

City Council Workshop
Fire Department HQ - Training Room
February 25, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Gregory S. Habib; Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Condon; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Jerry Tekac; Councilmember Corey McClary; Councilmember Gayla McSwain; Councilmember Christopher Harmon

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Director of Recreation TJ Rostin

Staff Absent:

Press Present:

Guests:

City Attorney Tim Domin

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Habib called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS & UPDATES

I. City Attorney Briefing on the Freedom of Information Act – City Attorney Tim Domin thoroughly briefed City Council about requests for records under the Freedom of Information Act regarding email communication, regardless if it's government or personal email and it's sent to someone one on one, reply all, or to City Council as a whole, this includes texting. He cautioned them about reply all and discussions that begin occurring through emails versus information that is simply for distribution purposes. He stated there is nothing wrong with one on one emails or text messages, but there is a very fine line as to including a reply all email and wherein discussions about City business end up being conducted and it's not in a public forum. Mr. Domin thoroughly answered all of City Council's questions regarding laws concerning electronic communication under the Freedom of Information Act.

II. John McCants Veterans Park Design Development Drawings

Mr. Broom presented and discussed with City Council the pre-construction drawings for the John McCants Veterans Park and he stated he had four (4) questions: 1) Where does City Council wish to place the memorial; 2) What does City Council envision the memorial to look like; 3) where does City Council picture placement of the restrooms; and 4) should the City keep the building where the batting cages are located. Mr. Broom thoroughly reviewed, made suggestions and discussed with City Council the pre-construction design of the proposed park and thoroughly answered all of City Council's questions.

III. RELT / Federal Parks Money Update

Mr. Moore reminded City Council that a while back City staff applied to have some RELT restrictions removed from thirteen (13) properties owned by the City, and they have also been working with Shannon Park with another Federal Grant and they received the answer for both at the same time. He stated it's not exactly good news but it's just there is a process in moving forward. He stated RELT is a Federal Grant money from the National Park service, which is no longer funded by the Federal government, it's essentially defunct, but it's still on their books. He stated the City owns properties purchased with RELT money in the past ten (10) years. Mr. Moore continued with his briefing to City Council, discussed some proposed options and thoroughly answered all their questions. The two (2) options were: 1) the City can sell all the properties, but the City must give half the proceeds to South Carolina PRT to use the monies at any of the parks throughout the State, and that does not mean the City will receive any of the monies from the SC PRT at one of their parks; 2) Only sell specific parcels and then use half the proceeds from those sales would be used to expanding the Greenview Acres parks with connecting parcels already owned by the City if City Council wished to remove the restrictions in part or in whole. Mr. Broom also discussed restrictions placed on certain parcels wherein the Goose Creek Recreation Commission has Deed Restrictions placed on those properties, like what was on the Shannon Park property. He stated City staff was able to have them remove those

restriction to the Shannon Park property by expanding the contract for services in the Special Purpose Tax District by ten (10) years. Mr. Moore stated the properties in question would need to have appraisals done on them to know what the current fair market value is. Mr. Broom stated if the City sells Shannon Park, we automatically become defunct on the original agreement and the City will become ineligible from receiving any Federal Grants for two (2) years on any Federal national public service monies, which is only for parks. He stated if the City waits, it could take eighteen months to five (5) years to clear everything and that's not really something that would benefit the City to wait in the long run. He stated the last time the City used Federal Grant monies was in 1986, so the City does not use Federal monies often.

Mayor Habib stated he would like to see the eight (8) lots across from the Greenview Acres Park be sold to Habitat for Humanity to be developed, and the monies from the proceeds be placed into expanding the property that connects to the already existing Greenview Acres Park.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

I. Board & Commission Liaison Reports

Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) (Councilmember McClary) – Councilmember McClary stated Ms. Lovette informed him the vacancy for the CAC needed to be advertised. Ms. Lovette stated the vacancy would be advertised with the local media and the City's website and social media sites. Councilmember McClary stated the CAC has Art Talk in the Creek which takes place on the third Monday of each month, and at the one in February they had almost forty (40) people in attendance; he stated the one in March it would take place at the Crowfield Pub (Crowfield Golf Course) on Monday, March 16th and the guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Heitzler, former Mayor for the City of Goose Creek. Councilmember McClary reviewed some of the upcoming projects the CAC is working on regarding murals they would like to put into effect based on the recent passing of a murals ordinance by City Council; a community outreach (Come Paint with Me – third Saturday, 9 am to 12 noon – Community Center); and a seniors community outreach (Senior Arts – third Saturday, 1 pm to 3 pm – Community Center).

Planning Commission (PC) – Councilmember McSwain stated she missed the February meeting of the PC due to the South Carolina's Legislative Action Day in Columbia during that time. (Note: Parts were inaudible due to a train going by.) Mr. Moore stated there were no vacancies on the PC and Mr. Josh Johnson, Chairman of the PC was doing a great job in his position and in conducting the meetings.

Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) - Councilmember Tekac stated they had a meeting scheduled for that upcoming Thursday to update the members on Project Lighting Rod.

Architectural Review Board (ARB) – Mayor Pro Tem Condon stated the ARB received some recent annual training that consisted of six (6) hours. Mr. Moore stated he was working with Mark Brodeur, Director of Planning & Zoning, on creating new training materials that are geared more specifically to what the ARB deals with, as opposed to things normally dealt with by the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Condon made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (7:14 pm)

Minutes approved and adopted:

Date: March 10, 2020

Kelly J. Lovette, MMC
City Clerk

A copy of this meeting's agenda was sent to the Post and Courier and The Goose Creek Gazette; it was posted in City Hall 24 hours prior to the meeting.