

City Council Meeting
May 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Councilmember Jerry Tekac; 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; Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Hanson; Public Information Officer Jessica Mackey

Staff Absent:

Invocation:

Councilmember John McCants

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:

Dan Brown; The Goose Creek Gazette

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips recognized Mrs. Rhoda Green with the Barbados and Carolina Legacy Foundation. Mrs. Green stated the previous year she contacted Mayor Heitzler because she was very interested in “Goose Creek Men” since she was from Barbados. She stated Mayor Heitzler wrote about the Goose Creek men from originally from Barbados and after she read this information she contacted City Hall to meet Mayor Heitzler. She stated she received the most gracious reception from the City Clerk, Ms. Lovette. She stated they had visitors from Barbados this past April, including Sir Henry Frasier. She stated Mayor Heitzler was most gracious and took them on a tour visiting many places with connections to Barbados. She wanted to let Mayor Heitzler know how appreciative they were of his hospitality and she presented Mayor Heitzler with a map of Barbados. Mayor Heitzler stated he wanted the map hung in City Hall. He stated the culture referred to in the “deep south” was conceived in England, born in Barbados, strengthened in Goose Creek and spread throughout the south. He stated Barbados was about half the size of Berkeley County and he thought this was amazing considering their influence on the area

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Barbara Peck who stated her and her husband wished to acknowledge the Goose Creek Police Department. She stated 4 weeks previously, her husband and herself were almost scammed for \$4,000.00. She stated the person on the phone convinced her he was their grandson and he was in jail in Chicago. She stated their grandson is a second year law student in Chicago. She proceeded to relay the story she was told over the phone from the individual. She stated they decided to go to the Police Department and

they spoke with Captain John Grainger who stated he was sure was it a scam. She stated Captain Grainger called the Dean of Students at the university where her grandson attends. She stated the Dean went to find her grandson, who was present and assisting teaching in a classroom. She stated she was told about the City's Crime Prevention Program and it was recommended her and her husband attend and their plans are to go to the meeting on June 2, 2015.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – March 24, 2015

City Council Meeting – April 14, 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 the owners of a single family home wanted to annex into the City and they have met all the legal requirements to annex. 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 (229 LINDY CREEK ROAD) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading)

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

Mayor Heitzler stated there was a proposed Ordinance to annex 25 acres on St. James Avenue. He stated the owner requested this property be annexed into the City. 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 (222-00-00-046 - PROPERTY ALONG ST. JAMES AVENUE) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance to annex the 25 acres along St. James Avenue, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated there was a proposed Ordinance to annex 8.3 acres along Planet Road near the St. James Avenue property also being proposed for annexation. 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 (222-00-00-124 – ALONG PLANET 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 Ordinance to annex the 8.3 acres along Planet Road, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated there was a proposed Ordinance to provide for changes in the City's Zoning and that

would amend the Zoning Map to the City of Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler stated this was relative to properties recently annexed into the City. Mayor Heitzler stated when property is annexed into the City it is automatically categorized as Conservation Open Space (CO) and the proposed Ordinance would rezone the properties as Medium Density Residential (R-2). Mayor Heitzler read the title to 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 PROPERIES:

THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 225 LINDY CREEK ROAD, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 244-01-04-005, FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2), AND

THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 133 BLOSSOM STREET, 135 BLOSSOM STREET, 137 BLOSSOM STREET, AND 139 BLOSSOM STREET, DESIGNATED AS TMS #'s 244-01-01-005, 244-01-01-004, 244-01-01-003 AND 244-01-01-002 RESPECTIVELY, FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) (Introduction and First Reading)

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

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Chief Becker thanked Mrs. Peck for her compliment. He stated internet and phone scams are “alive and well”. He stated some advisories were posted on the Police Department’s Facebook page and he reminded everyone not to hand out personal information over the phone and internet. He stated some of the scams are clever and pull at peoples’ heartstrings.

Fire Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady in the audience who inquired about a house fire on Wisteria Road and whether or not the house was vacant or occupied. Chief Chapman stated the house was occupied. Mayor Heitzler thanked her for being supportive.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler stated DPW started spraying for mosquitoes the previous evening. There were no other comments or questions.

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

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler stated baseball season recently began for the children. He stated those citizens who have not been to the Community Center should visit the building and it cost \$50, per year for a membership.

Golf Department – Mayor Pro Tem Phillips inquired if the repairs to the course greens had begun. Mr. Sanders stated they had begun working on the greens the day prior and the golf course was now only open for 9 holes of play.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mrs. Mackey stated the Sounds of Summer Concert Series began Friday May 22, 2015, at Dogwood Park. She stated the locations for the concerts would vary, including the Golf Course and Carnes Crossroads. She stated the concerts were free. Councilmember Moore stated Mrs. Mackey was resigning and she would be missed.

Planning Department – Councilmember Green-Fletcher inquired if they could be informed about new things coming to the City. Mrs. Hanson stated the Neighborhood Market would open the end of June, 2015. She stated the new concept for Sunoco on Red Bank Road had some delays with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), and these problems were resolved and plans were approved. She stated the Architectural Review Board (ARB) approved the elevations, landscaping and materials for a new Dairy Queen Restaurant named “Grill and Chill”. Mrs. Hanson stated this restaurant would be located at the site of the old Tenichi’s Steak House; this property would be demolished and a new building completed. She stated construction would begin early July, 2015. She stated the property at 615 St. James Avenue, between the Firestone and the St. James Apartments, would have a 2 tenant building constructed consisting of a dentist office and a takeout restaurant with no specific tenant.

VI. City Administrator’s Report:

Water Transmission Main Easement Purchase – Century Aluminum: Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Director of Public Works to purchase a water transmission main easement from Century Aluminum. He stated the negotiated purchase amount was \$30,000, to be paid from the City’s Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. He recommended City Council approve the expenditure of these funds. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips requested a description of the location of the water transmission main easement. Mr. Price stated this was an easement paralleling the Santee Cooper electrical transmission right-of-way. He stated the City would enter the Century Aluminum property at the existing 1 million gallon water storage tank, travel along the dirt road to the Santee Cooper power line easement, and follow this easement eastward to Old Moncks Corner Road. Mayor Heitzler stated the destination was the proposed water tank on Thurgood Road by the Senior Center. Mr. Price stated the 24 inch transmission line would continue down Thurgood Road to a new 1 million gallon water storage tank behind the Senior Center, and then continue along to connect to the existing half million gallon water tank near the Department of Public Works building.

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the purchase of the water transmission main easement in the total amount of \$30,000, from Century Aluminum, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Department of Public Works (Sanitation Trucks) – Mr. Harmon stated there was a request with supporting documentation from the Director of Public Works to purchase one 31 cubic yard semi-automated side-loading sanitation truck from General Diesel, located in North Charleston, SC, in the total amount of \$262,933. Mr. Harmon stated the low bid was not accepted and this decision could be explained by City staff. He recommended City Council allocate an award to General Diesel and requested City Councils’ consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips requested Mr. Price explain why the low bid was not accepted. Mr. Price stated DPW submitted bid proposals for quotes with specifications for a one side loading sanitation truck in comparison to a 3 side loading truck, which is currently being used by DPW. He stated they received 4 qualifying proposals of which one proposal met all of the specifications and the other proposals partially met the specifications. Mr. Price continued his briefing to City Council of the proposal bids for the varying types of sanitation trucks. He stated what disqualified 2 of the lower proposals was that a Mack truck was not suitable for the services provided by the City, and a Crane Carrier truck had too low of a ground clearance. He stated they physically looked at all the trucks and had the opportunity to test drive and operate them in the field. Mr. Price stated the truck proposal accepted was identical to the truck configuration currently utilized by the City.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the purchase of a sanitation truck in the total amount of \$262,933, from General Diesel, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Proposal for Architectural/Engineering Services – Thomas & Denzinger Architects (Phase II Community Center – Activity Center) – Mr. Harmon stated City Council previously directed staff to proceed with the development of Phase II of the Community Center on March 24, 2015. He stated as part of this process Thomas & Denzinger was contacted and they completed the preliminary design proposal for architectural and engineering services. Mr. Harmon stated the negotiation process was completed and City staff recommended City Council award a contract to Thomas & Denzinger Architects in the total amount of \$748,883, for the architectural services required for Phase II of the Community Center. He stated these monies would be paid from the Hospitality Tax Fund. Mr. Harmon requested City Council’s consideration.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to award the contract for Phase II of the Community Center to Thomas & Denzinger Architects, in the total amount of \$748,883, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor’s Report:

Create Economic Development Plan (#5 of the 2015 Goals & Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated every year City Council meets in a Workshop to design a Strategic Plan for the one, five and twenty year vision of the City. He stated City Council employed an economic development consultant who studied the community for approximately one year. He stated the consultant developed a final report and City Council held a workshop on 2 occasions to receive and study the report, as well as make recommendations to City staff on what strategies to employ in order to encourage economic development. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council developed a few things they wanted to complete. One of those was to improve communications with potential customers by placing an economic development aspect to the City website. He stated another thing was to create pamphlets, fliers and memos which could be disseminated to people interested in developing businesses. He stated thirdly was to use a banner system because they believed the best ambassadors for economic development are the people who live in Goose Creek; however, a lot of people do not know where the City of Goose Creek begins and ends. He stated the banners would be flown along Highway 176 from Carnes Crossroads to the Naval Weapon Station. He stated lastly they wanted to work with the SCDOT to improve the quality and number of signs on the interstate informing motorists where the City of Goose Creek was located. He stated a better job needed to be done informing people as they travel to Charleston that there is a City named Goose Creek, that it is a dynamic and vibrant location, and a successful place to raise children and have a business.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who commented about the new traffic signal being located at Wisteria Road and Red Bank Road. He stated the traffic light she was referring to has been installed, but was not yet operable on Red Bank Road at Wisteria Road. Mayor Heitzler stated the SCDOT was using Safety Fund money to improve the flow of traffic by changing the alignment of the lanes at the intersection of Red Bank Road, Highway 52 and St. James Avenue. He stated there would also be a raised median on Red Bank Road so people cannot turn into Wendy’s and cause an accident, but they could turn at the new signal at Wisteria Road. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman in the audience who inquired if there would be 2 lanes coming from Red Bank Road across Highway 52 to St. James Avenue. Mayor Heitzler stated there were 2 lanes already coming across, but there was a light that makes people turn right on one of them. The gentleman stated there was one going straight, one going right and one going left. He stated the people in the right turn lane, heading from Red Bank Road onto St. James Avenue, will sometimes drive straight across and not make that turn onto Highway 52. Chief Becker stated the traffic lights faced the correct direction. Mr. Price stated there was no additional lane, but in the new configuration of lanes there would be a dedicated left lane and there would be 2 lanes going straight, but the right lane would also have the option of turning right. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Mark Hayne, the Deputy Supervisor of Berkeley County.

Councilmember Green-Fletcher took the time to thank Mrs. Mackey. She stated she only had the privilege of working with her for 1 year, but she was very patient, did a wonderful job and was very professional. Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman in the audience who also took the time to thank Mrs. Mackey for her work. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman who inquired if it was ever discovered what happened to the statue where the white fence was placed at DPW. Mr. Price stated a car hit a column and knocked it over. He stated they have received quotes to repair the statue at the expense of the driver's insurance company. A gentleman inquired what the policy was for burning yard debris in the City limits because his neighbors on Hansford Drive burn leaves. Chief Chapman stated there is a City Ordinance which prohibits outdoor burning anywhere in the City without permission from the Fire Chief, and he does not give permission to burn yard debris. Chief Chapman stated if anyone sees someone burning yard debris to please call the Police Department.

IX. Adjournment:

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

_____ Date: June 9, 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.