

August 19, 2003

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: J. Marshall Stith, Mayor
Carl J. Smith, Mayor Pro Tem
Debra Hazen-Martin, Councilwoman
Jane Ellen Herron, Councilwoman
Patrick M. O'Neil, Councilman
Alys Anne Wiedeke, Councilwoman
William J. Wood, Councilman

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Stith, followed by the invocation given by Councilman Wood. There were thirty private citizens present, and one member of the media.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Adam Von Ins, owner of the Air Company, and Dan Floyd from Half-Moon Outfitters, spoke representing LowKO, Lowcountry Kiteboarding Organization. They stated they were trying to spread the word concerning the Sullivan's Island water ordinances. Dr. Nelson Ploch of 1660 Poe stated he seemed to be at a stalemate with the Board of Zoning Appeals regarding lot coverage for his 1502 Thompson Avenue lot, and stated that he didn't understand why zoning revision efforts to limit the size of front beach houses were being applied to all lots on the island. Councilman O'Neil expressed that the lot coverage ordinance was not initially just for front beach lots. It was to reduce the amount of out-of-proportion houses on the island and neighborhood, and accommodations were made for smaller lots. There was discussion regarding lot access to Lot Z1 on Thee Street. Mr. Johnny Myatt of 18-1/2 Flag Street spoke regarding the safety of the path. Mr. Ellison Smith of 1908 Flag stated that the driveway at the end of Station 19 hasn't been a problem, and he prefers for access to the lot to be at Station 18-1/2. Ms. Grace Reed of 1851 Flag Street stated there would be a safety issue as there are currently six residences with driveways between Flag and the end of Station 19. She was concerned that cars would not be able to turn around if the access was stopped at Lot Z1. Mr. Sam Schirmer, 1857 Flag St., stated he is the only full time resident that is being affected by access to the lot. He is opposed to the Thee Street opening. Mr. Schirmer stated his aunt paid Spec Richardson \$700 in 1969 to grade Station 18-1/2 from Flag St. for access to the property, and wanted the Town to look into it. Karen Coste of Station 19 stated no one has approached her about this situation. She said Thee Street is the Town's property and the law should take its course. There should be no more assumption on ownership, and there is a lack of equity. She does not want the beach access path to be ruined. Gay Coleman of 1857 Thee St. said Station 19 is crowded enough. Everett Presson stated that Mr. Sellers had sent the Council members a letter regarding his view of the situation. Dr. Rick Reed of 1851 Flag St. presented information.

Minutes of the July 15, 2003 meeting were approved.

There was no new correspondence or attorney's report.

Administrator's Report. The target date for the first update to website is August 30. The information banner on cable channel 60 has been on for approximately two weeks.

Ways and Means Committee, Mayor Stith. The financial worksheet for June was submitted for review. The report from the S.C. Municipal Insurance Trust regarding open claims and historical claims was presented for information. Councilman Smith, Mayor Stith and Administrator Benke will be attending a meeting regarding the formation of a coalition to lobby for property tax relief in coastal areas on August 26.

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Wiedeke. Amanda Hawver began employment in the Fire Department on August 10. Two replies were received to the questionnaire for the open seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to appoint Susan Middaugh to fill the open seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals, carried unanimously. The USC Center for Public Health Preparedness and the Center for Disease Control will conduct a focus group to determine training needs for public health preparedness of public elected officials on August 21.

Water and Sewer, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. A meeting with HDR was held on July 30, 2003 to discuss the Red Water Study report, Water System Study report, review the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project timeline and Water System Pipe Replacement Project timeline, along with right of way issues for Water System Pipe Replacement project. The bids for Phase III will be opened on September 8, 2003. The bond issue and amortization schedule for the Pipe Replacement Project funding was reviewed. Mr. Paul Trouche will prepare paperwork for the \$2,250,000 bond for 15 years to have First Reading at the September 8 special meeting. There will be a meeting on Friday, September 5 of the Water & Sewer Committee to discuss all issues before the Committee Meeting on Sept. 8. The Committee will continue to have separate meetings from the regular Committee meetings, and they will be advertised as all other meetings in the weekly meeting section of the newspaper. There will be a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Sept. 8 prior to Committee, to introduce and award the bid of the wastewater treatment upgrade project to a contractor.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Wood. The Building Inspector attended the National Flood Insurance Program for elevation certificate training. The Building Inspector and Administrator attended the Charleston County Hazard Mitigation project meeting. The Holy Cross Church anticipates building project completion in late August 2003.

Fire Committee, Councilman Wood. New firefighter Amanda Hawver began Aug. 10.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Herron. Weddings at Station 18-1/2 on Oct. 4, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. and at Station 27 on September 20, 2003 at 5:00 were approved. Also, the use of a golf cart to deliver elderly relatives to/from the ceremony on Sept. 20 was approved. Councilwoman Herron and Administrator Benke will meet with Park Foundation to explain court surface options and expenses.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil. The design standard workshop was held with Town Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals in public meeting forum on July 31. The consultant presentation of design standards to residents is scheduled for September 30, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center.

Police Committee, Mayor Stith. The dog ordinance enforcement is making the public more aware of the ordinance. The Administrator met with two Mt. Pleasant vendors selling kite boards to explain the Town watercraft ordinance.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilman Smith. The “British Attack at Breach Inlet” historical marker was unveiled on July 25, 2003. Correspondence was received from John Tucker, Stuart Coleman and Ed Sellers regarding the access to 1851 Thee Street.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Herron, to pass First Reading, by title only, an Ordinance to Amend Section 20-14 and 20-15 Zoning Code of the Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances By Establishing a Drought Ordinance Plan, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Wood, seconded by Councilman Smith, to pass First Reading, by title only, an Ordinance to Amend Section 5-16 of the Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances By Establishing Guidelines for Lot Fill.

Motion was made by Councilman O’Neil, seconded by Councilman Smith, to defer Second reading on An Ordinance Amending Section 21, Zoning Code of The Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances By Establishing An Old Fort Historic District Overlay District, Identifying Its Location, Amending The Official Zoning Map and Including Provisions Regarding the Removal and Demolition of Certain Buildings; carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman O’Neil, seconded by Councilman Wood, to defer Second reading of An Ordinance Amending Section 21, Zoning Code of the Sullivan’s Island Code of Ordinances by Establishing an Historic District Overlay District, Identifying Its Locations, Amending the Official Zoning Map and Including Provisions Regarding the Removal and Demolition of Certain Buildings, carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney
Town Clerk