

City Council Meeting
December 8, 2015
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips

Staff Present:

City Administrator Dennis C. Harmon; Assistant City Administrator Jake Broom; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Police Chief Harvey Becker; Fire Chief Steve Chapman; 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; IT Director Ryan Byrd

Staff Absent:

Finance Director Ron Faretra

Invocation:

Councilmember Kimo Esarey

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Comments from the Audience:

There were no questions or comments.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Meeting – November 10, 2015

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

IV. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler stated the first item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading to a proposed Ordinance that would amend the City's Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Heitzler requested Mrs. Sarah Hanson to explain what the proposed Ordinance entails. Mrs. Hanson briefed City Council on the highlights to the proposed amendments wherein she stated the revisions would be to blend portions of the City's design guidelines that are in the general Zoning Ordinance with the design guidelines that are noted in the "downtown overlay" portion of the City's Zoning Ordinance. She stated the amendment would also be requiring a mix of building materials, adding some language that explains how the Ordinance asks that monotonous facades be broken for architectural interest; and, it deletes in its entirety the design guideline language that is in the City's current "overlay" section of the Zoning Ordinance. She stated it also included language that limits privacy fences

to a height of four (4) feet to a residential front yard.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if there were any questions and he recognized Mr. Lupton who inquired about four (4) foot privacy fences versus four (4) foot chain link fences and barb wire attached to fences. Mayor Heitzler stated a privacy fence versus a chain link fence would be that a chain link is allowed because it can be seen through; he stated there were no laws preventing barb wire. Mr. Lupton stated he felt barb wire was an eye sore and there were safety issues and concerns. After a brief discussion, Mayor Heitzler requested the City Administrator to discuss with the Code Enforcement Officer to request the property owner for voluntary compliance. Mr. Lupton stated he would appreciate that being done since he has to drive by it every day. He stated he was just a guy who lives in a neighborhood wherein people are putting up barb wire and that it was making his property value go down. There was a brief discussion and update concerning a house that had burned down, to include another home wherein firewood was being stacked up and sold in Pineview. Mayor Heitzler stated he was not promising things would turn out his way, but he would request the Code Enforcement Officers to take a look at the issues they discussed. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed amendments.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING SECTION 151.082(C)(4) DESIGN STANDARDS; SECTION 151.197 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW DESIGN GUIDELINES, AND, SECTION 151.234 ARCHITECTURE (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item was the introduction and first reading to a proposed Ordinance to annex 29.37 acres of land into the City of Goose Creek, known at the "Mackey Tract." Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired what would be going on the land with the revised zoning. Mayor Heitzler stated the land would be annexed as Conservation Open Space, and it would then come back for two (2) readings to be rezoned as Single Family Residential. Mr. Arenson inquired if the property was to be incorporated into the Carnes Crossroads development. Mr. Harmon stated the Mackey Tract was a standalone piece of property. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed Ordinance.

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 # 222-00-00-006 (MACKEY TRACT / OLD SUMMERVILLE ROAD), INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading)

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

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Parker from the audience who commended the Police Department for doing a good job. Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. Parker for citizens like him and for staying vigilant and calling in things that just don't seem right within their neighborhood. Mayor Heitzler recognized a young man from the audience who stated he recently witnessed some suspicious activity near Davenport Road, wherein the young man stated he called the Police Department and a man was apprehended. He stated he witnesses a lot of suspicious activity near that area late at night after he gets off from work. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. David Cakley who inquired if body cameras were intended for in the future of the Goose Creek Police Department. Chief Becker stated the State of South Carolina provided his Police Department guidelines to put together a policy, but there is a money factor involved and he believed at this time the State was going to mandate the wearing of body cameras and his understanding was that they would also provide some funding. He stated, at this time, unless the City's administration saw things differently, he did not see where body cameras would be available for and it was not budgeted for 2016.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Weirman who stated he wished to remind Mayor Heitzler and City Council how good of a job Chief Becker is doing, but he believed that his Police Department was understaffed. He stated he did find out City

Council had not yet held a City Council Workshop, but he knew they had plans to discuss the matter. Mr. Wierman stated he was not just asking for the City to hire more police officers, but for them to find ways to retain the City's officers instead of hiring them, training them at the State's Police Academy and finding out six (6) months later they leave to work for the City of North Charleston because they provide better benefits.

Fire Department – Mr. Weirman continued speaking with a question to Chief Chapman who stated there was turnover within the Fire Department for many reasons and sometimes people leaving for other departments because of better benefits was one of them; but, he believed he had a fairly steady rate of turnover within his department and that it was not too bad.

Mayor Heitzler recognized a young man who reverted back to the Police Chief Becker and wherein he inquired if police officers were allowed to purchase their own body cameras. Chief Becker stated yes.

There was a brief discussion as to the two (2) new fire stations wherein Mayor Heitzler inquired about Station III, near Lowes, and when Chief Chapman thought it should be up and fully operational and what the status of the Headquarters' Fire Station, next to the Department of Public Works. Chief Chapman stated Station III was expected to be up and fully operational by the end of January or beginning of February; and, the Headquarters Fire Station was behind in construction, but currently the dates City staff now has is that it should be substantially completed by March or April (2016), and turned over to the City to be occupied by May or June (2016). Mayor Heitzler inquired if his department had all the tools to equip the new stations. Chief Chapman stated they were getting there, but he still had a few items to request approval from City Council for Fire Station III. Chief Chapman stated most of the equipment would be moved over from the Headquarters' Fire Station. Chief Chapman briefed City Council on the status of recruiting the twelve (12) new fire fighters needed for Station III and stated they were actively recruiting and he hoped to have six (6) hired by the end of the year and have the remaining six (6) hired by the end of January (2016). Mr. Arenson inquired if the two (2) fire stations were awarded on firm fixed price contract bases. Mayor Heitzler and Mr. Harmon stated yes.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. David Cakley who stated in the past, there have been some concerns over the lack of minority firefighters in the City of Goose Creek and he inquired if any of the six (6) new hires were African American or other minority. Chief Chapman stated of the six (6) fire fighters hired that day, they were not and that the City has received a couple hundred applications for the fire fighting positions they have advertised and there was a very small percentage of minorities that have applied for the openings. Mayor Heitzler inquired if Chief Chapman has hired any women fire fighters. Chief Chapman stated the City does now have a female fire fighter and a female building inspector.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady, a resident of West Greenview, who stated her concerns about the drainage ditch at Belknap and Wisteria. She stated the South Carolina Department of Transportation began digging, but they have not finished anything and the water in the ditch is not flowing from a recent storm. After a brief discussion between the lady and Mr. Price, he stated if she had spoken with SCDOT directly, he would suggest she follow up with them since the report was directly made by her; but, he would be happy to follow up too. Mr. Price stated SCDOT is sometimes more responsive when they receive complaints directly from the public than they would be if it were from a municipality. He reminded her that his department would also follow up with them. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who stated he was aware the intersection of College Park Road and I-26 are not inside the City of Goose Creek, but he had heard a while back that SCDOT was looking at revamping the intersection because of traffic congestion at that location. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Lupton who inquired if there were any plans to have roadway resurfacing done within his neighborhood. Mr. Price stated there is a significant resurfacing of roadways list that is ongoing with Berkeley County and his neighborhood (Pineview) was included. Mr. Joel Arenson inquired as to the design life of roadways. Mr. Price stated he did not know exactly what the design life was, that it depends on when the roads were designed, by what standards, how they are constructed and how they are inspected, so he really could not answer that questions. He stated the City does not design roads, nor do they specify the requirements for the construction of roads, so he could not provide Mr. Arenson a canned answer for residential roads. There was a brief discussion regarding the age of the roadways throughout Crowfield Plantation and Mr. Price stated there were several factors that would play into the life expectancy of a roadway and if he provided him with an answer, it would not be accurate. Mr. Price stated his department had a pavement management system wherein he and his staff inventories every single foot of every single road that is owned by the State and Berkeley County and his department rates the road depending on the failures, the type of failures, what they anticipated as upcoming

failures and they grade the roads. He stated they use what is called "Pavement Condition Index" to rate the roads and that is what they use to submit to the State and Berkeley County for resurfacing and repair work. Councilmember Tekac inquired if he had an update on Gainesborough Drive. Mr. Price stated the project to resurface Gainesborough Road has been advertised, was out for bid, and that the bid opening should be within the next few weeks with work beginning early in 2016.

Administration Department & Municipal Court – There were no comments or questions.

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler inquired if basketball season had begun. Mr. Stuber stated it started that week. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Corey McClary, a resident of Ryan Creek, who stated their neighborhood playground was in terrible condition and he inquired if the City had any plans to replace the equipment. Mr. Stuber stated his department has a systematic plan and he and his staff go back through each one of the playgrounds and the Ryan Creek playground was on his list, the timeline of getting the list completed was based on money and how many he can push through for each budget. He stated the Shannon Park playground was being worked on for 2016, and it would probably be a year or two before equipment is replaced in Ryan Creek. Mayor Heitzler commended the Goose Creek Community Band for doing a great job the other evening under the direction of Ms. Edna Grace. Mayor Heitzler stated he had his new cultural group coming up next month. Mr. Stuber stated they would attend the Goose Creek Recreation Commission meeting scheduled in January.

Golf Department – There were no comments or questions.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Luther Steel who inquired where he could obtain a copy of the City's quarterly news letter. Mr. Johnson stated the City's newsletter is mailed out to each of the City's residents twice per year and that the next one would be mailed out in early 2016. Mr. Johnson stated he could provide Mr. Steel with a copy of the last newsletter that was sent out. A request was made to place the newsletter on the City's website. Mr. Johnson stated he could post the newsletter on the City's website. Mr. Johnson reminded everyone the Lakeside Light Display was up and running and the public were invited to visit every evening through January 3, 2016. He stated the City had its opening celebration last week and scheduled for that Friday was the hayride and marshmallow roast, scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Planning Department – There were no comments or questions.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Approve Contract Extension – Engineering Services – Water System Improvements (Department of Public Works) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request and supporting documentation from the Director of Public Works to approve a contract extension with Design South Professionals Incorporated, from Anderson, South Carolina, in the total amount of \$250,500.00, for the construction management services for the impending water system improvements. He stated the majority of those funds were provided for in the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget and City staff was requesting City Council's consideration for the extension of the contract.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the request to extend the contract for water system improvements, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase (Department of Public Works) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request and supporting documentation from the Director of Public Works to purchase a master meter station and vault from Engineered Fluid, Incorporated, from Centralia, IL, in the total amount of \$184,833.00. He reminded City Council that the meter station and vault would be paid for from the City's Capital Improvement Fund that is maintained by Santee Cooper. Mr. Harmon stated the current account balance is \$830,544.00. He stated this was the second tap on the regional water system for the City and constitutes a major and intricate part of the City's Master Plan and Water System Improvements. Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration for approval of the contract for the services specified.

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the request to purchase the master meter station and vault, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request for Approval – Historic Goose Creek Signing on I-26 – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a proposal from the South Carolina Department of Transportation to establish signage on I-26 identifying Historic Goose Creek at Exit 205B and part of the requirement of SCDOT is that the City pay for their portion of the signage in the total amount of \$28,397.90. Mr. Harmon request City Council’s approval of the payment of the total funds, approval of the signage and approval to allocate funds from the Hospitality Fund as the method of payment for the work to be completed.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the request to pay for signage, approval of the design and approval of the funds to be allocated from the Hospitality Fund, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletchers seconded the motion. Mr. McCants stated he would like to make a request for SCDOT to also review Exit 199 and Exit 203, instead of going all the way down to US Highway 78 and I-26 (University Boulevard), to place a sign for the “Exit” to Goose Creek. Councilmember McCants stated that approximately three (3) weeks ago he sent a letter to Joint Base Charleston to obtain funding for the homeless and the heading of the letter said Naval Weapons Station, so the base returned the letter for correction and said it should say Joint Base Charleston Naval Weapons Station whenever you are requesting anything from the Federal government. He stated before City Council votes on the matter at hand, he wished for them to take a look at a few other things to make sure the City was on the right path before they begin putting up signs on I-26. Mayor Heitzler stated they had a motion to adopt and a second, and was there any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Harmon. Mr. Harmon stated, as a matter of clarification, with regard to the Naval Weapons Station’s portion of the signage was their responsibility and not that of the City of Goose Creek. He stated Councilmember McCants’ points are well taken in regard to Exit 203 and Exit 199, and City staff does have a plan to pursue the identification of Goose Creek on both of those signs on I-26, for identifying Goose Creek at those two (2) exits. He stated this was a separate and distinct process with the “Historic Goose Creek” signage and City staff would urge City Council to approve the proposal before them and they could discuss other things after approval of the signage. Mayor Heitzler stated signage on I-26 was part of the branding process of the City and the funding was coming from the Hospitality Tax which is aimed at tourism, increasing business and economic development. Mayor Heitzler stated he agreed 100% with Councilmember McCants regarding additional exits being identified and he did not know what the Navy and Air Force were going to do about the “Joint Base” naming, but that would be between those two (2) military organizations. He inquired of Councilmember McCants why he believed the City should be involved in the decision making of the name of the sign the Navy and Air Force’s joint base. Councilmember McCants stated the Naval Weapons Station is considered a part of the City of Goose Creek and the discussion should take place with someone from Joint Base Charleston Naval Weapons’ Station when we are making these agreements because we are scheduled to go over there that coming Friday for a ribbon cutting ceremony. He stated he attends church at the base chapel and every Sunday someone is always asking a question concerning the City of Goose Creek. He stated the lines of communication should be open between the City and those in charge at the Naval Weapons Station. As a response, Mr. Harmon stated the lines of communication are open and City staff does have communication with those at the Naval Weapons Station/Joint Base Charleston and he suggested Councilmember’s comments as an alternative to what was presently before City Council and that City staff would certainly bring his comments to the attention of those at the Naval Weapons Station/Joint Base Charleston and SCDOT’s attention; however, the amount of money City staff was proposing to spend, was for the Historic Goose Creek signage and nothing to do with the Naval Weapons Station/Joint Base Charleston. Councilmember McCants stated he had one (1) more thing and that was to inquire as to where the City’s point of interest would be identified, would it be City Hall. Mr. Harmon stated he was correct and the point of interest would be City Hall. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. Five (5) in favor, one (1) opposed (Councilmember McCants). Motion carries.

Consideration of Reappointment to Boards – Mr. Harmon stated there were several members who serve on City boards and commissions and that City staff was recommending for reappointment the following: Architectural Review Board – three (3) members for a two (2) year term to expire December 31, 2017 (David Cantrill, Chris Cook and Tom Riso); Planning Commission – three (3) members for a three (3) year term to expire December 31, 2018 (Paul Connerty, Allen Wall and Barry Washington); and Zoning Board of Appeals - three (3) members for a three (3) year term to expire December 31, 2018 (Butch Clift, James Fisk and Tom Volkmar). Mr. Harmon requested City Council’s consideration for reappointment for members stated.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to appoint the board and commission members, as presented by Mr. Harmon.

Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Complete Construction of Headquarters Fire Station and Fire Substation Item #2 of the 2015 Goals and Objectives):

Mayor Heitzler stated he has already reviewed what he was going to report on the new fire stations, but they just had a detailed report by the Fire Chief. He inquired if there were any questions.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who lives in West Greenview and who commented on the amount of money for the signs (Historic Goose Creek) that will be placed on I-26. Mr. Harmon stated there were five (5) signs, they are huge signs and they are expensive. He stated that was only a portion of the cost and that the total cost was \$48,000. Mayor Heitzler and Mr. Harmon both stated the signs do not appear to be as large as they are until you are standing next to them.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

_____ Date: February 9, 2016

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.