

City Council Meeting
April 12, 2016
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Phillips

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

Staff Absent:

None

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.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Greg Habib, Mr. Brandon Cox and Mr. Kevin Condon and stated they recently won the Municipal Election for three (3) seats on City Council and they will be sworn in on April 28th. (Note: The newly elected members of City Council will officially take office on Saturday, May 7, 2016.) Mayor Heitzler also recognized the outgoing Councilmembers, Councilman Jerry Tekac, Councilman Franklin Moore and Councilman John McCants.

Councilmember McCants presented Mayor Heitzler with the By-Laws of Westview Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) from 1973. Councilmember McCants presented Mr. Harmon with a personal gift thanking him for his many years of service to the City. Councilmember McCants then acknowledged his family sitting in the audience. Mayor Heitzler then acknowledged several individuals in the audience: Mr. Levy Berry, Councilman Caldwell Pinckney and Mrs. Lane Morgan.

II. Recognition of the "Purchase Award Winner" of Goose Creek Artist Guild:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Dorothy Shromoff, of the Goose Creek Artist Guild, for her watercolor painting, "Underwater Rainbow". Mayor Heitzler stated each year one (1) piece of artwork is purchased and is put on the walls of City Hall. Mayor Heitzler requested Mrs. Shromoff to discuss her artwork. Mrs. Shromoff stated she likes colors and usually paints Charleston scenes so this painting was unusual for her. Ms. Shromoff stated she moved here from Minnesota in 2000, she loves the people here and it was an honor her painting was chosen.

III. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Chris Carter from the audience, a resident from Dogwood Hill Drive. Mr. Carter stated he had never been to a City Council meeting before, but wanted to address an on-going issue on his road in which prescription drugs are being sold out of a home across from his residence. Mr. Carter stated he likes Goose Creek, but his neighborhood is becoming full of crime, despite contacting the Police Department multiple times and working with Detective Powell, the situation continues to worsen. Mr. Carter stated he contacted the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department and was told they do not have jurisdiction within the City of Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler stated the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department does have jurisdiction in the City. Mr. Carter stated he was becoming afraid for his family's safety; his neighbors are afraid as well. Mayor Heitzler apologized to Mr. Carter for his fear and stated he did not ever want anyone in the City to feel afraid. Mayor Heitzler inquired of Police Chief Becker if he had Mr. Carter's contact information so the situation could be fully addressed. Chief Becker stated he would be meeting with Detective Powell the next day. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who thanked the outgoing City Councilmembers for their service to the community.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Gary Lamb, a resident of Longleaf Plantation. Mr. Lamb expressed concerns for the safety of his children due to behaviors and actions from the properties behind his home which includes loud music, chained dogs and gun shots. A brief discussion followed regarding whether or not the properties in question were located within the City's limits. Mr. Lamb recognized a neighbor of his who was in the audience and Mr. Hendricks expressed the same concerns. Mr. Lamb and Mr. Hendricks inquired what could be done about these actions to make the neighborhood feel safe again. Mayor Heitzler stated he trusted Police Chief Becker and Mr. Harmon would investigate the situation. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who resides on Dogwood Hill Drive and who stated her concerns about the posted speed limit. She stated the current speed limit is 30mph. She stated she has a seven (7) year old child who is autistic and impulsive. She requested either the speed limit be lowered or at least a "Caution Children at Play" sign be posted. Mayor Heitzler stated that Berkeley County sets the speed limit; the county owned and maintains Dogwood Hill Drive. Mayor Heitzler stated the City could appeal to the County on the residents' behalf, but could not change the speed limit. Mayor Heitzler inquired of Police Chief Harvey Becker to look into justifying an appeal to the County regarding a change in the speed limit. A brief discussion followed in regard to driving on residential roads.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Meeting - February 9, 2016

City Council Meeting – March 8, 2016

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the minutes, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote to accept the minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

V. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler stated there was one item under Public Hearings, the introduction and first reading of a proposed Ordinance that would need to be passed if the City wanted to be able to borrow money from the State Water Revolving Loan Fund. Mayor Heitzler stated the City did want to be able to borrow money, a little more than \$8,000,000, from the Fund to be able to improve the City's water system. Mayor Heitzler then recognized Mr. Wall from the audience who inquired how the City plans improve the water system with this money. Mayor Heitzler stated the City, in partnership with Summerville, Moncks Corner and Berkeley County, has approved improvements to the Santee Cooper Regional Water Authority which will double the daily treatment capacity. Mayor Heitzler stated this money would be used to build a third water tower and tie the three (3) towers together and then tie into the Santee Cooper Regional Water Authority tank at Carnes Crossroads. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson from the audience. Mr. Arenson inquired if these improvements would allow for the accommodation of residents who live within Crowfield and who are not currently on City water, should the City ever acquire the Charleston Water Service's water system. Mayor Heitzler stated yes. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Ken Harris from the audience. Mr. Harris inquired if the three (3) tanks would cover the entire City, everyone in the Goose Creek zip code. Mayor Heitzler stated no, the three (3) towers only cover those areas on the City's water distribution system; it will not impact those residents who get their water from Charleston Public Works. Mayor Heitzler then recognized Mr. Nash from the audience. Mr. Nash inquired what kind of rate increase residents could expect to see with borrowing this amount of money. Mayor

Heitzler deferred to Mr. Harmon. Mr. Harmon stated the City raised rates in anticipation of the improvements; rates were raised by 14% on January 1, 2015, and again on January 1, 2016, by 13%, and that no additional increases are anticipated at the present time. A brief discussion followed about the low cost of the City's water. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler read the title of the Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINANCING OF THE IMPROVEMENT, EXTENSION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE WATER SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, THROUGH THE BORROWING BY THE CITY OF NOT EXCEEDING \$8,500,000, INCLUDING CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF ANY, FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, PURSUANT TO TITLE 48, CHAPTER 5, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AN AGREEMENT TO MAKE AND TO ACCEPT A LOAN, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE FROM THE CITY TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Introduction and First Reading)

Councilmember Moore made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as read by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Tekac seconded the motion. Councilmember Tekac inquired of Mr. Harmon why the figures on the supporting documentation of the Water System Improvements were not adding up. Mr. Harmon stated the lowest bidder could not be qualified, for financial purposes, the higher figures were being used. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VI. Department Reports:

Police Department – There were no comments or questions.

Fire Department – Chief Steve Chapman stated as of Friday, April 8, 2016, Fire Station 3 was occupied and calls were being run out of that location. Chief Chapman stated a date for an Open House would be announced shortly, after they were able to get the station completely setup and operational.

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. Jerry Glass, Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

Golf Department – There were no comments or questions.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mr. Johnson stated the Spring Newsletter had been published and mailed to all residents. Mr. Johnson stated the newsletter could be found on the City's website. Mr. Johnson stated the BBQ Festival would be on Saturday, April 23rd from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm behind the Municipal Center.

Planning Department – There were no comments or questions.

VII. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase (Administration Department) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request and supporting documentation from the Finance Director to purchase a 2016 Ford Escape. Mr. Harmon stated the lowest bidder was Berkeley Ford of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, in the total amount of \$20,786. Mr. Harmon stated this was a budgeted item in the 2016 City Budget. Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration for approval of the purchase.

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the request to purchase the vehicle, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none

opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase (Department of Public Works) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request from the Director of Public Works to purchase a 2016 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck for the Water Division of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Harmon stated the recommended low bidder was Ravenel Ford of Ravenel, South Carolina, in the total amount of \$21,540. Mr. Harmon stated this was a budgeted item in the 2016 City Budget. Mr. Harmon requested City Council’s consideration for approval of the purchase.

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the request to purchase the vehicle, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VIII. Mayor’s Report:

Create Economic Development Plan (Item #6 of the 2016 Goals and Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated the City has a Strategic Plan for one (1) year, five (5) years, and twenty (20) years. Mayor Heitzler then stated at each City Council Meeting he reviews one (1) of the City’s annual strategic goals. He stated economic development has been a hot topic. A brief discussion followed regarding Tax Increment Finance District (TIF), and the City’s past economic development endeavors. Mayor Heitzler then deferred to Assistant City Administrator Jake Broom to discuss the future of the City’s economic development. Mr. Broom stated in May of 2015, the City engaged with Arnette Muldrow and Associates to create a Strategic Economic Development Plan. He stated the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) has been working through the Plan and chose as a first step the creation of a City website geared toward economic and business development and the rebranding of the City to promote it to businesses and tourists. Mr. Broom stated information is being gathered regarding who to contract with and what to require of a contractor to accomplish this goal; this information will be presented to City Council in May.

IX. Comments and Questions:

A lady from the audience inquired if the City was continuing with plans to extend Henry Brown Boulevard to US Highway 52 (N. Goose Creek Boulevard). Mayor Heitzler stated it would be connected this year. Mayor Heitzler briefly discussed future plans for expanding Henry Brown Boulevard. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Ken Harris who inquired about vacant buildings on Red Bank Road. Mayor Heitzler stated the buildings were not in the City so he could not comment for sure. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who inquired about a skate park for kids. Mr. Gary Stuber, Director of Recreation, stated this had been discussed in the past; however, there were no current plans in place.

Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their help and assistance and wished them well in their future endeavors. Councilmember McCants encouraged everyone to remember that help and hurt have the same number of letters, but hurts last longer than help is remembered. Councilmember McCants then thanked the community and his fellow Councilmembers.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Moore made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date: May 10, 2016

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.