process next week.

Mt. Pleasant Land Conservancy Land Protection – Councilwoman Watson reported the flyers were being distributed for the “Conservation Crawl” on August 25<sup>th</sup>. It will take place from about 1:30-5:00, travelling from the Fish Fry Shack to Station 9, Station 16, and the “Old Dump”, with presentations by the Mt. Pleasant Land Conservancy beginning at 3:15 followed with Birds of Prey.

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

Town Hall Option Meeting - The Real Estate Committee met on August 14, 2012 to finalize the community meeting about options available for the permanent Town Hall. He continued that Councilman Kaynard proposed providing employee survey results at the meeting, although Councilman O'Neil did not believe it was the appropriate venue. Councilman Kaynard said it was the Personnel Committee's recommendation because the employees work there every day and their experience and input is critical. Councilman O'Neil stated he agreed the employee input is critical; however, this is a meeting to receive input from the residents what they want and what they think is important. After further discussion, **motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, that a couple of slides concerning the employee responses to the Town Hall survey be presented at the public meeting by Administrator Benke, carried unanimously.**

Planning Commission Review of Section 21-20 (B) (6) – The Planning Commission will initiate discussion on Section 21-20 (B) (6) on Conditional Uses in the RS District.

Urban Greenbelt Grant Project – Jeff Jackson has given a rough estimate to design the nature trail. He has invited Councilwoman McGee, Councilman O'Neil and Administrator Benke to meet him on sight and give detailed recommendations. He has already met with Richard Porcher, Billy McCord, and Norman Brunswick at the area.

**Police Committee, Mayor Smith.** Monthly report rendered.

**Streets and Maintenance, Councilwoman McGee.** The All-Way Stop sign at Station 22-1/2 and Middle Street was removed on August 6, 2012.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to go into Executive Session at 7:53 for Personnel and Boards and Commissions, carried unanimously.**

After returning to regular session, Mayor Smith stated no votes or action were taken during Executive Session.

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, that the salary adjustments as discussed in executive session be approved, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, that Jason Blanton be appointed as Deputy Administrator/Comptroller for the Town of Sullivan's Island, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to appoint Rusty Bennett, Chauncey Clark, and Carlsen Huey to the Planning Commission, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to appoint James Hiers, Susan Middaugh, Susan Romaine and Elizabeth Tezza to the Board of Zoning Appeals, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to appoint Stephen Herlong, Mark Howard and Rhonda Sanders to the Design Review Board, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper, to appoint Ken Spicer and Bill Watson to the Tree Commission; carried by a vote of six, with Councilwoman Watson abstaining.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Perkis to appoint Byron Bailey to the Election Commission, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to re-advertise the one unfilled seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilwoman Cooper to adjourn at 8:42 pm, carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller