

May 17, 2011

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
Mary Jane Watson, Councilwoman

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith, followed by the invocation by Councilman Howle. The Council Chamber was full to capacity, including one member of the media.

Mayor Smith presented Water and Sewer Operator Paul Fouchecourt with a Resolution honoring his dedicated service of over nine years at the time of his retirement.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to approve minutes from the regular meeting on April 26, 2011, and the Special Meetings on May 2, 2011 and May 6, 2011; carried unanimously.

The floor was opened for comments from the citizens. Joe Harrison, 2524 Jasper, read a letter to Council regarding the accreted land. Wayne Guckenberger, 2105 Pettigrew, stated he would like the accreted property in Unit 3C to be managed like the Bayonne unit. Eddie Fava, 2424 Myrtle, stated a public review process is needed for the elementary school. Mr. Jerry English, architect with Cummings and McCrady, gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the plans for the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School. Councilman O'Neil read the Resolution passed by Town Council on January 19, 2010 stating its support for a new school on Sullivan's Island. Stephanie Smith, 1907 Thee Street; Kelly Maloney, 2014 I'on; Barbara Claypoole, 2102 Pettigrew; Skip Scarpa, 2102 Atlantic; David Peterseim, 1707 Atlantic; Will Post, 1907 I'on Avenue; Everett Presson, 1718 Otis Pickett Court; Kathy Post, 1907 I'on; Susan Poulnot, 2819 Marshall; Chauncey Clark, 2119 Pettigrew; Kathleen Brunson, 1660 Poe; Sid Evans, 2514 Myrtle; Wayne Stelljes, 3104 I'on; Jaime Edens, 3030 Brownell; Loren Ziff, 1412 Thompson; Mark Howard; and two Isle of Palms residents expressed their support and/or concerns about the new elementary school. The majority of the comments were related to the large size of the structure. Bill Lewis, Chief Operating Officer for Capital Programs for Charleston County School District, answered questions from the audience.

Reports and Communications

A Resolution of Appreciation to the Municipal Election Commission was approved.

Mayor Smith duly proclaimed May as Bike Month.

Mayor Smith duly proclaimed May 23-30, 2011 as National Beach Safety Week.

Mayor Smith duly proclaimed Bus to Beach Day.

General and New Correspondence – Correspondence was received from Dicksie Johnson thanking Council for its support for the Run for Adela; William Camp regarding the temporary relocation of Town Hall and the Police Station; and Red Wood regarding the location for a new Town Hall.

Attorney Report – no report.

Board and Commission Reports – no report.

Administrator's Report, Administrator Benke.

Civil action litigation – Staff is responding to the Fifth Request to Produce. Item is on agenda for legal advice during Executive Session.

Town Hall Repairs - At the Special Meeting of Council on May 6, 2011, Council authorized staff to make arrangements for placement of Town Hall and Police trailers behind the Fire Station. Fill dirt is being delivered to the site and compaction has begun. The goal is to have the trailers on site the first week of June.

Sullivan's Island Elementary School – The Town has submitted a lease agreement for the Sullivan's Island property to Charleston County School District. It will be discussed during Executive Session.

Cell Tower Hardware Addition – The hardware has been mounted and contractual negotiations with American Tower have begun.

Myrtle Avenue Cemetery – Monsignor McNerny has concluded preliminary design work at the Myrtle Avenue Cemetery with a landscape architect. He would like to discuss the plans with Town Council in the near future. Councilman Kaynard suggested that nearby residents be informed of that meeting.

Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc. Presentation – Staff has been reviewing various software options to complements its GIS data. Ed Yankowski, Local Government Account Manager for ERSI, gave a brief presentation gave a presentation at the last committee meeting.

BellSouth Telephone Inc. Video Franchise Agreement – BellSouth Telephone Inc. d/b/a/ AT&T has submitted a franchise agreement request to the South Carolina Secretary of State of service on Sullivan's Island. This will be discussed during Executive Session.

Special Event Applications – Council approved Charleston Running Club's 2011 Floppin' Flounder 5K race on June 4, 2011. Council did not approve the request by Taco Boy Restaurant to set up on Town property to sell food after the race.

Commercial activity on Town property and RC-1 area - There has been no additional activity regarding commercial activity on Town property and the RC-1 Area.

Ways and Means Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly report rendered. Councilman Perkis reviewed the April 2011 financial statement, along with the litigation expenses from Bluestein et al. v. Sullivan's Island et al. A budget workshop was held on May 16th, and a revised budget was given to Council.

Personnel Committee, Councilman Kaynard. Monthly report rendered. Firefighter Lewis White III has been hired in the Fire Department; Paul Fouchecourt, as honored tonight, retired from the Water and Sewer Department. There is one full-time position open in the Water & Sewer Department, and one full-time maintenance position open. Town Hall will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day holiday, and recycling collection will be changed to June 2nd due to the holiday.

Water and Sewer Committee, Councilman Perkis. Monthly reports rendered. The Water and Sewer Committee met on May 9, 2011 to review the FY 2012 budget, capital projects and SCDOT paving projects.

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

Fire Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered.

Recreation Committee, Councilwoman Watson. The Park Foundation has raised \$32,000 to date through the "No Show Gala" fundraiser. Negotiations have been finalized with a fireworks display vendor for the July 4th celebration. The Foundation is reviewing opportunities for repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts and alternate surfaces for the basketball court, which will be funded through private donations, the Park Foundation, and the Town. Bike to Work day is May 20th.

Real Estate Committee, Councilman O'Neil.
Accreted Land Management Plan – Council will hold a workshop on Zone 4 on Friday, May 20, 2011 at 3:00 pm at Town Hall.
Sullivan's Island Gadsden Cultural Center Lease – The lease agreement with the Sullivan's Island Gadsden Cultural Center is due to expire on June 30, 2011. **Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Perkis, to amend the agenda to add the Sullivan's Island Gadsden Cultural Center Lease as Item # 5 in Executive Session, carried unanimously.**
Sullivan's Island Recycle Station – Judge Michael Molony has requested the Town petition Charleston County for a recycle station at or near the Fire Station. The Town has reviewed three sites to serve as a collection location; however, Council does not wish to place a bin on the Island at this time.
Thompson Memorial Park Exhibit – The S.C. Department of Transportation has given approval of the boundary encroachment permit.

Town Hall Relocation and Environmental Mitigation – Councilman Perkis suggested that the next step for Town Hall Relocation is a needs assessment of Town Administration’s work environment, such as what does staff need in order to do their work and how much space is needed. **Motion was made by Councilman Perkis, seconded by Councilman O’Neil, that staff identify a consultant to do a needs assessment of Town Administration, carried unanimously.**

Open Space Protection for Town Parcels – Attorney Larry Dodds stated the Town is waiting on a recorded survey to proceed further.

Island Club Structural Improvements – The Town awaits construction drawings for the improvements to the Island Club.

Planning Commission – The Law Offices of Brady Hair have begun working on a CC District Zoning Overlay ordinance.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. Switch Gear – BellSouth/AT&T is requesting an easement to place a 10’ x 10’ switch gear box on Town property in front of the Fire Station. This item will be discussed in Executive Session tonight.

Police Committee, Mayor Smith. Monthly report rendered. The Police Committee will reschedule the cancelled April 11, 2011 committee meeting. Officer David Burke resigned as Reserve Officer Program/Victim Advocate Program. Chief Howard has completed electronic control device training.

Streets and Maintenance Committee, Councilwoman McGee.

Middle Street Resurfacing and Stormwater Pipe Project – The S.C. Department of Transportation contractor for Middle Street has completed all asphalt and curb and gutter work for the project. Final striping and crosswalks are anticipated during the month of May 2011.

Ben Sawyer- Final inspection of the Ben Sawyer Bridge was held on April 7, 2011.

Charleston County Urban Greenbelt Projects – The Charleston County Urban Greenbelt Project grant application is due June 1, 2011. Council Members McGee and O’Neil, along with the Town Administrator, attended a pre-application meeting on May 6th.

Motion was made by Councilman McGee, seconded by Councilman Howle, to authorize the staff to submit an application requesting \$197,774 subject to the Town Attorney’s approval of the deed restrictions, carried unanimously. Councilwoman McGee stated that there are five options for utilizing the funds: unimproved roadways (no request), unimproved parking lots (no request), unpaved trails (\$120,000 estimate), footbridges (\$10,000 estimate), and boardwalks (\$68,000 estimate).

Stormwater Pump Station 18 Street – The Town awaits further comment from the residents.

Managed Parking Public Meeting – The Administrator will be working with a consultant in the coming months to establish an evaluation plan for the concept of paid parking.

Motion was made by Councilman Howle, seconded by Councilwoman Watson, to go into Executive Session at 9:00 pm for legal advice – Bluestein et al. v. Town of Sullivan’s Island et al.; Contractual Matters – Land Lease at 2678 Middle Street; AT&T Easement Agreement at Fire Station; Land Lease with Charleston

County School District; and Sullivan's Island Gadsden Cultural Center Lease, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Howle, to come out of Executive Session, carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith stated that no votes or action were taken during Executive Session.

There was continued discussion among Councilmembers, Town Attorney Dodds, Bill Lewis of Charleston County, and Jerry English of Cummings & McCrady, concerning the parameters of the lease for the new elementary school.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to go into Executive Session, carried unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Smith stated that no votes or action was taken.

Motion was made by Councilman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Howle, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Miller
Town Clerk