

December 21, 2010

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
Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem
Buddy Howle, Councilman
Jerry Kaynard, Councilman
Madeleine McGee, Councilwoman
Patrick O'Neil, Councilman

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith, followed by the invocation by Councilman Howle. There were five members in the audience and no members of the media present.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Kenny Jones of High Thyme restaurant submitted a request to vend out front of restaurant on January 1st, as last year, during the Polar Bear Plunge. Council stated he and his staff should work out the details with the Administrator and Police and Fire Chiefs.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Howle, to approve minutes from the regular meeting on November 16, 2010; and Special Meetings on November 15, 2010 and December 6, 2010, carried unanimously.

Reports and Communications

General and New Correspondence – Administrator Benke reported there were two correspondence items: a letter to The President from S.C. Mayors to seek support to fund the Feasibility Study for the Charleston Harbor Post 45-ft. Deepening Project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Budget; and a Freedom of Information request from the Student Association for Energy Efficiency for documentation of one month's electric bills relating to municipal roadway lighting.

Attorney Report – no report

Board and Commission Reports – Planning Commission Chairman Hal Currey reported that the Commission plans to have the overlay district document for review with Council at the next Committee meeting.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke. The Hood Law Firm submitted Plaintiffs' second request for production of documents and second request for Admission in the civil action against the Town of Sullivan's Island and Sullivan's Island Town

Council. The law offices of Brady Hair are preparing the replies. Information regarding commercial activity on Town property and RC-1 area is on hold until the Committee can meet to discuss this. The presentation by Nancy Vinson, Program Director Coastal Conservation League, regarding cruise ship activity is on hold until she is available. Verizon Wireless is requesting permission to add a microwave dish to the external face of the American Tower stealth mono-pole; Mr. Yates will address Council in the future. A Council Strategy Retreat has been confirmed for January 29, 2011 at the Seewee Visitor Center in Awendaw, S.C.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly financial report rendered. Councilman Perkis reviewed the 2010 financial statement. Revenues are better than expected, and expense accounts are as expected. There was discussion of non-budgeted expenses resulting from the Bluestein et al. v. Sullivan's Island et al. litigation.

Personnel Committee, Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. Town employees became covered under the State of South Carolina health insurance plan as of October 1, 2010. Additional funds have been forwarded to MASC/SCLGAG to cover the medical claims run-out. Currently there are open positions for one full-time Water and Sewer operator; one full-time Firefighter; and one full time Maintenance employee. Kevin Newman of the Maintenance Department has completed his six month employment probation period, and Chief Stith has recommended changing his status to full time employment with the budgeted increase. **Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to approve the full time status with budgeted increase for Kevin Newman, carried unanimously.** Water and Sewer employee Paul Fouchecourt has tendered his retirement notice for May 20, 2011.

Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly report rendered. A response has been prepared for the owner of 1750 I'on Avenue regarding a sewer invoice. Councilman Perkis briefly reviewed the minutes from a Water and Sewer Committee meeting held on December 6, 2010. He reported that after reviewing comparative salary and information from neighboring water/sewer utilities, the Committee agreed the salary ranges for the three operator positions should be revised. **Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman Howle, to revise the salary ranges of the three Water and Sewer operator positions, carried unanimously.**

Building and Construction Committee, Councilman Howle. Monthly report rendered. The State has extended all building permits, Board of Zoning Appeal approvals and Design Review Board approvals until December 31, 2012.

Fire Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Christmas Tree and Fire Station Lighting ceremony was held at dusk on Friday, December 3, 2010.

Recreation Committee, Councilman Howle for Councilwoman Watson. There are no new items to report.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O’Neil.

Open Space Protection for Town Parcels - Council is waiting on document from Mt. Pleasant Land Conservancy.

Accreted Land Management Plan – Council continues to submit comments to Administrator Benke regarding the final draft of the Accreted Land Management Plan from Coastal Science and Engineering.

Island Club Structural Improvements – The Town is waiting on drawings from the Island Club regarding requested building improvements in order to obtain construction estimates.

Planning Commission – As reported earlier tonight by Chairman Currey, the Planning Commission continues to work toward recommendations for the Community Commercial District Zoning Overlay District and related topics.

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Department has completed training conducted by the Charleston County Sheriff’s Department on Electronic Control Devices. Chief Howard has circulated a revised “Use of Force” policy to the Police Committee and Administrator for review. Councilman Howle suggested that all new Police vehicles have municipal labels on them; and all four wheel drive vehicles should be patrolling the beach.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilwoman McGee.

Administrator Benke gave an update on the bridge. Marcinak has restored the slope on all quadrants. The date of final paving has not been announced.

Councilman Perkis commented that the Finance Committee of CARTA voted 2-1 to eliminate the bus route in Mt. Pleasant that travels down Rifle Range Road that would influence Isle of Palms and Sullivan’s Island. Options are being explored to include possibly having one stop on Isle of Palms and one stop on Sullivan’s Island in the commercial areas.

Mayor Smith duly ratified Ordinance No. 2010-10, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 20 Water Supply Section 20-7-1, Section 20-7-B; Section 20-7-C and Section 20-12-1 to Allow a Dock Only Meter for the Purpose of Supplying Water Only to Those Lots with a Dock and No Residential Structure.

Mayor Smith duly ratified Ordinance No. 2010-12, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3-6 Quarantine of Dogs and Release Therefrom.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilman O’Neil, to go into Executive Session at 7:00 pm for legal advice concerning 1) Contractual – Town Hall Mitigation; 2) Contractual – Lease Agreement Sullivan’s Island Elementary School; 3) Contractual – College of Charleston study of Accreted Land; 4) Personnel – Employee compensation, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman O’Neil, seconded by Councilman Howle, to come out of Executive Session, carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0 (Councilwoman

McGee left early from Executive Session). Mayor Smith stated no action or votes were taken during Executive Session.

A special meeting of the Real Estate Committee will be scheduled for January 6, 2011 to discuss the property lease for the Sullivan's Island Elementary School.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Howle, to move the Sullivan's Island Town Hall into the old Sullivan's Island Elementary School facility as soon as prudent if available, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman O'Neil, for staff to put out an RFP for the Town Hall mitigation work as per the findings of Environmental Solutions and Services, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Kaynard, seconded by Councilman Howle, to retain in our fleet the best of our used vehicles, and part of our fleet to be assigned to Randy Robinson, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Howle, to adjourn at 8:37 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller