

City Council Meeting
January 13, 2015
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:-----

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

Council Members Absent:-----

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

Staff Absent:

Public Information Officer Jessica Mackey

Invocation:

Councilmember James (Kimo) Esarey

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:-----

Steve McDaniel- Goose Creek Gazette

Guests Present:-----

Mr. Lonnie Carter, Chairman CRDA
Mr. David Ginn, President & CEO CRDA

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Comments from the Audience:

There were no comments or questions.

III. Briefing to City Council – Mr. Lonnie Carter, Chairman of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance (CRDA) Board of Directors and Mr. David Ginn, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the CRDA:

Mr. Lonnie Carter stated he wanted to discuss economic development. He stated economic development is about jobs and it is a team sport. Mr. Carter recognized Mr. David Ginn, President and CEO of the CRDA, as well as several board members of the CRDA. Mr. Carter stated he wished to discuss the disagreements between the counties and how the CRDA handled economic development. He stated in some ways this has been helpful and it has forced the CRDA to get together with leadership in the area with both businesses and elected officials. He stated they believed they developed a good solution for economic development and distributed the final version of the by-laws. He stated the changes came about from a session the CRDA held with representatives from businesses and each of the 3 counties were represented with a County Council Supervisor or Chairman and Mayor Bill Collins was also present. He stated from this meeting everyone agreed 99% on what should be done. He stated the changes revolved around better communication, including the privilege to report to City Council periodically. He stated the area is being marketed in a global economy and Goose Creek has been kind enough to be one of the funding partners for Regional Development. Mr. Carter stated the most significant change is in the makeup of the executive committee; this committee was originally made up of 11 members and this increased to 18 and each of the counties has 2 seats and 1 of these must be an elected official. He stated of the

10 largest Cities in South Carolina 5 of them are in the Charleston Metropolitan area. He stated they hoped the Mayor's of each City would get together and rotate so each City would be represented on the Executive Committee.

Councilmember Esarey stated since coming together with Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties, to include the municipalities who are members, the CRDA has been a great organization. He stated other areas of the country did not weather the recession as well as our metro area and he believed we have all done a remarkable job working together. Mr. Carter stated every day the CRDA is selling the market, not only by traveling to various locations, but also by hosting here at home. Mr. Carter took a moment of personal privilege for Santee Cooper stating they have worked together for years and this has been a great relationship. He also commended the City for its work to improve Highway 52 (North and South Goose Creek Boulevards) and the view along both the railway and roadway.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Strategic Planning Workshop – June 24, 2014
City Council Budget Workshop – August 21, 2014
City Council Strategic Planning Workshop – October 30, 2014
City Council Meeting – December 9, 2014

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

V. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler stated the first item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of an Ordinance to approve an extension with modifications to the Development Agreement with Liberty Village. He stated an agreement originated 10 years ago and it was time to extend it for another 5 years. He stated the developer agreed to build and develop the land according to the City's "Zoning and Building regulations". He stated in the first reading of the Ordinance a section was omitted in error requiring the developer to set aside land for recreation and passive use. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council would make a motion to amend the Ordinance followed by the second reading. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION WITH MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY VILLAGE, LLC, FOR AN AREA COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS BRICKHOPE PLANTATION (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the amendment, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. Councilmember Tekac recused himself from voting and discussions due to a business conflict. Six Councilmembers were in favor, 1 recusal and none opposed. Motion carried.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adopt the ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. (Note: Councilmember Tekac's recusal in the previous motion still stands with regard to the proposed Ordinance.) Six Councilmembers were in favor, 1 recusal and none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the second item under Public Hearings was to annex 4 parcels of undeveloped land in Beverly Hills. 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 (Introduction and First Reading)

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

Mayor Heitzler stated the last item under Public Hearings was an annexation of a single parcel on Lindy Creek Road, wherein the owner wanted to join the City. Mayor Heitzler inquired of Mrs. Hanson as to why these residents were not already in the City. Mrs. Hanson stated the previous owner did not wish to be a part of the City; however, his son inherited the property and he wished to be annexed. 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 (Introduction and First Reading)

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

VI. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Barbara Bates who commended a police officer who while checking a home that was under the Home Watch Program, picked up a Christmas tree that the wind blew over on the front porch. Chief Becker thanked Mrs. Bates for her compliment.

Fire Department – There were no comments or questions.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler stated he recently saw some City employees cleaning out the ditch on Old Moncks Corner Road and this was hard back breaking work. Councilmember Esarey thanked Mr. Price and his staff for assisting him with a resident in Cherry Hill when they had an issue with something that was not their project they still assisted with the problem.

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

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Scout Troup 459, who was seated in the audience. Mr. Stuber stated the Recreation Center had begun baseball and softball registrations.

Golf Department – Mayor Pro Tem Phillips inquired if the repairs to the golf greens had begun. Mr. Sanders stated no, they were currently constructing the “comfort stations” and the repair project would be presented to City Council in the spring. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass, Chairman of the Recreation Commission

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – There were no comments or questions.

Planning Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Mary Riley who inquired what was being built at the corner of Old Mount Holly and St. James Avenue (Highway 176). Mrs. Hanson stated this was going to be a Mattress Firm retail showroom. Mrs. Riley inquired what was being built on the other side of Wal-Mart. Mrs. Hanson stated this was going to be an “L-shaped” addition to the existing Plantation Center Shopping Center. Mrs. Riley also inquired about an area opposite of the Mount Holly Commerce Park on Highway 52, where there was a very large area of cleared trees and if this was located in Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler stated this area was not the City limits. Mrs. Hanson stated she did not know what was being developed on that land.

VI. City Administrator’s Report:

Request to Purchase – Police Department (Vehicles/Equipment) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Chief of Police to purchase 8 police vehicles provided for in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 City Budget. He stated the acquisition of the vehicles and equipment would be accomplished through Light-N-Up, from Roebuck, South Carolina, utilizing a State contract, and with the total cost being \$293,094.20. He requested City Council’s favorable consideration at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the police vehicles/equipment purchase in the amount of \$293,094.20, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Recreation Department (Exercise Equipment) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Recreation Director to purchase 13 spin bicycles from Ready Fitness, in Cummings, Georgia, as the low responsible bidder, in the total amount of \$14,843.08. He stated this was a budgeted item in the FY 2015 City Budget, and at this time, Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the purchase of spin bicycles in the total amount of \$14,843.08, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Solicit for 2015 – Mr. Harmon stated there was a memo to City Council requesting to solicit during the FY 2015, from various City departments and divisions. He requested City Council's consideration to approve the solicitations, as required by City ordinance.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the request to solicit, as presented and stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Strategic Plan – 2015 Goals and Objectives #1 - (Develop a Succession Plan for Key Management Positions) – Mayor Heitzler stated City Council plans for progress and there is a Strategic Plan aimed at the City's future. He stated this year City Council placed a careful Succession Plan at the top of their Strategic Plan. He stated the City has valuable and experienced department managers who will be retiring and the City does not want them to retire until there is someone prepared to take their place. He stated he will request City Council hold a workshop and develop a plan of who they want to search for and hire for these key positions. Mayor Heitzler stated once these individuals are hired, that individual would then work with the current department manager in that position, in order to gain all of their experience and knowledge.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who inquired what a request to solicit meant. Mayor Heitzler gave the examples of the City Clerk overseeing the Red Cross Blood Drive and the Police Department sponsoring St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and stated the City does not allow its employees to freely solicit; therefore, City Council's approval is needed. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who stated every company he has dealt with has statements and bills available on the internet and he inquired if the City's Water Billing Division planned to go paperless. Mr. Faretra stated they have looked at paperless billing, each year they have tried something new and credit card debiting was available. He stated additional software needed to be purchased in order to transition to paperless billing. A lady from the audience inquired if there was a fee to pay online for using a credit card. Mr. Faretra stated there was a \$1.25, fee to pay online, and of which goes to the company handling the website; however, if you pay through direct debit there is no fee.

Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who inquired about the time frame for the road going in behind the Brickhope subdivision. Mayor Heitzler stated there was a new supervisor in Berkeley County and they would have to wait until things settled to determine if the plans and time schedule would remain unchanged. Mr. Harmon stated the schedule was approximately 24 months for it to be connected and the improvements are dependent upon the Transportation Sales Tax. Mayor Heitzler stated within these next 24 months the park-way, the right-of-way, pedestrian trails and trees down the center would not be completed. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Riley who stated the residents of Brickhope and the Ryland developers held a meeting in December and Ryland stated they would probably be completed with the work by the end of 2015.

Councilmember Tekac stated the City of Goose Creek lost a great lady the December (2014), former Councilmember Marguerite H. Brown. He stated the City was enjoying the benefits as a direct result of her efforts for the 35 plus years she served on City Council; and he wanted to publically thank Mrs. Brown and her

family for everything she did. He stated Mrs. Brown was the first lady of Goose Creek and she would be missed by City Council and for her wisdom.

Councilmember Esarey stated the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce would be completing strategic planning for Berkeley County. He stated they have been sending emails with a survey inquiring what the community leaders want to see for the future of Berkeley County, and he requested whoever receives this email to please complete the survey. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who praised Mrs. Mackey for helping his father annex into the City. He stated he owned a home in Pineview and the roads were horrible with pot holes and inquired if there was any way they could be fixed. Mayor Heitzler stated the State of South Carolina owns these roads. He stated the City was consistently in touch with the South Carolina Department of Transportation and showing them where the City needed repairs, but they do not have the money. Mayor Heitzler stated he read where Governor Haley was focusing on public education in the new budget and the roads were second, and there was only one new source of revenue and this was a tax when an automobile was sold. He stated the State has not increased its gas tax since 1987.

IX. Adjournment

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

_____ Date: February 10, 2015

Kelly J. Lovette, MMC
City Clerk

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