

AGENDA
City of Goose Creek
City Council Meeting
Tuesday – March 10, 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

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

Approval of Previous Minutes

- 1) City Council Workshop – January 29, 2015
- 2) City Council Meeting – February 10, 2015

Public Hearings

- 1) **A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNRESERVED DESIGNED FUND BALANCE ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR CHARLESTON WATER SYSTEM FRANCHISE FEES**

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

- 1) Request to Purchase – Radios (Police Department)
- 2) Request to Purchase – Printers/Scanners/MDT Terminals (Police Department)
- 3) Request to Contract – IT Infrastructure (FD Headquarters Station/Station III) (Fire Department)
- 4) Regrassing of Golf Course Greens/Course Improvements (Golf Department)
- 5) Request to Contract – Painting (Recreation Department)

Mayor's Report

- 1) Advance Road Improvement Plan (#3 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.

For a complete City Council Agenda Packet go to: www.cityofgoosecreek.com and click on the following:

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If you wish to receive a direct link to the City Council Agenda Packet, for City Council’s regular monthly meetings and you are a Citizen Advisor, please provide Ms. Kelly Lovette, City Clerk, with the following information: email address, physical address and telephone number and send to klovette@cityofgoosecreek.com. If you have questions or comments, please contact Ms. Lovette, at her email address or at City Hall by calling 797-6220 ext. 1113.

City Council Meeting
March 10, 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 James (Kimo) Esarey; Councilmember John McCants; Councilmember Franklin Moore

Council Members Absent:

Councilmember Jerry Tekac

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:

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Merrithew from the audience. Mr. Merrithew stated he was a candidate for Berkeley County Sheriff and briefly commented on what he wants to achieve if elected. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who stated he was perplexed about the information he acquired in reference to the City's intent of spending monies from the Hospitality Fund. He stated he previously stood at the microphone in a City Council Meeting and thought he made a contribution on providing information which caused the Hospitality Tax to be passed. He stated based on previous information he was given, he was led to believe the direction for the Hospitality Tax was going to be based on what recreational amenities the City was able to provide. He stated a lot of this money went to the comfort stations and to repair the greens at the Crowfield Golf Course, when this money should be going to other potential projects of the City. He stated he was recently told the monies from the Hospitality Fund should now be spent on economic development. He stated when he inquired about Phase II of the Recreation Center, which was supposed to be a big target with the monies coming from the Hospitality Tax, he was told nothing was being done. He stated he heard there will be a City Council Workshop to determine what to do with the monies collected from the Hospitality Tax and to determine what economic development will cost moving forward for the City. He stated all of this has readjusted the focus of what he was led to believe this money would be used.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – January 29, 2015
City Council Meeting – February 10, 2015

Councilmember Green-Fletcher requested a correction be made to the minutes for the City Council Meeting on February 10th. She stated under the Department of Public Works Report, it was stated she used the recycling facility at night and she does not use them. She stated she was referencing a resident who takes his material at night to the recycling facility. Mayor Heitzler requested Ms. Lovette to make the correction. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

IV. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the Resolution.

A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN UNRESERVED DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR CHARLESTON WATER SYSTEM FRANCHISE FEES

Mayor Heitzler stated City Council thought they could purchase the Crowfield distribution system from Charleston Water System (CWS). He stated after years of negotiating with CWS, City Council concluded they wanted way too much money, at least twice as much as the system was worth. He stated in recent years, through negotiations, CWS consented to paying a 10% Franchise Fee which would come out of CWS's general budget and it would not increase the water rates of the Crowfield residents. He stated City Council designated this 10% to be put aside into an account and to be used towards purchasing the system. Mayor Heitzler stated since the City was unable to buy the system, the Resolution would mean this 10% would be re-designated to the General Fund.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Parker who inquired if water rates would go up. Mayor Heitzler stated no and that no one's water rates would be increased. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Gary Becker who stated he disagreed with Mayor Heitzler's explanation. He stated CWS collects millions of dollars and that he is on the CWS system in Crowfield, so effectively he is paying 10% to the City of Goose Creek no matter what budget CWS removes the money. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated this money does come from somewhere, but the City was in agreement with CWS they cannot raise Crowfield water rates to pay the Franchise Fee. Mr. Becker stated rates were not relevant, but there were a lot of people living in Crowfield who pay their water bills to CWS and the Franchise Fee will be paid to the City. His stated his contingency was that the City should not spend this money, but give it back to the residents of Crowfield. Mayor Heitzler stated the 10% given to the City does not only come from Crowfield, but from the whole system. Mayor Heitzler stated reimbursement was a point to consider. Councilmember Moore inquired of Mr. Harmon if the City did not collect the 10% would the water rates in Crowfield go down. Mr. Harmon stated no. Mr. Glass inquired if the Resolution to appeal meant they would be doing away with the Franchise Fee. Mayor Heitzler stated it had already been resolved to place the money in a special account to purchase the water system so now this will be repealed and the money placed in the City's General Fund. Councilmember Esarey stated the 10% does come out of the pockets of the residents of Crowfield and rebating it back to the customer was something that should be looked at in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to adopt the Resolution, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. Five (5) members of City Council were in favor of the motion, 1 member was opposed (Councilmember Esarey). Motion carried.

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Councilmember Esarey thanked Chief Becker and his department for patrolling his subdivision. He stated there have been a lot of issues in Crowfield and Cherry Hill and he appreciated their diligence. Mayor Heitzler thanked Chief Becker for the summary of the break-ins in the recent quarter. Mayor Heitzler stated there were 17; 8 of them were waiting on DNA lab results, 6 had arrests, and 3 were closed with no further investigation. Mayor Heitzler stated these statistics showed the Police Department was effective.

Fire Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Karen Daniels who commended Chief Chapman on one of his employees wherein she received assistance recently from the Fire Department.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Parker who inquired if car tires were allowed to be stacked in front of a house. Mr. Price stated they could not be stacked for permanent storage. Mr.

Parker stated the tires had been there for some time. Mayor Heitzler requested Mr. Parker call the Department of Public Works and they will look into the matter. Mayor Heitzler stated using them for flower arrangements is okay, but they cannot be stacked for storage. Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman in the audience who inquired about the sidewalks falling apart where drainage pipes are located. Mr. Price stated DPW is not responsible for these repairs; if it is a state road then it is the responsibility of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and if it is a county road then it is the responsibility of Berkeley County. He stated DPW can report any defects to the appropriate agency. Councilmember Esarey inquired about the status of the sewer work between Stratford Forest and Cherry Hill subdivisions. Mr. Price stated the project was on schedule, but he did not know a completion date.

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

Recreation Department – There were no comments or questions.

Golf Department – There were no comments or questions.

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

Planning Department – Mrs. Hanson stated the owner/agent of Universal Storage located on St. James Avenue, would appear before the Architectural Review Board (ARB) for their Phase II, that coming Monday, which was much sooner than they anticipated. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips inquired what Phase II would entail. Mrs. Hanson stated Phase II would be additional storage buildings with a central atrium building built forward of the original structure and in-between the new addition and the original structure would be RV parking storage. Councilmember Esarey inquired if the new structure would block the existing building from the immediate roadway. Mrs. Hanson stated a lot of the structure would be blocked. Councilmember McCants inquired about the Crowfield Homeowners' Association and if subleasing any of the offices within the storage area was decided. Mrs. Hanson stated she was unaware of what had been decided. Mr. John Causey, Crowfield HOA President, stated as of that day Universal Storage had not gotten back to the Crowfield ARB for discussion and permits.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase – Radios (Police Department) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Chief of Police to purchase 8, 800 mega hertz (MHZ) radios from Radio Communications of Charleston in Goose Creek, SC, in the total amount of \$28,040.04. He stated this purchase would be made under State Contract and the expenditure was provided for in the City's 2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Harmon requested City Councils' consideration.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the purchase of 8, 800 MHZ radios in the total amount of \$28,040.04, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Printers/Scanners/MDT Terminals (Police Department) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Chief of Police to purchase 7 printers, scanners, and mobile data terminals from Howard Computers in Laurel, MS, in the total amount of \$40,718.16. He stated this purchase would be made under State Contract and the expenditures were provided for in the City's 2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Harmon requested City Councils' consideration.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the purchase of 7 printers, scanners, and mobile data terminals in the total amount of \$40,718.16, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Approval of Contract – IT Infrastructure (FD Headquarters Station/Station III) (Fire Department) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a memorandum and supporting documentation from the IT Director, Mr. Ryan Byrd, to contract with Diversified Computer Solutions, Inc., Columbia, SC, in the total amount of \$223,199.89. He stated this was for the provision of the telephone systems, access control systems, security monitoring systems, and low voltage cabling for the Fire Department's Headquarters Station and Station III. Mr. Harmon

recommended these funds be allocated from the Charleston Water System Franchise Fee Fund to accomplish the work as they move toward completion of the facilities. He requested City Councils' consideration. Mr. Harmon stated Mr. Byrd, was available to answer any technical questions.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the contract with Diversified Computer Solutions, Inc., in the total amount of \$223,199.89, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Re-grassing of Golf Course Greens/Course Improvements (Golf Department) – Mr. Harmon stated there were discussions the previous months pertaining to the types of improvements needing to be made to the Crowfield Golf Club. He stated while the course is closed 9 holes at a time for the re-grassing project, the Course Superintendent, as well as the Director of Golf Operations, Mr. Troy Sanders, recommended several improvements. He stated these improvements would be a one-time expenditure to improve the condition of the golf course. He stated a list of improvements was provided to City Council and Mr. Sanders was available to answer any questions. Mr. Harmon recommended to City Council they approve the improvements and allocation of funds from the Hospitality Tax in the amount of \$351,095.25.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the re-grassing and improvements on the golf course, in the total amount of \$351,095.25, as stated by Mr. Harmon. The motion was not seconded. Motion failed.

Request to Contract – Painting (Recreation Department) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request from the Recreation Department to approve a contract to paint the interior and exterior of 2 concession stands at Felkel Field. Mr. Harmon recommended accepting the low bid in the total amount of \$19,500.00, and he stated these funds were budgeted in the City's 2015 Fiscal Year Budget. He requested City Councils' consideration.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the contract to repaint at Felkel Field, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Harmon requested City Council reconsider the previous recommendations for the golf course. He stated action absolutely needed to be taken on the re-grassing of the greens and the 2 experts were present to discuss the recommended improvements. He stated the absolute minimum needing to be approved was the funding for the re-grassing because of the time frame. Mayor Heitzler inquired of Mr. Harmon if it would be possible to divide the re-grassing of the greens out into a separate reading. Mr. Harmon stated City Council previously approved the re-grassing and now they are providing the monetary amounts necessary to begin the project. He stated the other improvements take time for consideration, but the course would be closing on May 11, 2015. He stated the other necessary work would have to be accomplished while the golf course was closed for re-grassing.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the contract to re-grass the golf course greens, in the total amount of \$91,260.80, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated he was not sure why City Council was "getting cold feet" because this project was discussed by them at a previous meeting. Councilmember Esarey stated he took offense to the "cold feet" comment. He stated he was aware of the re-grassing project, but not of the other repairs on the list. Mayor Heitzler stated this is why he called for a City Council Workshop and he hoped everyone would attend to brainstorm the recreational and economic development uses of the Hospitality Tax. He stated it may even take 2 City Council Workshops so good decisions could be made on how to prioritize the use of the Hospitality monies. He stated he would elaborate in being in support of the motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Phillips and seconded by Councilmember Esarey.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Advance Road Improvement Plan (#3 of the 2015 Goals & Objectives) – Mayor Heitzler stated 17-A was completed and land was acquired to widen College Park Road, and the project was underway. He stated there was a new Development Agreement with Ryland Homes in Liberty Hall. He stated within 2 years Henry Brown Boulevard will be connected, but not finished and the parkway would take another 2 years to complete. Mayor

Heitzler stated plans were in the early stages of development for an overpass to go over the City's major intersection located at Highway 176, Red Bank Road and Highway 52.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who inquired if it could be explained to the citizens the influence the City has over road projects and improvements. He stated the roads in his subdivision are not being fixed properly and he wants everyone to understand the City does not own the roads. Mayor Heitzler stated residents can call their Senators, their House of Representatives, their Highway Commissioner and County Council representative. He stated there was a huge ongoing debate between the Governor and the General Assembly over where to obtain money for road improvements. He stated the best thing residents did was to pass a 1% Transportation Tax for Berkeley County. He stated this money goes into an account for road improvements and some major projects that were listed on the referendum from the last General Election, and they included the continuation of Henry Brown Boulevard and the overpass project. Mayor Heitzler stated he is the Chairman of the Charleston Area Transportation Study Committee and out of their meetings, he hopes there will be some road improvements for the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated this past February, members of City Council went to the Legislative Action Day in Columbia, SC, and what he heard from the State was not much is going to change. He stated the State wants to give the roads back to local governments with very little money for improvements. Councilmember Esarey stated there is local money from time to time to aid in certain road projects throughout the City. Mayor Heitzler stated these funds get cut all the time. Councilmember Esarey stated they do get to choose how this money is spent on roads which need it the most. Mr. Harmon said the County receives 2.66% of the Gas Tax. Mr. Glass stated he spoke with Mr. Harmon about Colonial Drive, but there are other streets in his subdivision in need of repair. Mayor Heitzler stated the City is in the best political position they have ever been in to get their fair amount of road improvements.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who stated in the golf course repair package, there was a \$3,500, engineering fee that was already accomplished so bids could be submitted. Mayor Heitzler stated he would look into what Mr. Hearn stated. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman in the audience who inquired if the intersection at Highway 52 and Montague Plantation Road was part of the improvements to be done at Henry Brown Boulevard. Mayor Heitzler stated yes. The gentleman inquired if the City was informed by CSX on how long it would take to complete their improvements project. Chief Becker stated the railroad crossing at Montague Plantation Road would be closed until the following day.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jack Hogan who stated he was representing the Crowfield HOA Board of Directors. He stated he wanted to inform everyone the President of the Board of Directors tasked him with heading up an Adhoc Committee to do a detailed report on the condition of the lakes and ponds in Crowfield Plantation. He stated the previous summer an engineering firm performed a detailed analysis and technical study on the lakes and ponds, and they recently received the final report. He stated he assembled a team of volunteers in Crowfield and they reviewed the technical information. He stated his purpose of being at the City Council meeting was to inform City Council they are working on this study and they will be returning to City staff and perhaps to City Council, to request they hold discussions on the matter and perhaps receive recommendations from the City. Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. Hogan for the work he is performing.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Dennis Winger who inquired how much money would be spent on the re-grassing. Mr. Harmon stated \$91,280.00. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Allan Wall, Chairman of the Planning Commission, who stated City Council passed an ordinance 3 months prior in regard to the ability to take immediate action against a home if it were to become a safety hazard. He stated this would be based on a situation they had no control over, but believed it to be unsafe and inquired if the City did indeed take action and was the matter corrected. Mayor Heitzler stated yes to both his questions. Mr. Wall mentioned residents in areas of Crowfield Plantation were not the only ones in the City who receive water from the CWS. He also stated he agreed with everything Mr. Glass commented on in regard to the Hospitality Tax and he believes it is being abused.

Mayor Heitzler stated it is nerve wracking to City Council when it comes to making financial tax decisions. He stated they have to act within the Hospitality Tax laws. He stated golf is a big recreational activity and fits into

the model of that law. He stated this will be a long journey, but many wonderful things will merge out of the Hospitality Tax. He stated it is a good idea to begin with the known and proven things and golf courses fit nicely into Hospitality Taxes. Mayor Heitzler stated the golf course is good to have for the City and he did want to get the second phase of the Recreation Center built. He stated there may come a time when they have to justify why they are building a recreation center when the money should be spent on economic development.

IX. Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

_____ Date: April 14, 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.