

November 19, 2019

The regular meeting of Town Council was held on the above date at approximately 6:00 p.m., all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Greg Hammond, Councilmember
Tim Reese, Councilmember
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember
Kaye Smith, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were approximately twenty (20) members of the public present and two (2) members of the media present. Mayor O'Neil led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark.

I. Presentation- Dominion Energy

Mayor O'Neil introduced Jennifer Hightower, Economic Development & Local Government Manager, Bill Turner, VP of Electric Operations; and Danny Kassis, VP of Customer Relations and Renewables. Dominion Energy's top three priorities are employee safety, public safety and customer service.

Currently, both ends of the island have underground power lines. As the energy load increased on the overhead power lines, it became necessary to bury the lines and convert to a higher-powered system. Dominion Energy converted the overhead power lines to underground lines at their own expense in the 90's. Over time, the load has either remained steady or dropped off due to customers today being more conservative and energy efficient.

Equipment locations, right-of-way agreements, redundant design, customer services, customer voltage changes, customer equipment upgrades, street lighting and cost (5X to 10X) are a few of the issues regarding overhead to underground conversions.

Overhead services are extremely flexible, able to work while energized, permit faster repair time and experience less windborne salt contamination damage. Underground services are not flexible, must be de-energized to be worked on, must be redundant in

design, are susceptible to flooding, have extended repair times and requires above-ground equipment locations.

Councilmember Greg Hammond asked how often is service or repairs needed to the underground lines at either ends of the island. Mr. Turner answered approximately 1-2 times per month. There are less interruptions on underground lines, however, the time frame to repair is extended compared to overhead lines.

Councilmember Sarah Church asked how susceptible the underground lines are to flooding. Mr. Turner answered that during a major flood event or a king tide, the rising water could rip the switchgear cabinet out of the ground.

Mayor O'Neil asked if the actual cables in the ground are affected during a flooding event. Mr. Turner answered it depends on the severity of the event. During major events such as hurricanes, the cables may become exposed and corrode.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked what the vision for the future is with sea level rise. Mr. Turner answered the boxes will eventually be raised.

In the Town's franchise agreement with Dominion Energy, there is a Nonstandard Service Fund which requires a set aside amount of the franchise fee. It also requires that the company match whatever is invested by the Town. It can be put towards either design/engineering or construction costs. The Town's current balance is \$193k which includes Dominion Energy's match of 50%. A rate rider is also an option.

Councilmember Tim Reese stated that the 5-year cycle tree trimming project is nearing completion on the island and asked with the general comments and concerns of the public, is there anything in the works to reduce the cycle period. Mr. Turner answered that Dominion Energy's standard cycle is 5 years and they are not actively working on changing that but are willing to discuss changing if that is what the Town wants. If the Town requested an extra cutting cycle in between Dominion Energy's standard 5-year cycle, it would be at the Town's expense. It would cost roughly \$20k per mile and there are 16.3 miles of line on the island.

II. Public Comment: Mayor O'Neil opened the floor for public comment.

Jeff Parish, 3034 I'On Avenue- supports the Ordinance prohibiting smoking and vaping on beaches, access paths, public parks and other Town facilities. Mr. Parish started a project with a friend making reusable bags to collect trash and litter on the beaches.

Karen Byko, 2862 Middle Street- thanked Council for inviting Dominion Energy to present the pros and cons of burying power lines. She stated that one of the things that makes the island special are the beautiful trees. Beyond their beauty, trees provide critical protection to our barrier island from the affects from rising sea level, more frequent and powerful storms, storm surge and flooding. We are fortunate to have a strong and thriving maritime forest whose dense interconnected root system provides stability to the island as well as excellent storm protection. Ms. Byko stated “Let’s protect our most valuable natural asset and protector: our trees, because our trees protect us.”

Tobias Van Buren, Mt. Pleasant resident- stated that he is a retired commercial shell fisherman who still cares deeply for the island and waters. He picks up a lot of litter on the island. Mr. Van Buren expressed how toxic cigarette butts are. He supports the Ordinance Prohibiting smoking and vaping on beaches, access paths, public parks and other Town facilities and encouraged having signage at each beach access paths.

III. Council Action Items:

1. Approval of Council Minutes –

Motion: Action: Approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019, Special Council Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2019; and the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2019.

Moved by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Ordinance 2019-06, An Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act:

Motion: Action: Third Second Reading and Ratification, Ordinance 2019-06, An Ordinance Relating to the Recovery of Collection Costs as a Part of Delinquent Debts Collected Pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act.

Moved by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Ordinance 2019-07, An Ordinance Prohibiting smoking and vaping on beaches, access paths, public parks and other Town facilities:

Motion: Action: Approve First Reading, by Title Only, Ordinance 2019-07, An Ordinance Prohibiting smoking and vaping on beaches, access paths, public parks and other Town facilities.

Moved by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Councilmember Greg Hammond.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation of Plaque to Honor 20 years of service to Captain Chris Wallace: Mayor O’Neil and Chief Chris Griffin presented the plaque. Captain Chris Wallace received a standing ovation.
5. Resolution Approving and Supporting Safety Policies:
Motion: Action: Approve Resolution Approving and Supporting Safety Policies.
Moved by Councilmember Sarah Church, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark.
Motion passed unanimously.
6. Resolution of Appreciation for Reserve Officer Steward “Sam” Sparks, III:
Motion: Action: Approve Resolution of Appreciation for Reserve Officer Steward “Sam” Sparks, III.
Moved by Councilmember Tim Reese, Seconded by Councilmember Sarah Church.
Motion passed unanimously.
7. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to engage First Tryon Advisors as financial advisor, Wells Fargo Securities as bond underwriter and Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. as bond and tax attorney to investigate and initiate the 2020 Installment Purchase Revenue Bond process:
Motion: Action: To Engage First Tryon Advisors as financial advisor, Wells Fargo Securities as bond underwriter and Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. as bond and tax attorney to investigate and initiate the 2020 Installment Purchase Revenue Bond process.
Moved by Councilmember Greg Hammond, Seconded by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV.
Motion passed unanimously.
8. Discussion and Consideration of a motion to approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for the purchase of reusable trash bags embossed with the Town seal for distribution to volunteers at no cost:
Motion: Action: Approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for the purchase of reusable trash bags embossed with the Town seal for distribution to volunteers at no cost.
Moved by Councilmember Tim Reese, Seconded by Councilmember Sarah Church.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Approval of Water and Sewer Committee Minutes from September 26, 2019:
Motion: Action: Approve Water and Sewer Committee Minutes from September 26, 2019.
Moved by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV, Seconded by Councilmember Tim Reese.
Motion passed by a vote of 2-1 within the Committee, with Mayor Pro-Tem abstaining.

IV. Reports and Communication:

1. **Mayor's Report-** No items to report.

2. Administrator's Report

I. General Correspondence

- Maggie Gardner, Lowcountry Land Trust- Review of Transition Zone cutting between Station 16 and 18 ½ Streets
- Laurie Lattimore-Volkman- Request to name the Citadel Street tennis courts and pickle ball courts in honor of Dr. Fredrick "Rick" Reed
- Laure Lattimore-Volkman- Request to add additional pickle ball court lines
- Maggie Koenig- Request to place plaque honoring Herbert Edward "Mac" Macmurphy, III on a bench at the Station 16 Street Nature Trail

II. Construction

Fire Station Structural Repairs- The bid process for exterior improvements has been postponed pending further discussion of an expansion of the scope of work.

Dominion Energy Tree Trimming- Dominion Energy has completed the trimming on Sullivan's Island. The utility is currently preparing a list of trees that must be removed because of proximity to power lines or damage after required pruning.

III. General

Accreted Land Transition Zone Trimming- Gibbs Construction Company completed Transition Zone trimming on/about October 1, 2019. Staff held final inspection on October 7, 2019. The Administrator has toured the area with the Lowcountry Land Trust, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Mayor. Staff will begin working on parameters for trimming and pruning along Pettigrew Street and the next phase of the Transition Zone.

S.C. House Bill 4431- Council is encouraged to review H.4431 and consider correspondence to Representative Sottile and other members of the Charleston County Legislative Delegation regarding the Bill.

IV. Personnel

November 2019 Observed Holidays- Three holidays observed by Town staff occur in November:

- Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28th
- Day After Thanksgiving, Friday, November 29th

3. Attorney's Report- No items to report.

4. Boards and Commissions Reports – No items to report.

V. Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Mayor O'Neil. Monthly report rendered.

Comptroller Blanton presented the October 2019 financial report.

Public Safety Committee –Councilmember Tim Reese, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

St. Patrick's Day recommendations will be reviewed with Sullivan's Island Restaurant Association.

Potential paid parking at Sullivan's Island Elementary School parking lot and loop area with completion of the upcoming beach access. This will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.

Speed Limit- Chair Reese met with SCDOT to discuss speed limit and cross walks. They are looking into changing the speed limit on Middle Street to 25mph. The goal is to change the speed limit island-wide to 25mph.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember Kaye Smith, Chair.

Fire Station Holiday Lighting- The annual holiday Fire Station Lighting will be held on Friday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m. The event will include entertaining provided by the Wando High School Chorus and food for all.

Trolley Tour- Battery Gadsden Cultural Center is hosting 'The Great Sullivan's Island Trolley Tour 2019'. The tours will be held on December 7th at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Gingerbread House Decorating- The annual gingerbread house decorating will be held on December 8, 2019 at the Island Club.

Public Facilities Committee – Councilmember Greg Hammond, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Land Use and Natural Resources Committee – Mayor Pro-Tem Chauncey Clark, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Sarah Church, Chair. Monthly report rendered.

Video Recording of Town Council Meetings- for archiving on Town website for public access.

Codification of Town Ordinances- in progress, to be reviewed by Council upon completion.

Personnel Handbook- in progress, to be reviewed by Council upon completion of draft.

Water and Sewer Committee – Councilmember Bachman Smith IV, Chair. Monthly reports rendered.

Committee Meeting – The next Water & Sewer Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 8:45 a.m. at Town Hall.

VI. Executive Session

Legal Advice- Attorney Linton. Hurt v. Town of Sullivan’s Island 2016-CP-10-0540

Motion: Action: To go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to receive Legal Advice from Attorney Linton regarding Hurt v. Town of Sullivan’s Island 2016-CP-10-0540.

Moved by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Action: To come out of Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Seconded by Councilmember Kaye Smith.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor O’Neil stated no votes or actions were taken in Executive Session.

Motion: Action: Approve Settlement Agreement regarding Hurt v. Town of Sullivan’s Island 2016-CP-10-0540.

Moved by Councilmember Bachman Smith, IV, Seconded by Councilmember Tim Reese.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Action: Adjourn Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Seconded by Councilmember Tim Reese.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Courtney Liles