

City Council Meeting
February 10, 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 John McCants; Councilmember Franklin Moore; Councilmember Jerry Tekac

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

City Administrator Dennis C. Harmon; 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:

City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette

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 6:58 p.m.

II. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who inquired if City Council was aware that during the last 10 years the expenses for the golf course exceeded its revenue by \$4,000,000, and how would this money be recovered. He stated he was concerned about the plan for the Comfort Stations and why these had to be approved by the City's Architectural Review Board (ARB) and the Crowfield Homeowners Association (HOA). He inquired if, when they reviewed the plan, City Council was aware there are 4 urinals in each facility and that the additional health, sanitation and maintenance requirements for the new Comfort Stations would cost even more money. He stated the drinking fountain was not on the outside of the building for people to use while walking on the trails and that it would be off limits to others not on the golf course. Mayor Heitzler stated he was aware of the initial cost of the golf course, as well as, the operational and Capital costs over the previous 12 years. He stated this was money well spent because the ambiance of the golf course to the City lifts the value of residents' homes in the community. He stated the golf course is an attraction for visitors. He stated they hope to be in the black operationally and they are in the black now, but money is being spent on Capital expenses. He stated soon after the completion of the Comfort Stations there will be work on the greens for an 18 month period. Mayor Heitzler stated he hoped what they are doing will increase the number of golfers and increase the chances of having revenue in the black. He stated they hoped to attract more women golfers and they need restrooms; and, senior golfers also need these Comfort Stations. He stated the City has to get approval from the Crowfield HOA when anything is built in Crowfield Plantation and the City's ARB when anything is built in the City limits. Councilmember Tekac stated each Comfort Station would have 2 toilets for men and 2 for women and they were not urinals. Mayor Heitzler stated in regards to the drinking fountain, they do not want people going onto the golf course seeking facilities because a golf course can be a dangerous place if you are a non-golfer.

Councilmember Esarey stated there are warning signs in relation to the dangers on the golf course. Councilmember Phillips stated there are golf courses in the area competing for business and the Comfort Stations will be an advantage for our course. Mr. Hearn stated if City Council reviewed the plans for the Comfort Stations they would have noticed 4 urinals in the plan. He stated when there is a revision the City should have to go back to the ARB to get another approval and this was not done. Mayor Heitzler stated to Mr. Hearn he was welcome to see him during regular business hours and he would be happy to further discuss his concerns. Mr. Hearn stated he thought Mr. Sanders was doing a wonderful job, but he did not believe he had anything to work with and that he was capable of running a larger golf course. Mr. Hearn stated he did not believe Crowfield Golf Course was a money making facility.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Dennis Winger who stated he was on Berkeley County's website and noticed there were several large plots of land off of Henry Brown Boulevard and the map stated the land belonged to the City. He inquired when the land was acquired and for what purpose. Mr. Harmon stated the plots of land in question are wetlands and they were deeded over to the City from the developer. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Hearn who inquired about the "excitement" on Amy Drive the previous week in regard to a stolen weapon and if the weapon was ever recovered. Chief Becker stated a search warrant was issued and a subject was arrested in connection with the theft, but the weapon has not been found. He stated they believed the weapon was sold the same day it was stolen.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – December 2, 2014
City Council Meeting – January 13, 2015

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

IV. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler stated before City Council was the second and final reading to an Ordinance to annex four (4) parcels of land on Blossom Street. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the 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 (133, 135, 137 AND 139 BLOSSOM STREET) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adopt the ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next Ordinance under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of an Ordinance to annex 225 Lindy Creek Road. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the 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 (225 LINDY CREEK ROAD) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember McCants made a motion to adopt the ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler stated a lady who was in tears contacted him to say she was so thankful for the leadership in the Police Department. He stated she did not know who the officers were but she quoted herself by stating she was "a crazy woman and upset daughter" and that the police officers helped her. She stated she would never let anyone criticize a Goose Creek police officer. Mayor Heitzler stated he appreciated

the attitude of the Police Department. Councilmember Esarey stated he recently had 2 opportunities to meet with the department's officers. He stated a police officer knocked on his door at 3:30 in the morning because one of his garage doors was open and he really appreciated this initiative. He stated a similar situation in when he had gotten up early one morning, unlocked his car, and then went in his backyard, when an officer came to the door and inquired if someone had been in his vehicle because it looked "ransacked" but when indeed it had not. He stated the officers were going door to door to make residents aware of possible vehicle break-ins and to make residents aware if their vehicles were unlocked or had valuables in plain view. Chief Becker thanked Mayor Heitzler and Councilmember Esarey for their kind remarks.

Fire Department – Councilmember Green-Fletcher congratulated Chief Chapman on his report and the information provided. Chief Chapman stated Councilmember Green-Fletcher was referring to the Insurance Services Offices (ISO) report and that the City's Fire Department had just been re-rated the previous summer and they were pleased to maintain a Class 2 Rating. He stated the new standard was tougher to meet which affects insurance premiums and over the next several months they would be going into detail on ways to improve their rating. Chief Chapman stated in spite of all the bad weather, the new fire stations were only a little behind schedule and they believed this could be made up with good weather.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Councilmember Green-Fletcher thanked Mr. Price for having the light repaired at the recycle bins, located at DPW. She stated there are people who go there at night, including herself. Mr. Price stated the light involved more work than anticipated. Councilmember Esarey thanked him for having the ditch between Crowfield and Stratford High School repaired.

Administration Department & Municipal Court – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Hearn who stated the Administrative Report from last month showed the total Year to Date collections of the Hospitality Tax. He stated in January the total money amount disappeared from the report. He inquired if the report could include the fund total which is isolated from the others. Mayor Heitzler stated this could be included.

Recreation Department – There were no questions or comments.

Golf Department – Councilmember Tekac inquired of Mr. Sanders if he was incorrect about the number of urinals in the Comfort Stations. Mr. Sanders stated there are 4 urinals in each of the Comfort Stations. He stated there was 1 ADA (American Disability Act) accessible toilet, and because golf is played in foursomes, because there was additional space, they added 4 urinals. He stated the women's area included 1 ADA accessible toilet and a regular toilet.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mrs. Mackey stated the City would be hosting the first "I Love My Pet" photo contest. She stated on the City's Facebook page there was a photo album with 34 pets and she requested residents to vote, with voting ending Friday, February 13, 2015. She stated the winner would be given a \$25.00, gift certificate for Pet Sense. She stated there was a new newsletter listing the City's upcoming events. Mayor Heitzler stated he was happy to now have the new Goose Creek App that was recently added to his cell phone.

Planning Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Winger who inquired if anything new was coming into the City. Mrs. Hanson stated currently there was nothing definite.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase – Police Department (ALPR System) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Chief of Police to purchase an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system from NDI Recognition System (NDIRS) from Winter Park, Florida, in the total amount of \$20,500. He recommended this expenditure be taken from the drug forfeiture account. At this time Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the purchase of the ALPR system from NDIRS in the amount of \$20,500, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

Councilmember Phillips inquired if this was the system that would recognize license plates. Mr. Harmon stated yes and that this was something the Police Department has been considering for 3 years. Chief Becker stated the system's cameras capture license plate images and runs them through a database operated by SLED and alerts law enforcement if there is any interest in that particular plate. He stated this was great for stolen license plates, stolen cars, amber alerts and anything associated with the vehicle. Councilmember Tekac inquired if this was an automated system that would work continuously or would it have to be activated. Chief Becker stated it is always capturing and instantaneously running the plates through the database.

Request to Purchase – Fire Department (Fire Truck) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Fire Chief to purchase a fire truck from Fire Line Inc., in Winder, Georgia, in the total amount of \$455,000. He stated these funds were allocated in the 2015 Fiscal year Budget from the Charleston Water Service (CWS) Franchise Fee Escrow Account. Mr. Harmon stated City staff was not recommending the acceptance of the low bid and the Fire Chief could give a presentation on the matter. He stated the recommended apparatus was the only one which met all the specifications put out to bidders. He stated he has been working with the Fire Chief on this for 2 years and the Fire Department has done an excellent job in preparing the specifications and putting them out for bid and analyzing the bid results.

Chief Chapman stated the Fire Department spent 2 years analyzing their needs and researching the best practices, evaluating how the apparatus would be used, researching the market and ensuring they purchased the best fire truck designed and equipped to handle the type of emergencies experienced by the City. He stated they published a detailed 98 page "Request for Proposal" and requested bids from 10 national fire apparatus manufactures, wherein 5 bids were received, ranging from \$445,000.00 to \$468,000.00. He stated as part of their detailed analysis of the bids received, City staff graded each proposal on compliance with a 360 point specification. Chief Chapman stated City staff also looked at apparatus performance and safety considerations, the completeness of the bidders proposal, the accuracy of any accompanying test data, past performance of the bidders, compliance with the detailed specifications, and expectations and clarifications from the manufactures, the financial stability of each bidder, the service ability, the cost of operating the apparatus, the compliance with the National Fire Association standard, the reputation of similar models, the local representation of the manufacture and availability of parts, and the location the truck would travel to for service repair or warranty work, as needed. He stated from this analysis City staff ranked each bidder in a numerical ranking from 1-5. He stated while all the bids were confident and thorough, they felt 1 bid was most compliant with the published specifications. He stated this was the bid from Fire Line, Incorporated, for an E-One Custom Pumper built on a Typhoon XL Chassis with a 1500 gallon per minute pump, and a 530 gallon water tank. He stated the 2 lowest bidders did not meet all of the areas of the specifications. He stated the biggest impediment with the lowest bidders was they did not meet the specifications for equipment storage. Chief Chapman stated they took each piece of equipment that will be carried in the apparatus and measured them in detail. He also stated the lowest bidders were international companies and there were no fire units built locally so they were not able to ask other departments how the apparatus was holding up and how service was handled. Chief Chapman stated this apparatus needed to be added to the Fire Station III fleet once it was completed and personnel were hired.

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the purchase of a new fire apparatus in the amount of \$455,500, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

Approval of Records Retention (City Clerk) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a recommendation with a request from the City Clerk to approve a Records Retention Schedule, as prepared by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. He stated the new records retention schedule dealt with "Mug Shots".

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the new Records Retention Schedule, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Complete Construction of Headquarters Fire Station and Fire Substation III (#2 of the 2015 Goals & Objectives) – Mayor Heitzler requested Chief Chapman give a briefing on the status of the Fire Department's new fire stations. Chief Chapman stated the contractor's deadline for the Headquarters Station is in October, and the contractor has predicted to be 8 days behind schedule due to issues relating to bad weather, but this

could be made up with good weather. He stated the completion date for Fire Station III is in July, and this was the general contractor's completion date. Chief Chapman stated after the general contractor was substantially finished with the building, they have to move in and perform more work on the phone and computer systems, as well as furnishings. He stated there will be a few more months of work following July, before they can move into the station. He stated they are preparing to advertise and recruit for the 12 new fire fighters. Chief Chapman stated he believed it would take 6 months to advertise, interview, orient and train new personnel.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired of Chief Becker if the license plated recognition system would go on the police car and if it was capable of reading plates at night. Chief Becker stated it would go on a marked police car, it is versatile and operational 24 hours a day, and the police car can be moving or stationary and still read the plates. Mayor Heitzler inquired of Mr. Larry Hearn if he still had any inquiries which were not fully answered. Mr. Hearn stated he was surprised after he told City Council there was something in the packet needing to be changed that City Council approved the minutes without revising it. He stated he is not a fan of the Hospitality Tax and he wanted to make sure there is credence when it comes to managing the money in these funds and the way it appeared now is City Council approved the \$320,000, and they did not even see the plans to the Comfort Stations. Mayor Heitzler stated they did see the plans and Mr. Hearn stated they only saw the preliminary plans. Mayor Heitzler stated he could not remember everything. Mr. Hearn stated the process of the Comfort Stations was a great maintenance project and a health and sanitation concern. Councilmember Tekac stated they are better than having portalets with their health and sanitation issues. Mr. Hearn stated he agreed, but thought the Comfort Stations were "overkill". Mr. Hearn stated he was requesting fiscal responsibility and this did not appear to be happening with the fiscal fund.

Mayor Heitzler inquired how things were going with the Chairman of The Oaks Civic Organization. A gentleman from the audience replied by stating the residents of The Oaks are always curious what will happen with the golf course there. He stated otherwise they have a pretty quite neighborhood and they appreciate the City and their staff. Councilmember Phillips stated purchasing The Oaks water system would be beneficial to their water rates.

IX. Adjournment

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Date: March 10, 2015

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.