

July 15, 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: 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 Councilman Smith, followed by the invocation given by Councilman Wood. There were eight private citizens present.

Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, to appoint Andy Benke as Town Administrator. The Oath of Office was duly administered to Mr. Benke by Councilman Smith.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Mr. Everett Presson, real estate agent, represented the buyer of the lot at the foot of Station 18-1/2 and Thee Street (Lot Z1). Currently there is no access to the property. He provided a GIS map of the area. Station 18-1/2 runs all the way to the ocean, and is presently paved to Flag St. Thee Street does not exist on the ground, only on the map. Mr. Presson was asking Council how they wanted the property to be accessed during construction. He states there are two ways to access the lot. 1) Open Thee Street and come off Station 19 or 2) Extend Station 18-1/2. Station 18-1/2 is a hard-packed "road" that the emergency vehicles use to access the beach. The buyer would be willing to pay half the cost to put gravel on the road. He stated that they are requesting to do the same thing on Station 18-1/2 that has been done on Station 19.

There is a sewer line that runs from Station 19 down the non-existent Thee Street and the manhole is marked at junction of lots Z1 and Z2 where the house would get sewer access. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated in the future water line plan, an upgrade of the line is coming down to Thee Street and ideally would run Thee Street through the right-of-way, to the new property, and loop back for optimum water flow. Greg Gress stated that we were trying to eliminate dead ends on the water lines, and the only way to do that is to run it down Thee Street, across the unopened Thee Street, back to Station 18-1/2 and back up to Flag Street to create a loop.

Councilman Smith requested that all property owners in the area be notified of Mr. Presson's request so Council can receive input from them. It will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Councilman O'Neil asked if we could find out before the next meeting if the Town has any degree of freedom in setting the parking restrictions on either of these rights of way. Chief Howard states that we do not have any control of this parking.

Ann Graham of 2102 Iron. Ms. Graham wanted to be sure Council had received a letter from Rick Graham concerning the faint yellow lines at the curbs. The driveway on Middle Street across from the playground has faint yellow lines that do not come up to the driveway. When people exit the driveway, it is difficult to see because of parked cars close to the driveway.

Jackie Shedrow of 2214 Jasper stated there continues to be parking problems in the commercial district. She wanted to check on the status of the "no parking" signs that were to be erected on the mainly residential side of that portion of Jasper. Chief Howard stated the Mayor was going to speak with the residents in the area, and we are waiting on that feedback. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin wanted to be sure the residents were aware that their vehicles would also not be able to park there. As soon as all residents in the area are in agreement, the next step will be to approach the Highway Department. Ms. Shedrow is also concerned about parking in the Exit Realty parking lot. She inquired if the gate could be closed to limit access to the commercial portions of that lot, or if Jasper and Myrtle could be closed except to residential traffic. Councilman Smith stated that a letter could be sent to Exit Realty to ask them to be diligent about the parking. Ms. Shedrow also stated that while Poe's Tavern has been a good neighbor in trying to deal with the noise created from its late night crowd, she wanted Council to be aware that the noise was spreading into the residential area, as Poe's Tavern clients are on the sidewalk and out on the street.

Arthur Smith, 2803 Marshall, stated he was concerned about a meeting that occurred where a quorum of Council was present, but wasn't sure if it was a public meeting. Councilman Smith stated that Mr. Smith was referring to the phone conference with the consultants over the speakerphone. The phone conference took place at a regularly scheduled Committee meeting, and the entire meeting was recorded as is customary. There were a few members of the public present for the phone presentation.

Mr. Howard Chapman presented CARTA's budget for 2003-04, which has been approved in its draft form by the CARTA Board. The proposed budget is approximately \$4 million less than last year, and the predominant reason for that is that the land for the intermodal facility will have been purchased by the end of this budget year. Next year the park & ride lot, which is the first stage of the intermodal center, should be under construction. The intermodal facility will eventually be a replacement of the AMTRAK station; will house the Greyhound bus station; and be a regional hub for CARTA. Councilman Smith inquired about the status of the ½ cent sales tax. Mr. Chapman stated that the ½ cent sales tax is essential to CARTA. They went before the Supreme Court on June 10th for oral arguments. The normal time frame for response is 4-6 weeks. Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Wood, to approve the FY2004 CARTA budget, carried unanimously.

Resolution to Approve Financing Terms for purchase of one police vehicle and one F150 truck . Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Wideke, carried unanimously.

Minutes of the June 12, 2003 meeting were approved.

Attorney's Report. Mr. Dodds was not at meeting, but he gave to Councilman Smith a request for a fee simple title to Kay Wingate and Laura M. Wingate at 2413 Atlantic Avenue. Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Herron to grant the fee simple title, carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report. A letter was received from Mr. Colin Summers, who is preparing a short film for a graduate school project. He asked for the business license fee to be waived since his project is not a commercial enterprise. The actors will not be paid; it is strictly a student effort. Most of the work will be in the house of his parents. Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to waive the business license fee, carried unanimously. The United Postal Service is accepting offers for lease space or purchase for a possible new office. The purchase by the postal service of the present leased postal facility is an alternative under consideration. A letter was received from Rick Graham, concerning what Ms. Graham presented earlier about the faint yellow parking lines. Chief Howard and Chief Stith will look into this request. The police are watching the golf cart situation. The Town Attorney is researching a registration process, but we might be prohibited from requiring more than the State requires. Two Mt. Pleasant companies that rent golf carts have obtained a Sullivan's Island business license and will clearly identify their carts. A first draft has been written for what the Town would offer to retired officers under the LERI Program. It appears that only guidelines need to be developed; an ordinance change will not be necessary.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Smith reporting for Mayor Stith. The final system adjustments are being made to the new accounting software. A letter was received from Mr. John Tucker of the National Park Service requesting use of the Town disposal area. Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, to approve this request and send it to the Army Corps along with a cover letter detailing our reasons for approval and indicating our desire to have the spoil site used in a limited way, carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Wiedeke. Bryan Eddings resigned from the Fire Department effective June 26, 2003. An advertisement has been placed in the newspaper; interviews should be set up soon. Mr. Benke reported on the draft guidelines to the LERI retirees.

Water and Sewer, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. On July 7 Paul Trouche presented financial information to Council on funding the water project. He will put together firm figures for 10 and 15 year funding plans in a GL Bond, and it will be discussed at Council's public meetings. The wastewater project final plan was approved by DHEC. Approval of that project also approves a timeline that had to be set with DHEC, so we need to be ready to move with scheduled elements of that project. The Drought Management Plan will be on the August agenda. HDR will present the final red water study document on July 30th.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Wood. The ISO representative signed status of the flood insurance rating, and we should receive a 10%

reduction in our flood insurance next year, unless FEMA finds something the ISO did not. The tree violation at Station 24 has been issued 12 tickets for violation of trimming and pruning; another violation at Station 17; the residents should be in court in September.

Fire Committee, Councilman Wood. The Fish Fry and the Fourth of July celebration turned out large crowds. Chief Stith said he did receive complaints regarding trash from the fireworks several blocks down Jasper Blvd.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Herron. Wedding requests on the beach for August 30, 2003 at 6:30 am at Station 19 and on October 11, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. at Station 12 were approved. The request from Dr. Ray and Leah Greenberg to use the Benke-Lowe boat landing for parking on Sept. 10, 2003 from 10:30 am-12:30pm; October 9, 2003 from 6:30pm to 10pm; and November 5, 2003 from 6:30pm – 10pm was approved. They will provide gate management, will be responsible for closing the gate, and will manage litter. An estimate was received from Carolina Sport Surfaces Inc. for the resurfacing of tennis courts, the basketball court and the hitting wall. A ten-year product called Swiss flex tile would be used to cover the courts instead of painting. The last time the court was resurfaced was Jan. 2002 and the cost was about \$13,431 to do the courts at Stations 21 and 17. There is apparently a drainage problem. The paint peels off about every two years and it costs about \$14,000 to resurface. Chief Stith said there are also cracks in the court that cannot be repaired. The flex court product locks in place; but it is not fastened down. It appears that it would be difficult to keep it clean; that dirt would collect in the product. A pressure washer could be used to clean or it could be pulled up to clean off. One court could be installed before installing on the other courts is considered. The basketball court would be the best to test the tile. The lines would already be on the product with the exception of the three-point and top of the key lines. The product normally sells for \$3.75 a sq ft and this price is \$1.71 provided that the Town maintenance could help with the installation. The Park Foundation will be approached for possible help with this project. We will research how long the company has been in service, if the product is insurable, and if current users are satisfied with the product. Chief Stith will check with Ashley Hall, as they currently have it.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil. A rough draft of the Consultants' recommendations was received at the committee meeting. Connie Cooper and Peter Drey will be here on July 31st to meet with various groups; the schedule is pending. The recommendations concerning the water line changes at the Hagerty property were received from HDR. Mr. Gress has expressed a preference; we are awaiting their response. We gave a preliminary approval to the conceptual plan so there many steps left. Dennis Christiansen, 813 Conquest, who lives immediately adjacent to this development, addressed Council. He was concerned that the neighbors have never been contacted and would like to be heard concerning the project. Councilman O'Neil stated that there has been one Planning Commission meeting concerning this, which was an advertised public meeting. Mr. Christiansen was concerned that the traffic pattern in the area would change. Councilman Smith stated that there would be much time for input between the conceptual approval and the final approval.

Police Committee, Councilman Smith reporting for Mayor Stith. Officer Culnon has completed in-house field training. The Police Department received a \$665.33 grant for 2003 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant Program, which will assist in the replacement of two bulletproof vests. Two raccoons tested positive for rabies. There have been several complaints regarding kiteboarders in the gully area between Station 23 and Station 30. Chief Howard spoke with the Town Attorney, and was told that the kiteboards would fall under the sailboard ordinance. The area by our current ordinances that they should enter and exit is Station 28-1/2 up and Station 12.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilman Smith. A request was received from residents using the beach path at Station 25 to extend the boardwalk and add fill dirt to improve the beach access. Estimates for the fill dirt and to extend the boardwalk 100 feet have been received. If the funds are available, we should proceed with the fill dirt. We may be able to obtain a grant to help with funding of the boardwalk extension. The historical marker at Breach Inlet unveiling will be on July 25, 2003 at 11:00 am at Breach Inlet. Councilman Smith and Mayor Stith met with Elizabeth Mabry and Commissioner Harrell concerning the rehabilitation of the Ben Sawyer Bridge.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Wood, 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