

City Council Meeting
November 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 John McCants;

Council Members Absent:

Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Jerry Tekac

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; Finance Director Ron Faretra; 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:

Invocation:

Councilmember John McCants

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. Jeff Lupton, a resident of the Pineview Subdivision, who stated his concerns regarding a home located at Holly and Pineview Avenues, within his neighborhood and the barbed wire on its fence. Mayor Heitzler stated that home has probably had the barbed wire up for approximately two (2) years by now. He stated the owner was trying to train the dog to stay away from the fence because when children walk by, on their way to and from school, the owner's dog begins running around and jumping up at the fence. He stated the owner was afraid a child would stick their fingers through the fence and the dog bite them. Mayor Heitzler stated he believed it was working. He stated he agreed with Mr. Lupton entirely and stated the barbed wire did not look good. Mayor Heitzler inquired of City staff if there was anywhere within the City's Code of Ordinances that states barbed wire was not allowed on a chain link fence. City staff stated there was nothing that prohibited barb wire fences. Mayor Heitzler requested Mr. Harmon to place the subject matter on the Agenda for the next City Council Workshop, and he would discuss with City Council whether or not they wished to add a section to the City's Code to outlaw certain types of fences in residential areas. Mr. Lupton thanked Mayor Heitzler for considering his request. Mayor Heitzler stated he appreciated Mr. Lupton's concern for the appearance of his neighborhood. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who stated while he was recently driving around the last couple of days, there were crews out and about cleaning out the ditches and with everything that has been going on lately it was good to have them out there this soon and doing their job. He stated it is just one thing the City does that makes Goose Creek a good place to live. Mayor Heitzler thanked the gentleman for his comments.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Weirman who stated he believed he approached Mayor Heitzler and the members of City Council at their regular City Council Meeting in April 2015, when a house had been broken into in his neighborhood, and it was the first time in thirty (30) years of living in the City of Goose Creek that he did not feel safe, at that time, within his own

home. He stated he also told City Council he felt he had to give himself the biggest tax increase he has ever had to face for the City of Goose Creek, because he had to purchase a system with ADT and pay \$800, per year to protect himself and his family. He stated since then, he has become a victim himself because the “boat storage area” in Crowfield Plantation, was broken into. He stated he wanted to go on record and thank Chief Becker and his staff for apprehending three (3) suspects. Mr. Weirman stated he would be appearing in court, as the victim, on November 19th. He stated back in April he requested City Council to increase manning within the City’s police force at that time; and, it has not been increased in numbers since 2008, and it does not make any since to him since he believes the volume of calls have gone through the roof since then. He stated he was sure Chief Becker could speak more on that subject. Mr. Weirman stated he was requesting City Council to revisit those questions and to get more police officers on the force and to give them better wages or better insurance because he has heard with a lot of the officers, it is like a revolving door. He stated the recruits are sent to the South Carolina Police Academy, they come back and stay with the City for one (1) or two (2) years and they move on to places like North Charleston, a better paying department. He reiterated he would simply ask that Mayor Heitzler and City Council revisit the matter and he again thanked Chief Becker and his Police Department. Mayor Heitzler requested Mr. Harmon add Mr. Weirman’s concerns as a topic for discussion at the next City Council Workshop. Mayor Heitzler stated this was a difficult topic because it will involve a lot of time and money, but he felt it was a very timely topic and he it was time City Council go back and carefully review the matter again and the possibility of a tax increase to add additional police officers.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Budget Workshop – August 20, 2015
City Council Meeting – October 13, 2015

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the minutes, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. Councilmember Phillips stated he was not present at the City Council Budget Workshop on August 20, 2015, but he was confused regarding the proposed minutes for that meeting because there was some discussion about a proposed Cultural Commission. He stated the proposed minutes state there was a proposed Ordinance that had been revised by Mayor Heitzler and there was a motion and a second made to reconsider, but he was confused as to if there was ever an actual vote. After some discussion, Councilmember Esarey suggested City Council bring it back again for review. Mayor Heitzler stated they would bring it back in December, and hopefully there would be clarity. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote to approve the minutes. 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 an Ordinance that would rezone 4.4 acres (St. James Avenue (US Highway 176)) of property from High Density Residential (R-3) to General Commercial (GC). 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 PROPERTY:

A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY, 4.4 ACRES, LOCATED ON ST. JAMES AVENUE, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 222-00-00-046, FROM HIGH DENISITY RESIDENTIAL (R-3) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC)
(Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the second item under Public Hearings was the introduction and first reading to an Ordinance that would amend the City’s Zoning Ordinance. He stated the entire City of Goose Creek was zoned for different uses and he provided some examples, Industrial, Residential, Multi-Family, Commercial; and, approximately twenty (20) years ago the

City planned a downtown section that would have special zoning requirements that would include an Architectural Overlay District. He stated the City ended up with two (2) sections of an Ordinance and what the proposed Ordinance would do would be to bring the two (2) sections together in order to work more harmoniously.

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 (Introduction and First Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. Mayor Heitzler recognized two (2) members of the Planning Commission who were in attendance at the meeting, Mr. Allen Wall, Chairman of the Planning Commission, and Mr. Darryl Williams, a member of the Planning Commission. Mayor Heitzler stated this was not easy to deal with and he welcomed both gentlemen to speak on the process and what they were trying to accomplish. Mr. Wall stated there are several sections throughout the Zoning Ordinance that apply to different things and with the Planning Director trying to flip through the Zoning Ordinance to answer questions, it was felt everything should be in one (1) place. Mr. Wall stated the City's Master Plan was not fulfilled, so they needed to try to do away with the overlay area and blend it in with the non-overlay and its regular zoning; thus, making it less troublesome for the Planning Director and it was much needed.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Weirman from the audience. Mr. Weirman stated he was told by the Board of Directors from Crowfield Plantation's Homeowner's Association that the City's Police Department has one (1) key to Crowfield's storage facility. He stated maybe if they had police officers rolling through there that evening, it may have kept the three (3) men who were arrested, out of trouble. Chief Becker stated his department has access to the facility and that was not an issue. Mr. Jeff Lupton stated he had a comment about the barbed wire fencing and inquired if the police were chasing someone through the neighborhood and they had to jump over the fence, would that affect them from trying to apprehend the individual who maybe committed a violent crime within his neighborhood. Chief Becker stated he would have to say yes. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Mary Riley who reminded everyone about the Police Department's "House Watch Program", and she stated she has signed up for the program on several occasions when she had had to be out of town and it was a wonderful program. Mr. Lupton commended the Police Department for a time when one (1) of his children busted a car window of his and one of the City's police officers stopped by and woke him up just to make sure someone did not break into his car and that it was much appreciated. Chief Becker thanked everyone for the compliments. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips inquired if the Police Department was actually patrolling the Crowfield storage facility or did they simply have access if there was an incident. Chief Becker stated his department did have access; and yes, if they have time, they do go in to check things out when they have availability. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated he has expressed concerns about lack of patrolling on cul-de-sacs and it seems like a cul-de-sac should have priority over a boat yard. Chief Becker stated he was not saying it does not have priority; but yes, they do go in to patrol when they have availability, as well as Berkeley Electric and the St. James Goose Creek Church.

Fire Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Mary Riley who inquired as to when the fire stations would be completed. Chief Chapman stated they did not have an exact date, but they were anticipating Fire Station III (Old Mount Holly Road) would be completed by the end of the year (2015) and the Headquarters Fire Station should be completed in the spring (2016).

Department of Public Works (DPW) – There were no comments or questions.

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

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Lord from the audience who stated he wished to thank Mr. Stuber and his staff for keeping up the Recreation Center and for a \$50.00, per year membership, you can't beat it and the facility is always clean and very nice. Mr. Stuber thanked him for his comments. Mayor Heitzler stated he had a gentleman stop him that day to compliment him on Sylvia's professionalism and in dealing with a potential unhappy situation and the gentleman stated "he" was actually in the wrong.

Golf Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Luther Steele who inquired about some weeds up and around some trees at the golf course and when would they be removed. After a brief discussion, Mr. Steele inquired if there was a good time he could speak with Mr. Sanders about the situation. Mr. Sanders stated absolutely he could speak with him and that he was at the golf course every day. Mayor Heitzler stated he receives compliments about the course all the time. Councilmember Esarey stated he played the course at the recent Goose Creek Annual Golf Tournament, it was the first time he had played in a long time and it was gorgeous and maintained very well.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mr. Johnson reminded everyone about the Fishing Rodeo for Disabled Citizens was scheduled for that Saturday, at the lake behind the Municipal Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He stated it was a free event, open to all ages and there would be a cookout at the end of the event. He stated the opening night for the celebration of the Lakeside Christmas Lights Display would take place on Thursday, December 3rd, at 6:00 p.m., and the lights would be displayed every evening from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., through January 3, 2016. He stated the Friday Hayride will be on Friday, December 11th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in addition to the lights that evening. He stated the event drew a pretty good crowd last year. He stated the last thing he wished to mention was the final historical lecture by Mayor Heitzler and it was scheduled for that Thursday, at 6:00 p.m., in City Hall.

Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. Johnson for his briefing and for reminding him the St. James Good Creek Parrish would be open at 11:00 a.m., on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, wherein he would provide a 15-20 minute lecture.

Planning Department – Mayor Heitzler thanked Mrs. Hanson for the work she did on the proposed Ordinance with regard to the design standards and design guidelines of the Zoning Ordinance.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase – Administration Department (Parking Lot Lights) - Mr. Harmon stated he had a request and supporting documentation from the Finance Director to replace the parking lot lights at the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center and if approved by City Council, the current lights would be replaced by high efficiency LED lights for cost savings and better lighting. He stated it was City staff's recommendation the City contract with Hi-Lite Electric, located in Cary, North Carolina, to purchase the lights with a cost in the amount of \$15,513.00, plus tax. At this time Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration.

Councilmember Moore made a motion to replace the lights in the parking lot with high efficiency LED lights, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Administration Department - IT (Building Access Control) – Mr. Harmon stated he had a request and supporting documentation from the Information Technology (IT) Director, who was present that evening, to purchase a building access control system for the Marguerite H. Brown Municipal Center, from Diversified Computer Solutions, in Columbia, South Carolina, in the total amount of \$25,861.47. He stated this was a budgeted item in the City's Fiscal year 2016 Budget. At this time, Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration for the purchase.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the purchase of the building access control system, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Administration Department – IT (Wireless Bridge Connection) - Mr. Harmon stated he had a request and supporting documentation from the IT Director to purchase a wireless bridge system for the Municipal Center, Public Works Complex and Headquarters Fire Department from Diversified Computer Solutions, in Columbia, South

Carolina, in the total amount of \$42,494.33. He stated before he requested City Council's consideration, he would like for Mr. Byrd (It Director) to explain what the system consists of and what it will achieve. Mr. Harmon stated Mr. Byrd has done a great job and they have been working on the project now for approximately two (2) or three (3) years. Mr. Byrd stated the wireless bridge is how City staff communicates between the Municipal Center, the Public Works Complex and the Fire Department's Headquarters Station. Mr. Byrd stated currently the City has a 300 MB system and the new system will have 750 MB, the new system will more than double the City's capacity to be able to provide phone service, internet access, as well as, store all of their data, which is stored at the Municipal Center; and, the new system will enable IT to get all of those services and information to them in a timely manner. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips inquired if the new system would service the Fire Department's new Headquarters Station. Mr. Byrd stated this is a wireless system and it would service the new Headquarters Stations; and, City staff cannot place a line of site antennae between the Municipal Center and all of the other fire stations, as it is cost prohibitive at this time. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. Byrd for his presentation.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the wire bridge connection, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amending of the City Council Agenda - Mayor Heitzler stated before City Council were two (2) items that were essential and that needed to be taken care of that evening, but it was not on the Agenda. Mayor Heitzler stated the law requires the Agenda be advertised at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, otherwise no action can be taken, unless City Council amends the Agenda. At this time, Mayor Heitzler requested City Council to consider amending the Agenda so two (2) items could be added. He stated the first item was in regard to the purchase of 800 MHZ radios, with a "Grant", for the City's Fire Department. He stated if this is delayed, the City could lose the Grant and it would be less cost efficient, if purchased at another time. He stated the second item was in regard to appointing an individual from Google to the City's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). At this time, Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to amend the Agenda.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to amend the Agenda to consider the recommendations to purchase the 800 MHZ radios, as well as, appointing a new member to the EDAC, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase of 800 MHZ Radios (Fire Department) – Mr. Harmon reminded City Council the City was the recipient of a \$179,000, FEMA Grant for the purchase of radio equipment to transition the Fire Department to the 800 MHZ system. He stated City staff just received the bids for the equipment and, as stated by Mayor Heitzler, the City has the opportunity to save almost \$20,000, if City staff acts before December 18, 2015. He stated in conjunction with the Grant, before City Council was a request from the Fire Department to purchase twelve (12) handheld portable radios and thirty-three (33) vehicle mounted mobile radios, on State contract, from Radio Communications of Charleston (RCC), in Goose Creek, SC, in the total amount of \$196,747.57, and that would include the 10% match that is required for the Grant. At this time, Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration and approval of the purchase for the radios from RCC.

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the purchase of the 800 MHZ radios, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Recommendation of Appointment to the Economic Development Advisor Committee (EDAC) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a recommendation from the Chairman (Rick Buckner) of the Economic Development Advisory Committee to appoint Mr. Rob Sanchez (Goggle) to the EDAC. He stated Mr. Sanchez recently met with Mr. Rick Buckner, Mr. Broom and himself and it was their recommendation that Mr. Sanchez be appointed to represent Google on the EDAC.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mr. Sanchez to the EDAC. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Develop A Succession Plan For Key Management Positions (Item #1 of the 2015 Goals and Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated there were ten (10) items under the City's annual Strategic Plan and one (1) of those items to achieve this year was to develop a succession plan for key management positions. He stated the City has some key, critically important, "senior positions", that are currently filled by individuals that are not going to stay with the City forever, because they get ready for retirement and move on. He stated the City has positions such as, the City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator, Finance Director, Police Chief, just to name a few. He stated the City has a new Assistant City Administrator and part of the plan was to hire someone new, which was accomplished with the hiring of Mr. Broom. He stated a decision would need to be made, and a plan was already underway, in regard to filling the position of the City Administrator, which will become vacant when Mr. Harmon retires next summer (2016). Mayor Heitzler stated those will be big shoes to fill and they will never be able to replace Mr. Harmon, but City Council has a plan in place to transition into that next chapter. Hearing no questions, Mayor Heitzler moved on to the next item on the Agenda.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Cathy Klockcoff who inquired as to what the benefits to the City were to add someone from Google to the EDAC. Mayor Heitzler stated the EDAC's job is to advise and counsel City Council, as well as, to encourage the development of business and industry within the City. He stated the EDAC advises them if they were doing anything that could be harmful to the positive development of business and industries within the City and that the EDAC has existed for the past twenty (20) years. He stated the City tries to obtain key appointments from businesses and industries within the "Greater Goose Creek Area" and Google is within this area. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who inquired if the City was planning to put up Christmas decorations. Mayor Heitzler stated the City was putting up Christmas wreaths on the City's fence that runs along the railroad on North and South Goose Creek Boulevard. She inquired why the City did not place any decorations on St. James Avenue. Mayor Heitzler stated the decorations are expensive, difficult to manage and the City does not have the space to be able to store them for eleven (11) months out of the year; and, they wanted to start out with something at the lower level where people would not have to get up on lifts to put up lights. He stated with the wreaths being placed on the fence, it will be beautiful and inviting to the City and if that comes across nicely, maybe City Council would like to put up more. Mrs. Mary Riley was recognized by Mayor Heitzler and there was a brief discussion regarding the Henry Brown Boulevard Parkway and who would be working on the project. Mayor Heitzler and Mr. Harmon stated Berkeley County Roads and Bridges and Ryland Homes were all involved in that project. They stated Berkeley County was going to use the funding from the 1% Transportation Sales Tax to fund the project. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jeff Lupton and there was a brief discussion concerning the turn lane located at the intersection of US Highway 52 and St. James Avenue.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

_____ Date: December 8, 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.