

May 17, 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: J. Marshall Stith, Mayor
Debra Hazen-Martin, Councilwoman
Jane Ellen Herron, Councilwoman
Patrick M. O'Neil, Councilman
Carl J. Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem
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. Councilman Wood stated that we had recently lost two "old Islanders", Bobby Varn and Charlotte Richardson. There were eighteen private citizens present and no members of the media.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Gary Santos presented Council with a plaque and t-shirts for supporting the East Cooper Triathlon event last month. Stanley Kablick, Boy Scouts of America Troop 59, requested permission to erect a pole for the placement of an osprey nest, as part of a service project to benefit the town. Council stated any one of the areas he mentioned were good; Mr. Kablick will set up a meeting with SCE&G, who will erect the pole. Bobby Thompson of 2917 I'on, and a member of the Planning Commission, stated the Planning Commission passed two recommendations to Council: (1) asking Council to provide funds for legal counsel on a routine basis to the DRB; (2) asking Council to provide staff support for DRB. Eddie Fava, 2424 Myrtle, inquired about an update of the reevaluation of summer hours of dogs being unleashed. Mayor Stith stated the Chief of Police is not present tonight to report, but we are monitoring the results of the dog reports, and are awaiting the on-season results. Councilwoman Hazen-Martin stated that we have hired beach personnel to enforce the dog rules, therefore good data will be available for review. Kay White, 1751 Atlantic Avenue, stated the snow fences were blown down during the storms and she wanted them to be fixed or picked up. Chief Stith will pick up the ones knocked down. The Coastal Conservation League puts them up. They are running behind schedule this year because they have not yet received the grant funding. Angela Jones, 2608 I'on, stated she is an owner of one of the split lots, and she was unaware about the changes to the zoning ordinance. Rusty Bennett, 3124 Marshall, stated he is part owner of Poe's Tavern that is vacant on the back-half. Using it as a parking lot is not allowed, so the only use is to build a house. Because the owners do not need to live there, it would be built strictly to rent. The amount to rent would be effectively capped because it can not be rented weekly. A cheaper structure would have to be built to make it financially feasible to generate enough revenue from rent. He questions what the policy is that made Council promote this type of situation. Councilman O'Neil stated that his interpretation is that when a previous Council wrote the original ordinance, that in exchange for the privilege of having commercial use on part of the lot, or having a lot with two different uses, there was a requirement that it not be allowed to go into multiple ownership. One of the reasons being that a single owner, whether one human or one legal entity, has responsibility for the property. Attorney Dodds stated that original single ownership came from the state legislature back when the Town was a township. Rick Graham, 2102 I'on, stated he also disagrees with

Council's decision on that portion of the ordinance. Gerald Kaynard, 2501 Atlantic, stated the way the changes were made in the commercial district and the provisions of the historic preservation – the process of second and third reading of the ordinance – was a poor choice. There wasn't a time allowed for public comment on changes made to the ordinance. Loren Ziff, 1412 Thompson, also expressed concern about Mr. Kaynard's comments.

The minutes of the April 19, 2005 and May 2, 2005 meetings were approved as written.

Reports and Communications – Motion was made by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Wiedeke, to resolve to approve use of funds for the Water and Sewer Administration Building, carried unanimously.

There was no General or New Correspondence.

There was no Attorney's Report.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. Letters of interest have been received from residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission position vacated by Blaine Ewing, who cited a conflict with serving on another appointed board.

Ways and Means Committee, Mayor Stith. The SCE&G franchise agreement will expire in August 2005. A copy of the current agreement and proposed agreement was distributed to Council for review and discussion. The Ways & Means Committee has completed review of the FY06 budget and is prepared to have first reading by title only of the budget ordinance. It is expected that the millage rate will only increase by the CPA.

Personnel Committee, Councilwoman Wiedeke. The Personnel Committee has interviewed two candidates for Beach Services Patrol. One candidate has been hired and is patrolling on weekends.

Water and Sewer, Councilwoman Hazen-Martin. The State Budget and Control Board has issued a ranking of water and sewer rates by municipality. The data is from 2003; the report is dated 6/17/04. A resolution was passed tonight for the plans to complete the upgrades to the new Water and Sewer administration building. The department will re-advertise for the open position of Chief Operator.

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

Fire Committee, Councilman Wood. Monthly report rendered. Chief Stith stated the National Class for ATF was held at Battery Thompson. He reminded everyone that hurricane season starts June 1st. Mayor Pro-Tem Smith noted that a graduate intern will be working this summer on the new hurricane plan.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Herron. Three beach weddings were approved: May 8th at 6:00pm on Station 18; September 17, 2005 at 2:00 on Station 18; June 25, 2005 at 11:00 am on Station 22. The offer by Beach Tennis USA to hold a tennis tournament during the summer has been declined by the Town.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil. The Land Trust is again reviewing the information pertinent to the proposed exchange of property with the Park Service. The Park Service wishes the Town to exchange title to the protected land in front of Fort Moultrie to the Park Service in exchange for them dropping the view easement that they had of the Battery Logan property. That would allow the Town a better opportunity to have some or all of the Battery Logan property placed under conservation protection of the Land Trust.

Mr. Schneider has submitted a proposal to us to complete the National Register nominations forms as described in "Historic Preservation Recommendations, Sullivan's Island, SC" so that our historic district could be considered for designation as National Register eligible. This would be a means to offering additional incentives to people with historic properties.

Town Hall has received various correspondence from residents addressing the Design Review Board Hearing for 1026 Middle Street.

Police Committee, Mayor Stith. Two officers are currently in the Academy, and will graduate on May 27 and June 17.

Streets and Maintenance, Mayor Pro Tem Smith. The Hagerty Point Road maintenance agreement is ready for the Mayor's signature. Middle Street west from Station 22-1/2 has been partially repaired. A return date to complete the repairs has not been established. Operation Home is hosting a fund raising event for project Heat Relief on May 22 at the Sand Dunes Club. The organization would like to erect a sign near the Welcome sign on the causeway.

Mayor Stith duly ratified An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 21 of the Zoning Ordinances of the Town of Sullivan's Island.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Weideke, to have First Reading, by title only, of An Ordinance to Adopt Budget for July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Wiedeke, seconded by Councilwoman Hazen-Martin, to go into executive session for legal advice and personnel, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Wiedeke, to come out of executive session, carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQueeney
Town Clerk