

July 15, 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  
Pat O'Neil, Mayor Pro Tem  
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 22 members in the audience, including three members of the media.

Mayor Smith administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter James Howard.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Pat Votava, 2214 Jasper, thanked Council for being stewards of keeping this a residential island, and trusted that that opinion will continue. Norman Khoury, 1728 I'on, commented on the recent tree cutting report issued by the County Sheriff's department, and its relationship to the management plan of the accreted land area. Nicky Bluestine, 2513 Atlantic, stated he is appalled that his named is unjustly associated with breaking laws on Sullivan's Island regarding the tree cutting activities.

**Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve a Resolution to Adopt a Regional Stormwater Education Strategy, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Howle, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from June 17, 2008; and the Special Meeting minutes from July 7, 2008, carried unanimously.**

### **Reports and Communications**

**General and New Correspondence** – Correspondence was received from Mark Miller thanking Council and staff for maintaining Sullivan's Island quality of life; Vacationer Robert Darley thanked the Police and Fire staffs for their help locating his missing son; Isle of Palms' Mayor Sottile regarding their city's appreciation for the Fire Department's recent mutual aid assistance at a fire; and Paul Flaherty regarding cyclists on Highway 703.

**Attorney's Report** – No report.

**Board and Commission Reports – No report.**

**Administrator's Report**, Administrator Benke. The DHEC Monitoring Report for July 2008 indicated normal conditions. The Island Turtle Team reported that four nests have been established on Sullivan's Island to date. Regarding the dog ordinance, an island resident reported being knocked to the ground and was injured, and expressed to Council that dogs should be leashed at all times. Town Hall does now require an affidavit form the owner applying for a permit that the animal has never bitten anyone, and that they have sufficient insurance in the event of a bite or accident. The Charleston County Greenbelt Program office has provided notification of application deadline for the 2008/2009 project year applications. The revised project timeline of the Cell Tower Project indicates completion on August 11, 2008. Tower materials arrived on site July 14, 2008.

**Ways and Means Committee**, Councilman Perkis. The June 2008 financial report will be discussed in detail at the Committee meeting. There is an increase in business license and franchise fee revenue due to the staff and Police Department's hard work. There was discussion regarding the opportunities to refinance the Town General Obligation and Revenue Bonds.

**Personnel Committee**, Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. The Personnel Committee will meet before the next Council meeting to discuss the review of department head job descriptions, evaluation format, administrative department job descriptions, and a merit-pay increase based upon the annual evaluation.

**Water and Sewer Committee**, Councilman Perkis. Phase II of the water line replacement is on hold until determination of SCDOT's schedule for work on Middle Street, so the Town does not dig up the street right after it is paved. The Water and Sewer Committee met regarding the Rate Study proposal analysis. The Committee recommends Raftelis Financial Consultants from Charlotte, N.C. **Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Kaynard, to hire Raftelis Financial Consultants to perform a rate analysis for the Town of Sullivan's Island, carried unanimously.**

**Building and Construction Committee**, Councilman Howle. Monthly report rendered. Councilman Howle reported that the building fees were recently increased to cover the current costs of the department.

**Fire Committee**, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Disaster/Hurricane Expo is scheduled for July 23, 2008 at the Fire Station. The Fish Fry did fairly well, with generous donations from Simmons Seafood and Sea Island Piggly Wiggly, as usual. The Flopping Flounder Run generated \$3,000 to be given to the Angel Touch Foundation, along with \$2,000 from the Fire Volunteers for a total donation of \$5,000. Councilman O'Neil reported that the Fire Department initiated the Team Up

Trim Down program for healthy weight loss. The Police Department and Town Hall employees have also joined the program, which will kick-off on July 29, 2008.

**Recreation Committee**, Councilwoman Watson. A report will be made at the next Committee meeting, as the Park Foundation meets tomorrow. There will be a magic show at the Island Club on July 18, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

**Real Estate Committee**, Councilman O'Neil. Attorney Trenholm Walker is scheduled to brief Council in Executive Session regarding the latest developments. Council has been provided with the scope of work and contractual agreements from Seamon Whiteside Associates for the Commercial District. Councilman O'Neil stated there have been some concerns regarding buildings that are designated as historic that are being left in various states of vulnerability to the elements. Building Official Randy Robinson will research this topic and report back to Council. A Restoration Plan will be provided by Jeanie Heath for the Myrtle Avenue Cemetery, and will be discussed at the next meeting. The Planning Commission has provided an updated timeline for the Comprehensive Plan update project. Councilman Perkis stated that as a minimum, the fines collected regarding the tree cutting should be used to plant trees. Council directed that the Tree Commission recommend a plan for this.

**Police Committee**, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. Chief Howard reported on the Fourth of July Holiday activities. He stated a group organization left a large amount of trash and items on the beach at Stations 18, 19 and 20. A sign has been placed on the Causeway regarding the prohibition of alcohol on the beach, and police patrols have been increased. Councilman O'Neil added that the Town is looking at methods to outsource parking tickets, which could free-up the time of police officers. Councilman Presson stated that the Town is researching a plan for paid parking on Sullivan's Island, and suggested a public hearing should be scheduled in the next 30-60 days. Palmetto Parking is scheduled to provide the Town with a cost estimate to institute a paid parking program.

**Streets and Maintenance Committee**, Councilman Presson. To date, conduit has been installed by SCE&G from Station 12 Street west on Osceola Avenue up to Station 10 Street, and north on Seabreeze Lane; the underground project at the ICW continues without disruption of traffic on SC703, and they have required to locate a guy stub pole on the southwest corner of Station 18 Street at Middle Street and Poe Avenue. However, because the historic cannon structures are there and Chief Stith stated that a pole in that location could pose a safety hazard to fight fires, Administrator Benke will discuss other locations with SCE&G.

## **Ordinances**

**Mayor Smith duly ratified An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18 Sewers and Sewer Disposal Sections 18-6, 18-10, 18-29, and 18-31.**

**Mayor Smith duly ratified An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20 Water Supply Sections 20-1, 20-6, 20-7, 20-8, and 20-11.**

**Mayor Smith duly ratified An Ordinance to Adopt Water and Sewer Budget, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to go into Executive Session for legal advice regarding Lot 81-1/2 Raven Drive, a Stop Work Order at 1902 Middle Street; and a personnel item, carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion was made to Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to direct the Town Administrator to make application to the Design Review Board to remove the historic designation of the structure at 1902 Middle Street, and to be authorized to take all necessary action, carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney