

AGENDA
City of Goose Creek
City Council Meeting
Tuesday – April 14, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
519 N Goose Creek Boulevard
Goose Creek, South Carolina

Call to Order-Mayor Michael J. Heitzler

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of the “Purchase Award Winner” of Goose Creek Artist Guild

Artist Trish Emery - “Sisters” (Watercolor)

Comments from the Audience (Please proceed to the nearest microphone.)

Approval of Previous Minutes

- 1) City Council Workshop – March 3, 2015
- 2) City Council Meeting – March 10, 2015

Public Hearings

None.

Department Reports

- 1) Police Department – Chief of Police Harvey Becker
- 2) Fire Department – Fire Chief Steve Chapman
- 3) Department of Public Works – Director of Public Works Steve Price
- 4) Administration Department – Finance Director Ron Faretra
- 5) Municipal Court – Finance Director Ron Faretra
- 6) Recreation Department – Director of Recreation Gary Stuber
- 7) Golf Department – Director of Golf Operations Troy Sanders
- 8) Public Information Office (Briefing Only/No Report) – Public Information Officer/
Annexation Coordinator - Jesica Mackey
- 9) Planning & Zoning (Briefing Only/No Report) –Director of Planning & Zoning – Sarah
Hanson

City Administrator's Report

None.

Mayor's Report

- 1) Continue Interaction With Others (#4 of the 2015 Goals & Objectives)

Comments from the Audience (Please proceed to the nearest microphone.)

Adjournment

NOTE: A copy of this agenda was sent to *The Gazette* and *The Post and Courier*, and a copy was posted in City Hall twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

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City Council Meeting
April 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michael J. Heitzler; Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips; Councilmember James (Kimo) Esarey; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Jerry Tekac; Councilmember John McCants

Council Members Absent:

Councilmember Franklin Moore

Staff Present:

City Administrator Dennis C. Harmon; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Police Chief Harvey Becker; Fire Chief Steve Chapman; Finance Director Ron Faretra; Director of Public Works Steve Price; Director of Recreation Gary Stuber; Director of Golf Operations Troy Sanders; Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Hanson; Public Information Officer Jessica Mackey

Staff Absent:

Invocation:

Councilmember James (Kimo) Esarey

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:

Dan Brown, Goose Creek Gazette

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Heitzler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Recognition of the “Purchase Award Winner” of Goose Creek Artist Guild:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Artist Trish Emery, who painted a watercolor titled “Sisters”. He stated this art work was the City’s “Annual Purchase Award Winner” and would be hung in City Hall. Mayor Heitzler invited Mrs. Emery and her granddaughters to have a photo taken with him next to her painting. Mrs. Emery stated her family lived and played in the City of Goose Creek.

III. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Reggie Ryan from the audience, who stated Cape Coral, Florida, had a population of 162,000, and was in debt \$9,000,000. He stated he smiled when looking at the financials for the City of Goose Creek. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for handling the City well, as well as the department managers for the work they perform for the City. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Mary Kay Ramey who thanked the City for the great job being done at the Crowfield Golf Course. She stated the people are wonderful and the course looked great. She stated her husband and her moved to the area because of his job and when he was ready to retire, they loved it so much, they decided to stay. She stated she always wanted to live on a golf course and this was where they currently live and they have lived on the golf course for over half of its life. She stated she really appreciated the course and all the work put into its maintenance.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – March 3, 2015
City Council Meeting – March 10, 2015

Councilmember McCants stated in the March 3, 2015, City Council Workshop minutes, City Council discussed problems with the litter concerning cats and dogs. He stated the City of Charleston has made mention of dogs being walked on the Arthur Ravenel Bridge and pet waste not being removed. He stated the minutes read the area was Ravenel, South Carolina, and it should have read the City of Charleston.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated City Council does not like to make decisions during City Council Workshops; however, City Council did make some decisions in their previous Workshop on March 24, 2015, and he wanted to report back to the public as to those decisions. He stated City Council approved the golf course improvements totaling \$260,000, and they also decided to move ahead with Phase II of the Community Center for approximately \$8,000,000. He stated all programs held at the Casey Community Center would be moved to the new Phase II (Gymnastics Center) and a majority of the square footage would be used for gymnastics.

V. Public Hearings:

None.

VI. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. John Weirman who stated in the previous 2 months he has not felt as safe in his home, as he had in the last 23 years. He stated there have been break-ins and he is not receiving any feedback in regards to what is being done about the situation. He stated his wife sent emails with questions and she received 1 return email stating there was an ongoing investigation; and, then they heard through Facebook that 3 individuals were arrested. Mr. Weirman stated he would like City Council and the Police Department to come together and determine what was happening within the community. Mayor Heitzler stated if Mr. Weirman did not feel safe then he (Mayor Heitzler) was not doing his job and he would not rest until the citizens of Goose Creek felt safe. Mayor Heitzler stated 7 months ago was the first time the Police Department ever shot and killed anyone since the City was incorporated in 1961. Mayor Heitzler stated 10 days previously there was a shoot-out in the downtown area of the City. He stated the break-ins referred to are occurring during the day and people do not feel safe in their neighborhoods. Chief Becker stated 3 juveniles were arrested and 1 was in the Berkeley County Detention Center, charged as an adult; the second one was in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in Columbia, and, the third, a 14 year old, was returned to his parents. He stated a vast majority of the break-ins were cleared by these arrests. Mayor Heitzler inquired if there was still neighborhood police bike and foot patrols at night. Chief Becker stated yes. Chief Becker stated Mr. Kevin Scott, the City's Crime Prevention Officer, has held several crime prevention meetings and sent out mass emails. Mr. Weirman stated he felt like the Police Department was overwhelmed and he was appalled to find out the total number of police officers on duty, in the area, on any given night. He stated more funds needed to be placed into the Police Department to get more officers onto the streets. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council could discuss either shifting resources or increasing taxes to pay for additional officers.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Parker who stated there was a disturbance in his neighborhood concerning individuals playing basketball at 11:30 pm. He stated he called the Police Department and it was quiet within 5 minutes. Councilmember Esarey stated he was appreciative of the Police Department's bike patrol.

Fire Department – Councilmember Esarey inquired when his people would be moving into the new fire stations. Chief Chapman stated the move in date for the new fire stations was still to be determined. He stated they were on schedule with Fire Station III and slightly behind schedule on the Headquarters station.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Reggie Ryan who inquired if the City was responsible for hooking into the water lines for the construction project involving the comfort stations that are being built at the golf course. Mr. Price stated that area was not on the City's water system and the golf course was managing the project. Mr. Ryan stated he had concerns over the testing and safety of the water. Mayor Heitzler stated Charleston Public Works (CPW) owned the system in The Hamlets. He stated the testing of the water would be the responsibility of the project director and CPW. Mr. Price stated a construction crew or utility crew member would place a tapping saddle on the line and the pressure would push the piece of pipe drilled away back out and the service line would be connected. He stated typically there is not a need or requirement for quality testing because the system remained under

pressure and there was no risk of contamination. Mayor Heitzler stated contamination typically would occur if a line was broken and soil and things flowed into the water before it could be repaired.

Administration Department & Municipal Court – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Weirman who inquired if Mr. Faretra was the person responsible for developing the amount of tax increase that would be necessary to provide for additional police officers. Mayor Heitzler stated the City would probably have to hire 5 to 6 additional officers. Mr. Harmon stated this would equate to approximately a 5 mill increase. Mayor Heitzler stated he was familiar as to where Mr. Weirman lives, and based on the value of his home, it would cost him approximately \$40.00, more per year in annual property taxes.

Recreation Department – Mr. Stuber stated they had basketball, baseball and soccer going on, so there were a “ton” of children currently playing sports. He stated improvements were made to Felkel Field and it looked great. Councilmember Esarey stated the fields looked wonderful and he appreciated all the work to get them completed; he stated it was clean, the new fences looked nice and the grass was really green.

Golf Department – There were no comments or questions.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mrs. Mackey reminded residents about the BBQ Festival scheduled for Saturday April 25th. She stated the event would occur behind City Hall from 2:00 to 7:00 pm, and there would be a live band and 10 BBQ teams competing. She stated there would also be a corn-hole tournament, food vendors and a kid’s area.

Planning Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Bates who inquired when the Neighborhood Market would open. Mrs. Hanson stated they were targeting June 20, 2015, for their grand opening date.

VII. City Administrator’s Report:

None.

VIII. Mayor’s Report

Continue Interaction with Others (#4 of the 2015 Goals & Objectives) – Mayor Heitzler stated he was directed by City Council to continue interacting and communicating with other agencies such as, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance (CRDA). He stated he was on the CRDA’s Board of Directors and these were the individuals who traveled around our Country to bring business to the Tri-County area. He stated he was expected to work with other counties, municipalities and the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Government (BCDCOG). He stated the BCDCOG provided oversight in the utilitarian services in public projects and he served on the Executive Board of Directors for the BCDCOG. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council wanted him to be “out front” when it came to money for roads and bridges. He stated he was the Chairman for the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee (CHATS) which oversaw where money was spent on roads and bridges in the tri-county area.

IX. Comments and Questions:

There were no comments or questions.

X. Adjournment:

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Date: May 12, 2015

Kelly J. Lovette, MMC
City Clerk

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