



MINUTES
CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 – 6:00 PM
FIRE DEPARTMENT HQ – TRAINING ROOM
201 BUTTON HALL AVENUE

Mayor/Council Present:

Mayor Gregory S. Habib
Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Condon (6:23pm)
Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher
Councilmember Christopher Harmon
Councilmember Corey McClary
Councilmember Gayla McSwain
Councilmember Jerry Tekac (6:34 pm)

City Staff:

City Administrator Natalie Zeigler
City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette
Director of Finance Tyler Howanyk
Director of Public Works Chuck Denson

Guests Present:

Mr. Josh Johnson, President,
The Oaks Civic Club

Press Present:

PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 519 N GOOSE CREEK BOULEVARD, AN ACCESSIBLE FACILITY, AND ON CITYOFGOOSECREEK.COM

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

STAFF PRESENTATIONS & UPDATES:

I. THE OAKS (RESIDENTIAL PARKING STORAGE)

Mr. Josh Johnson, President of the Civic Club for The Oaks subdivision, briefed City Council about a current ongoing issue he and his neighbors are having with a homeowner in The Oaks. He stated he could count twenty-two (22) or more vehicles, that are being stored in the front and back yard at a residence on Old State Road within his neighborhood. Mr. Johnson provided photos of the home/yard with the vehicles and language to use in a proposed Ordinance and stated he was there to request the help of City Council to see if there was anything that could be done about this issue in a residential neighborhood. He stated The Oaks did not have a Homeowners Association, only a Civic Club. He stated they have been through the City's Code Enforcement and they said there was nothing they could do as long as the vehicles were registered to an owner. Mr. Johnson stated this is a very extreme case, but they do have another home that has a car trailer and the cars are usually changing and the question would be if there are businesses being ran out of these homes. He stated he would like to see a limit to the number of vehicles allowed at a residence and to not allow commercial transport vehicles, not allow vehicles behind tractor trailers, and to not allow something that could carry up to multiple vehicles on the back. He stated he was open to any suggestions and ideas Mayor Habib and City Council may have.

Councilmember Harmon stated he agreed with Mr. Johnson that this issue is a nuisance and that there needed to be a limit on the number of vehicles allowed to routinely park at a residence. Mayor Habib stated he did not want to live next to someone with thirty (30) cars, but there are people who have no issue with doing so. He stated it likely they are running a business out of

their home, but it has been difficult to prove in the past and the City needs to be persistent in proving they are operating a business. Councilmember Green-Fletcher stated she felt they should continue to try and find a way to resolve the issue.

Mr. Denson stated with the City's Ordinance up to nine (9) unregistered, dismantled, wrecked and inoperable vehicles can be stored behind a fence. He stated with operable vehicles, the question becomes is there a repair business or do they have a large family. Mrs. Zeigler stated she felt the issue at hand needed to be run by the City's attorney. Mr. Denson briefed City Council on the current process in which someone is notified they are in violation of the City's vehicle ordinance. Mr. Johnson stated he would be happy to attend if the subject appears on an agenda at a future City Council Workshop.

II. ACCOMODATIONS TAX

Mr. Howanyk briefed City Council with an update, since the City Council Budget Workshop, on a proposed Accommodations Tax. He stated the City could have possibly gotten 3%, but in 1985 Berkeley County passed an Ordinance for 2% and there is nothing the City can do about it; however, the City could still pass an Accommodations Tax for 1%. He stated he reached out to the City's attorney and State law dictates that if the County passed a law before 1996 to collect an Accommodations Tax, there is nothing the City could do as Berkeley County is grandfathered under current law.

III. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY 2021 BUDGET

Mr. Howanyk thoroughly briefed City Council regarding a few budget adjustments that have been addressed since City Council's budget workshop. Mrs. Zeigler reviewed some of the answers to some of City Council's general questions that came up during the budget workshop which entailed playtime on the field at Foster Creek Park and giving the grass time to recover; beautifying the bike path entrance/parking lot at Wannamaker Park on the Goose Creek side; perks for coaches in recreation and perhaps a voucher be given after the season for their child for the following season; the City's Tree Fund for the new medians for the safety project on St. James Avenue; cost of the land for sale by Fender Mender (\$350,000); the City's safety program and Worker's Comp.

Hearing nothing further, Mayor Habib stated the proposed Ordinance for the FY 2021 Budget will be up for first reading at the City Council Meeting in October.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn by Councilmember Harmon, seconded by Councilmember McClary.
Discussion: None.
Vote: All in favor. Motion carried. (6:36 p.m.)

Kelly J. Lovette, MMC
City Clerk

Date: October 13, 2020