

November 16, 2004

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
Debra Hazen-Martin, Councilwoman
Jane Ellen Herron, Councilwoman
Carl J. Smith, Mayor ProTem
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 10 private citizens present and one member of the news media.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Clydie deBrux of 1903 Back Street spoke as President of the Park Foundation. The Park Foundation is concerned about the filling of the fourth hole at the mound, and requested time to research their notes before the hole continues to be filled. Her understanding is that they were the authority to direct the renovations; that the 1994 plans show that the three holes were to be filled, with the fourth to be left open for the development of an amphitheatre. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated that ultimately any work done at the Park has to be approved by Town Council. During the last year, that back area has been discussed in open meetings for other uses, including storage. Mayor Stith stated that there are also safety concerns as far as not filling the holes. The Park Foundation will meet with the Council Recreation Committee to discuss. Annie Mithoefer of 1650 Poe inquired about the status of the land behind the island being put into a trust, and the survey of the front beach area. Councilwoman Wiedeke, in Councilman O'Neil's absence, stated that The Low Country Open Land Trust is checking to see if there are any legal impediments regarding the back marsh area. Administrator Benke stated that we have to work around the Army Corps landfill, and we need to get a tax ID for the old dump. In regard to the front beach, Councilwoman Wiedeke stated that it has been delayed due to the water project becoming more time-consuming, but we do have a request from experts to do a GIS (Geographic Information System) study. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated that we worked on a grant for \$5,000, which we could match, but it was not funded. We first need to get accurate elevation and tree type survey before we move on with the plan. Councilwoman Wiedeke stated that a good resource for GIS mapping may be through a College of Charleston student project. Michael Mithoefer of 1650 Poe stated he understands the necessity for strictness in the summer season dog ordinance, but is disappointed in the adjustment for the winter hours; he believes it would be reasonable to make it even more relaxed in the winter. Mayor Stith stated we are getting closer to a compromise. Council felt the voluntary committee for dogs was not a balanced committee, and might appoint a committee.

The minutes of the October 19, 2004 public hearing and regular meeting were approved as written.

General and New Correspondence - A letter was received from Dunleavy's regarding the Polar Bear Swim. It will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Attorney's Report, Larry Dodds. Mr. Dodds stated that we had received two requests for fee simple titles. One request is from Larry and Joy Morris, Lot 179, 2808 Jasper Blvd. Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Wiedeke, to grant the fee simple title, carried unanimously. The other request is from Robert Smith, Jack Shaffer and Thomas Gregory, Lot 197. Council will discuss with Attorney Dodds in executive session tonight and vote on it tonight. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated there was a record of sale in the newspaper regarding substantial marsh acreage listed as on Sullivan's Island. Attorney Dodds will research this transaction.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. Town Hall will be closed for the holidays on November 25 & 26, December 24 & 31. The clean up and repair from the Town Hall fire is underway. The drive test conducted in September has indicated that a cell phone tower centrally located on the Island would significantly improve cell phone reception. A representative of Sprint-PCS would be available to attend the December Council Committee meeting.

Ways and Means Committee, Mayor Stith. Financial report was rendered. Reimbursements for Hurricane Gaston have been completed and submitted to the State. The Town should receive about \$8,000 in reimbursement of overtime and equipment use.

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Wiedeke. Arlene Graham has completed the six month probationary period. Motion was made by Councilwoman Wiedeke, seconded by Councilman Smith, to grant Ms. Graham the customary salary increase, carried unanimously. A meeting of the members of the Police Committee and Personnel Committee was held this week with the Administrator to finalize the retirement details of the Police Chief. He is participating in the LARI program, but will remain as Police Chief.

Water and Sewer, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. Town Hall has received correspondence from residents along Middle Street between Station 17 and 18. Bids will be officially opened this week. Town staff and the vendor will present to residents living in proximity to the Wastewater Treatment Plant the conceptual landscape plan for the plant at 5:00 p.m. on November 22, 2004. Council has approved the landscaping plan in concept only. Neighbors have received door hangers asking them to come. Councilwoman Wiedeke thanked COSI for putting a notice in the newsletter concerning the palmetto trees.

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Wood. Monthly report was rendered.

Fire Committee, Councilman Wood. The Department responded to a call of smoke at the western end of the Island on the morning of 11-04-04. A fire was detected and extinguished in the maintenance garage behind Town Hall. The Fire and Rescue Oyster Roast was a tremendous success. The Holiday Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2004 at dusk.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Herron. The Park Foundation has requested the town not add any further fill material to the fourth hole on the mound. As discussed tonight, a meeting will be held between the Park Foundation and the Recreation Committee to discuss. A beach wedding request for December 30, 2004 at 4:00 at Station 18-1/2 was approved. The request by Dunleavy's regarding the Polar Bear Swim on January 1, 2005 at 11:30 will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman Smith for Councilman O'Neil. John Tucker of the National Park Service is working on language to include in legislation making Fort Moultrie a national monument that would limit the use of the lighthouse and remove the view easement around Battery Logan. The review of proposed Article IV to the Zoning Ordinance will be reviewed again at the next Committee meeting.

Police Committee, Mayor Stith. Monthly report was rendered.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilman Smith. The Charleston Area Transportation Study Policy Committee is requesting municipal government input for projects to update the Long Range Transportation Plan. Councilman Smith stated that in the first ½ cent sales tax referendum, the rehabilitation of the Ben Sawyer Bridge, and the repair of curbs, gutters and resurfacing of Middle Street were included. Councilman Smith asked for verification that the projects were included in the second round of the ½ cent sales tax. He was told that the bridge was not on the list. The SCDOT said that it was federally funded, and was removed from the County's list. Town Council was never notified. A letter will be drafted for confirmation about the funding for the bridge.

Mayor Stith duly ratified An Ordinance Amending Sections 3-7 and 3-8 of the Town of Sullivan's Island Code of Ordinances, Pertaining to Dogs.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Wood, to have First Reading, by title only, of An Ordinance to Amend the Business License Ordinance 10-20 of the Town of Sullivan's Island Code of Ordinances Provisions for Insurance Companies and For Brokers for Non-admitted Fire and Casualty Insurers.

Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Smith, to go into executive session for legal advice and personnel.

Upon return from executive session, motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, to grant a fee simple title to Robert Smith, Jack Shaffer and Thomas Gregory, Lot 197, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Wiedeke, to appoint Lt. Price as Acting Police Chief during the two-week LARI retirement period of Chief Howard, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Wiedeke, to adjourn, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney
Town Clerk