

August 16, 2005

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
Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor Pro Tem
Debra Hazen-Martin, Councilwoman
Jane Ellen Herron, Councilwoman
Michael Perkis, Councilman
Everett Presson, Councilman

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith, followed by the invocation given by Councilwoman Herron. There were five private citizens present and three members of the media.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. There were no comments.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Herron, to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2005 regular meeting, carried unanimously.

Reports and Communications – Mayor Smith proclaimed September 17, 2005 as Beach Sweep/River Sweep Day.

General and New Correspondence – Mayor Smith stated several letters had been received: Del Allen concerning parking obstruction; City of Isle of Palms thanking Sullivan's Island Fire Department for assistance with a recent fire; Loren Ziff regarding request for extension of building permit; Dr. Bluestein regarding the use of huge sparklers during the July 4th celebration, and a lengthy letter from Richard Graham that Council just received, and it will be reviewed. With regard to Mr. Allen's letter concerning parking obstructions, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated this is the same issue we have been discussing concerning obstacles in the right-of-way. Town Administrator Benke stated that it will first be determined if an encroachment permit was issued by the highway department for the property with the parking obstruction. If it was not issued, he will speak to the resident about removing the obstacles. Ultimately, it would be turned over to the SC Department of Transportation. Regarding Dr. Bluestein's comments regarding sparklers, the current ordinance allows sparklers. Chief Stith stated that an article by the Fire Chief Association suggested banning sparklers. The subject will be brought before Council and the ordinance will be revised before next July. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin noted that Administrator Benke had received an e-mail regarding Greg Gress' outstanding performance between a homeowner and contractor regarding a water line problem.

There was no Attorney's Report.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. The September Council Committee meeting is re-scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. because the regular meeting is on Labor Day. We have received notice from the James Island Alliance for Self Government of their intent to incorporate the Town of James Island. The Hurricane Preparedness Guide is almost finalized. There will be a presentation at the next Committee meeting on September 12; a larger meeting place is to be determined.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. There will be a meeting with different bank representatives and we will prepare a Request for Proposal for cash management, direct deposit and investment advice. Perry Litchfield has been hired to help with general ledger, internal controls and system processes. A communication system has been researched and \$25,000 was budgeted this fiscal year. The projected cost, including installation for a complete communications system, is approximately \$36,000. Councilman Perkis stated there are sufficient funds available to cover this overage. Administrator Benke will have Attorney Dodds review the contract.

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. Discussion of the role and responsibility of the Personnel Committee as defined by the Town Ordinance will be discussed in executive session tonight. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin asked Administrator Benke to share a template of the Personnel Handbook to use as a starting point, and it will be discussed at the Committee meeting.

Water and Sewer, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. Monthly report rendered. The water line project is on schedule. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated there is concern that the worksites are not being kept tidy out in the field. There is a different supervisor and a change in the tidiness of areas has been noticed. Greg Gress is resolving the situation with the contractor. HDR has already met with them. We received a request from DHEC to share the poster of the importance of cleaning up after one's dog.

Building and Construction Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered.

Fire Committee, Councilwoman Herron. Monthly report rendered. The Fishing Tournament was a success. The Fire Department assisted the Town of Mt. Pleasant with the fireworks display by furnishing three boats.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Herron. The tennis court lighting project is almost complete.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil. There was discussion regarding the location of a cell phone tower. Attorney Dodds stated we should first bring in a consultant for advice. He will be asked to come to the Committee meeting on September 12. Councilman O'Neil stated he thought Council had agreed to move forward with putting the two parcels of land associated with Battery Logan under protection with assistance from the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, with the seaward most parcel covered by the same restrictions as is the RC-1 accreted land, but with different restrictions for landward parcel that contains the Battery. This will be discussed at the September Committee meeting. The Planning Commission met regarding the Design Review Board membership and membership requirements. Their recommendations have not yet been received by Council.

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. We received correspondence from Phyllis Haynes regarding the rescue of a dog named "Bennett" from a locked vehicle. Administrator Benke is coordinating with other municipalities a possible municipal ordinance to prohibit jumping from the span of the Ben Sawyer Bridge and the Breach Inlet Bridge. Councilman Presson inquired about the report of three cars stolen last week. Chief Howard stated all cars were unlocked with the keys in the car; two of the cars were recovered.

Streets and Maintenance, Councilman Presson. Mayor Smith, Chief Howard, Chief Stith, and Administrator Benke met at the boat landing to review traffic patterns and speed control. Administrator Benke has written a letter to the SC Department of Transportation regarding traffic and maintenance. The SCDOT maintenance crews will be here after Labor Day to fix potholes in the street. There will be a meeting this Friday with the Charleston County Transportation Committee regarding the Transportation Plan (1/2 cent sales tax).

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilman Presson, to amend the agenda to reflect the addition of the discussion of commercial properties, a HIPA matter and First Responders to the executive session, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilman Presson, to go into executive session to discuss personnel policy matters and legal advice on the Battery Logan property, commercial properties, and a HIPA matter and First Reponders, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Herron, to come out of executive session, carried unanimously. No action was taken.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Herron, to adjourn, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney
Town Clerk