



MINUTES
CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
519 N GOOSE CREEK BOULEVARD

Mayor/Council Present:

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

City Staff:

City Administrator Natalie Zeigler
City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette
Finance Director Tyler Howanyk
Public Information Officer Frank Johnson
Police Chief LJ Roscoe
Interim Fire Chief Norm Cutshall

Press Present:

None

Guests Present:

None

PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 AND WAS DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 519 N GOOSE CREEK BOULEVARD, AN ACCESSIBLE FACILITY, AND ON CITYOFGOOSECREEK.COM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Habib called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and requested Nicole Franklin, Chaplin of The Oaks Wesleyan Church, located on Redbank Road, lead in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Note: All comments sent to the City Clerk, via US Mail or Email, as stated on the meeting Agenda, were forwarded to City Council.

Mayor Habib recognized a gentleman from the audience who stated his concerns about the City's requirement to wear a mask when in public and in business establishments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

City Council Meeting – August 10, 2020

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilmember McSwain.
Discussion: None.
Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS:

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS & PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. AN ORDINANCE TO SELL REAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5-7-260 (6) OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS, 0.055 ACRES, A PORTION OF TMS 235-00-00-035 AND .076 ACRES, A PORTION OF TMS 235-00-00-038 (Second and Final Reading)**

Motion: Councilmember Harmon made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilmember McClary.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

- b. AN ORDINANCE TO SELL SIXTEEN (16) REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE BOULDER BLUFF SECTION III (SUBDIVISION) OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5-7-260 (6) OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED (Second and Final Reading)**

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Condon.

Discussion: Councilmember McSwain inquired if City staff heard about whether the road would be built to Berkeley County's standards and if they would be willing to accept the roadway. Mrs. Zeigler stated yes, it would be built to the County's standards and it would be turned over to them.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

- c. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 31: CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REVISING AND MAKING A CHANGE TO THE MEETING TIME IN SECTION 31.060 MEETINGS AND PROCEDURE; PLACE, DAY AND TIME OF REGULAR MEETINGS; MEETINGS OPEN (Second and Final Reading)**

Motion: Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Harmon.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

- d. AN ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, TITLE 5 – MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, CHAPTER 7 GENERAL STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, POWERS, DUTIES, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL MUNICIPALITIES, SECTION 5-7-170 SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN DETERMINED BY COUNCIL THROUGH ORDINANCE, TO INCREASE THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second and Final Reading)**

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Condon.

Discussion: Councilmember Tekac stated he wished to point out a sitting City Council cannot approve a salary increase; therefore, the proposed increase will not take effect until after the next election, which will be held in November.

Vote: Six (6) in favor, one (1) opposed (Councilmember McSwain opposed). Motion carried.

e. APPROVING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000,000 INSTALLMENT PURCHASE REVENUE REFUNDING BOND (PUBLIC WORKS FIRE STATION PROJECT), SERIES 2020, OF THE GOOSE CREEK MUNICIPAL FINANCE CORPORATION; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading)

Motion: Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilmember McClary.

Discussion: Councilmember Tekac requested Mrs. Zeigler state what the current interest rate is and what it will be lowered to. Mrs. Zeigler stated it would go from 2.88% to 1.32%.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS & PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-150, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA IDENTIFIED AS TMS 223-13-04-004 (915 ST. JAMES AVENUE) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading)

Mayor Habib stated this property is going to be developed into a 7-11 (convenience store).

Motion: Councilmember McSwain made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Condon.

Discussion: Councilmember Tekac commented that this store will be located at the corner of Myers Road and St. James Avenue. Mayor Habib also stated it will be annexed as General Commercial property.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

b. RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK TO PROVIDING A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND FOLLOWING ITS PROCUREMENT POLICY WHEN SECURING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WITH GRANT FUNDS (Introduction and Final Reading)

Mayor Habib stated the City is seeking \$25,000 in funding to help offset some new signage for the

City and that the City's match will be \$3,700. He stated we apply for money when we can get it and it takes a Resolution approved by City Council in order to apply by filling out the application.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Condon made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution as presented. Seconded by Councilmember McClary.

Discussion: Mayor Habib stated this grant would be used to purchase banners that will be placed along St. James Avenue.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

a. Request to Hire Fire Chief - Michael Nixon

Mrs. Zeigler stated she is seeking approval to hire a new Fire Chief, Michael Nixon, he is the Deputy Chief from Portland, Maine and he is scheduled to start November 30, 2020. She stated he is over all Administrative and Emergency Operations of the Fire Department, he has been in the fire service since 1986, they have ten (10) fire stations and currently have a \$15,000,000 budget. She stated we are a little less than half of that budget. Mrs. Zeigler stated there were 104 people who applied for the position of Fire Chief and they were narrowed down by application reviews and phone screens by our Interim Fire Chief and our HR Director, and they actually conducted an in person interview of seven (7) potential candidates. She stated Mr. Nixon really stood out and City staff was really excited to get him on board. Mayor Habib stated Mrs. Zeigler got our finalists down to two (2) and he interviewed both and he agreed with her assessment and believes Mr. Nixon will be a great addition to our organization and to our City.

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Michael Nixon as the new Fire Chief. Seconded by Councilmember Green-Fletcher.

Discussion: Councilmember McClary inquired if anything stood out with Mr. Nixon as to his vision of the City. Mayor Habib stated he is confident in his abilities and is incredibly well versed in the fire industry. He stated his commitment to our community, the impact the Fire Department could have on our community and one thing that really stood out to him was employee development growth and he believes Mr. Nixon will be a great leader in that regard.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Request to Purchase – 911 Equipment Upgrade (Police Department)

Mrs. Zeigler presented City Council with a request for an upgrade in 911 equipment. She stated this was recently discussed at a City Council Workshop and until a decision is made Chief Roscoe needs this to get us through for now until there is a final decision on the consolidation. She stated \$216,752 would be needed up front, \$173,401.60 will be reimbursed by the State, and \$43,350.40 will be out of pocket by the City through the E911 Fund and it is a budgeted expense.

Motion: Councilmember McSwain made a motion to approve the purchase of the 911 equipment upgrade for the Police Department as presented. Seconded by Councilmember McClary.

Discussion: None.
Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Request to Purchase – Cart Path Replacement (Golf Department)

Mrs. Zeigler stated this project has been going on for a couple of years now, it is a budgeted expense through the Hospitality Fund, and it is requested City Council approve the low bid in the total amount of \$49,654.00 and \$197,482.60.

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the Cart Path Replacement for the Golf Department. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Condon.

Discussion: Councilmember Harmon inquired if this is the last renovation of the cart path. Mr. Denson stated there were two (2) more next year and they would be about the same.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT

a. A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BERKELEY COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE BY THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK (Introduction and Final Reading)

Mayor Habib stated the proposed Resolution is to adopt the 2019 Berkeley County Hazard Mitigation Plan and it is required by the State of South Carolina and FEMA and it is required the City adopt this Plan in order for its residents to purchase flood insurance.

Motion: Councilmember Harmon made a motion to adopt the proposed Resolution. Seconded by Councilmember McClary.

Discussion: Mayor Habib stated this becomes effective immediately upon adoption.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURN

Motion: Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Condon.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 7:25 p.m.

Date: October 13, 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.