

City Council Meeting
August 11, 2015
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michael J. Heitzler; Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips; Councilmember Jerry Tekac; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember John McCants; Councilmember Franklin Moore

Council Members Absent:

Councilmember James (Kimo) Esarey

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; Public Information Officer Frank Johnson; Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Hanson

Staff Absent:

Invocation:

Councilmember John McCants

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. Recognitions and Awards:

Mayor Heitzler began the meeting by presenting and recognizing the individual Employee of the Year for each department, the Board/Commission Volunteer of the Year, the overall Volunteer of the Year and overall Employee of the Year for the City of Goose Creek. They were as follows:

2015 Volunteer of the Year – Bailiff Donald Matthews
Board/Commission Member of the Year – Doug Quinn, Architectural Review Board
Administration Department – Cheryle Talbert, Municipal Court
Administration Department – Daniel Gerrald, IT Systems Analyst
Fire Department - Josh Rohrbach (Engineer/EMT)
Golf Department (Part-Time/Seasonal) – Kevin Siko, Pro Shop Attendant
Golf Department – Karson Robinson, Maintenance
Recreation Department (Part-Time/Seasonal) – Roberta “Bobbie” Wareham, Concession Stand Coordinator
Recreation Department – Angela Martin, Athletic Coordinator
Police Department (Civilian Employee) – Kyle Brady, Community Service Specialist

Mayor Heitzler presented the employees of the year with a plaque. Mr. Gary Stuber, Director of Recreation, accepted the award on behalf of Mrs. Wareham who could not be present.

City-Wide Employee of the Year – City Council recognized Patrolman PFC Dariusz Ambroziak as the 2015 City-Wide employee of the year. Mayor Heitzler presented him with a plaque award.

Mayor Heitzler recognized the overall Employee of the Year for the City of Goose Creek as being Patrolman PFC Dariusz Ambroziak of the Goose Creek Police Department.

III. Comments from the Audience:

There were no comments or questions.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – July 9, 2015

City Council Meeting – July 14, 2015

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

V. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler requested Mrs. Hanson briefly describe the changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Mrs. Hanson stated there were minor changes to the residential landscaping requirements. She stated the commercial landscaping revisions provided for a more specific tree requirement along roadways and provided for additional landscaping and shading of larger parking lots. She stated the changes increased the landscaping percentage required for property. She stated the Planning Commission recommended a general explanation for the open space requirements. Mrs. Hanson stated the minimum parking lot requirements increased for multi-family communities.

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES TO THE SECTION 151.083 (B) LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS; SECTION 151.082 (G)(3) DESIGN STANDARDS, MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS; SECTION 151.197 (D) LANDSCAPING ELEMENT; SECTION 151.239 LANDSCAPING; AND SECTION ANNEX "A" TABLE OF PARKING AND LOADING SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item under Public Hearings was a proposed Ordinance to amend the zoning of 2 parcels of land. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN THE ZONING DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON PLANET ROAD, AT ST. JAMES AVENUE, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 222-00-00-124, FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-3), AND

THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON ST. JAMES AVENUE, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 222-00-00-046, FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO HIGH DENSITY (R-3)

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item was to amend the zoning of the property located at 229 Lindy Creek Road. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN THE ZONING DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 229 LINDY CREEK ROAD, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 244-01-04-003, FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2)

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

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading to the proposed Ordinance allowing for the swapping of land between the Berkeley County School District and the City of Goose Creek. He stated the parcels of land were located near Boulder Bluff Elementary School. He stated the City owned property located at the back of the school and the school district wanted this property to develop an area for parents to drop-off and pick-up students. Mayor Heitzler stated the City agreed to give the school district the property he described in exchange for property the school district owned across the street from Boulder Bluff Elementary School. He stated the City would plan and develop a passive park on the property that would be acquired from the school district and it would stretch from Boulder Bluff Elementary School to North Goose Creek Boulevard (US Highway 52). Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman in the audience who inquired if this property was along Amy Drive. Mayor Heitzler stated yes and some of the property was wetlands. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5-7-40 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO THE BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN EXCHANGE FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BERKELEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated when it rains, the water needed to be managed until it reached an outfall in the Cooper River. He stated if the water had pollutants in it these had to be mitigated. He stated it is difficult to determine where these pollutants originate. He stated the Storm Water Management Act required for the mitigation of storm water. He stated if a City or Town had a population greater than 10,000 the municipality was responsible for managing storm water. He stated Berkeley County charged \$36.00, each year, per resident for storm water management; however, the City of Goose Creek does not currently charge anything for storm water management and it would need to begin charging something soon to its residents. Mayor Heitzler stated the City wants to give their storm water responsibilities to Berkeley County and the County has agreed. He stated the residents in the City of Goose Creek would be charged \$36.00, for this program. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired if the \$36.00, would be charged per parcel of land. Mayor Heitzler stated yes. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Young who inquired if the \$36.00, fee would be paid to both Berkeley County and the City. Mayor Heitzler stated \$36.00, would be paid only to Berkeley County. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated the \$36.00, was currently charged by Berkeley County, but that could be subject to change. Mayor Heitzler stated yes, that amount was subject to change, but the County would have to go through the political process in order to raise the rate.

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK AND BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR PURPOSES OF EPA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER

QUALITY CONTROLS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

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

VI. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman in the audience who stated the Police Department was doing a great job. Chief Becker thanked Mayor Heitzler and members of City Council for recognizing Patrolman Ambroziak as the overall Employee of the Year for the City of Goose Creek.

Fire Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman in the audience who stated the Fire Department was doing a great job. Councilmember McCants requested Chief Chapman discuss the FEMA grant that was received by the City to upgrade the communications system. Chief Chapman stated in July (2015) they were awarded a Federal Grant from FEMA for \$179,000, to upgrade the radio systems to 800 MHZ. He stated this assisted in communicating with neighboring departments for fire, EMS and law enforcement services. Councilmember Tekac inquired about the progress of the new Headquarters and Station III Fire Stations. Chief Chapman stated everything was going well.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who stated he heard Berkeley County was going to resurface Gainesborough Drive and he inquired if this was still a future project. Mr. Price stated this was still a project, but there were delays in the design; however, it was nearing the final stages of the design portion of development. Mr. Price stated there were previous issues with obtaining easements and he hoped to have a schedule soon. Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman in the audience who stated DPW had some of the nicest employees. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Parker who inquired about trees on Indigo Road obstructing a driver's line of site. Mr. Price stated if there were trees obstructing the line of site for a driver, or if there are trees hanging in the roadway and could cause damage to a vehicle, it was the property owners' responsibility to trim the tree limbs. He stated DPW could enforce the City's Code, if needed.

Administration Department & Municipal Court – Mayor Heitzler apologized for when people report for jury duty and upon arrival there is a sign saying court has been canceled. He stated the fact that people are answering the jury call means they have done their job because the defendant decided they did not want to face their peers.

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler inquired what sport season was approaching. Mr. Stuber stated fall baseball, soccer, football and cheerleading. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady in the audience who stated more people should use the City's pool. She stated it was cheap, \$50.00, for 3 months and it was a wonderful and clean pool. Mayor Heitzler stated City residents own the pool and should make more use of it during the summer. The lady in the audience inquired if there was a possibility to cover it for the winter. Mayor Heitzler stated the Recreation Commission had a meeting the previous evening and discussed covering the pool and they did not have any answers.

Golf Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman from the audience who inquired when the golf courses 18 holes would be open. Mr. Sanders stated he hoped for a full opening on September 5th.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator - Mayor Heitzler recognized the new Public Information Officer, Mr. Frank Johnson. He stated Mr. Johnson was doing a great job communicating with the public. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Barbara Bates who inquired if Mr. Johnson was still working with the Goose Creek Gazette. Mr. Johnson stated no. Mr. Johnson announced the City's upcoming events and stated the City would be holding its Annual Blood Drive with the American Red Cross, that coming Friday at the Municipal Complex; the Giant Goose Creek Yard Sale was scheduled for September 26th, at the Casey Center; and, the City's Annual Fall Festival was scheduled for October 10th. He stated information for all 3 events was on the City's website.

Planning Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman who inquired if Wal-Mart replaced the trees required by the Zoning Ordinance. Mrs. Hanson stated yes, they added trees to the back of the property and trees on

the interior of the lot. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Arenson who inquired if the 2 lots that were up for being rezoned as high density, were done at the request of the developer because they wish to put apartment complexes on the property. Mrs. Hanson stated the owners of the property requested the re-zoning of the property to high density residential with the hopes of building apartments. Mr. Arenson inquired how many units they planned to build. Mrs. Hanson stated they would build a little over 400 units in 2 different phases; but, they would start with 288 units. Councilmember Green-Fletcher requested an update on the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) facility at Carnes Crossroads. Mrs. Hanson stated plans were recently approved for a primary care office, run by MUSC, on the 1st Avenue, North Main Street section of the Carnes Crossroads Community. She stated this was the 2nd medical office building that was close to being finished and the building of the new MUSC facility will just be getting underway. She stated there was 10,000 square feet of office space for the MUSC facility.

VII. City Administrator's Report:

None.

VIII. Mayor's Report:

Safeguard Physical and Environmental Resources (#8 of the 2015 Goals and Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated there were properties within the City that City Council would like to purchase, if they became available. He stated the last major purchase was the Village Social Club building, after it went out of business, and located on Red Bank Road. He stated the City had been keeping an eye on this property for years and finally purchased it, and then demolished the building. Mayor Heitzler stated they try to preserve the natural settings in the City. He stated it is not revealed to the public what they wish to purchase because the price of the property would increase. He stated City Council did not purchase real property without a proposed Ordinance going under Public Hearings for 2 readings before City Council.

IX. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman (Sid) from the audience who stated he was a resident of Goose Creek and that he and his wife have lived in the City for the past 17-18 years. He stated they first moved to Goose Creek from Tennessee and rented a home for 1 year and went to church in Downtown Charleston. He stated their friends told them not to live in Goose Creek, but to live in Mount Pleasant, West Ashley or Charleston. He stated a year later they purchased a home in The Hamlets. He stated they have not regretted this decision "one minute" and they are happier every year. He thanked Mayor Heitzler, City Council and City staff for making the City a wonderful place to live and he is proud to live in Goose Creek. He stated he had 1 complaint for the Chief of Police; he jokingly stated an officer would come by his home 2 or 3 times a week and would tell him if he did not close his garage door, the Police Department would not be able to help him. (The officer was requesting he keep his garage door closed, in order to deter crime.) Sid stated he felt everyone with the City deserved a round of applause.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Glass who stated he wanted some clarification on the road re-construction project in Crowfield. Mayor Heitzler stated the roads in the City are owned either by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) or Berkeley County. He stated Berkeley County owned Gainesborough Drive. He stated people in Berkeley County voted to re-instate the 1 cent sales tax and every time something is purchased in Berkeley County 1 penny goes to Berkeley County for road maintenance. He stated the improvements for Gainesborough Drive were engineered by Berkeley County and there were plans to re-surface the road and place walking features on either side. Mayor Heitzler stated SCDOT did not have the money to get jobs done on their roads. He stated the last time he spoke with SCDOT's Secretary of Transportation, he told him SCDOT was simply managing the deterioration of the roads in South Carolina by slowing down their disintegration. Mayor Heitzler stated he hoped the General Assembly would decide to raise the gasoline tax to fix State owned roadways.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Ken Brown. Mr. Brown inquired if the City sponsored swimming classes and golf lessons for youth. Mr. Stuber stated the Recreation Department offered swim lessons in the summer at the City pool. Mr. Sanders stated the Golf Department offered junior golf clinics. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady in the audience

who inquired about sidewalks in Boulder Bluff; she stated she noticed a new section on Amy Drive and she was sure this was for the children. She inquired if there would be more sidewalks added in the Boulder Bluff area leading to Dennis Park. Mayor Heitzler stated no. The lady inquired if the sidewalks were put in by Berkeley County or the City. Mayor Heitzler stated the State owned all the roads in Boulder Bluff and if the State cannot maintain the roads they will not put in a sidewalk. Mayor Heitzler stated the Berkeley County School District received a "Safe Routes to School" Federal Grant to put in the sidewalks; but, it took 8 years from the time the Grant was received to when the sidewalks were actually put down. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady in the audience who inquired if a walking trail could be put in place. Mayor Heitzler stated a walking trail was planned to loop Boulder Bluff into the broader hiking system. He stated at one time, the City had an opportunity annually to compete for Federal Grants for hiking trails, but now this occurred every 3 years. Mayor Heitzler stated a year ago the City became aware that children needed a sidewalk and Mr. Price, using the City's money, placed a sidewalk in the area of Westview Elementary School. He stated they are putting up a cable to prevent cars from parking on the right-of-way along the road near the Westview schools. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman who inquired about who maintained Stratford High School's landscaping, because it was terrible. Mayor Heitzler stated the Berkeley County School District. He stated Ms. Kathy Schwalbe was his Berkeley County School Board representative. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who stated it was mentioned earlier that grant monies are used to purchase equipment and she inquired if during the City's big annual fireworks show it would be possible to do a raffle to raise money to buy new equipment for the Police and Fire Departments. Mayor Heitzler stated what she was describing was considered gambling and it is considered illegal in the State of South Carolina. He stated the State manages gambling through the Lottery and no other government entity, except the State, has the right to gamble.

X. Adjournment:

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

_____ Date: September 8, 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.