

City Council Meeting
August 9, 2016
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michael J. Heitzler; Mayor Pro Tem Mark Phillips; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Brandon Cox; Councilmember Gregory Habib; Councilmember Kevin Condon, Councilmember Kimo Esarey

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Chief of Police 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:

Invocation:

Chaplin Tom Richmond

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. Special Recognition of Former City Councilman: Mr. John B. McCants

Mayor Heitzler recognized retired City Councilmember John McCants. Mr. McCants served twenty-four (24) years and was presented with a Meritorious Service Pin by Mayor Heitzler. Mayor Heitzler also recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Phillips by presenting him with a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the 2015 Community and Economic Development Program.

III. Recognitions and Awards:

Mayor Heitzler began the meeting by recognizing and presenting a plaque to each of the following employees:

Board/Commission Member of the Year - Rick Buckner, Chairman, Economic Development Advisory Committee
Department of Public Works – Ezekiel “Zeke” Banks, Groundskeeper
Administration Department – Amy Weatherford, Municipal Court Clerk
Recreation Department – Michael Knight, Maintenance Supervisor
Golf Department – Bobby Donnellan, Head Golf Professional
Part-Time/Seasonal Golf Department – Patricia Turchon, Snack Bar Attendant
Police Department (Explorer) – Sasha Denise Murray, Police Cadet Explorer
Police Department (Volunteer of the Year) – Chaplin Jason Strong
Police Department (Civilian) – Allison Gibson, Crime Analyst

Mayor Heitzler recognized the overall 2016 Employee of the Year for the City of Goose Creek as being Patrolman PFC Justin Hart of the Goose Creek Police Department.

IV. Presentation by Jeremy McNeer – Cop-Stop (Cop-Stop.org)

Mr. McNeer stated Cop-Stop is a program to honor the thin blue line and the heroes that protect our communities every day. He stated their mission was to provide a warm home cooked meal for law enforcement officers while on duty. He stated the program was established two (2) years ago in Germantown, TN, and currently, Police Chief Turner of the City of Hanahan, and his wife, Mrs. Page Turner, have started promoting Cop-Stop locally. Mr. McNeer stated his purpose for his presentation was to promote Cop-Stop with the help of City Council. Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. McNeer for his sincere and genuine offer of help and he knew he would be working with Chief Becker and his command staff to make it a success in Goose Creek.

V. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Bill Shutterburg from the audience who inquired about a meeting that took place last week regarding Liberty Hall Road and Henry Brown Boulevard regarding the connection of both roadways. He stated he is the President of the Home Owners' Association (HOA) at Brickhope Greens. He stated the reason for his inquiring was because he would like to be able to answer any questions that may arise at the next HOA meeting. Mayor Heitzler requested Mrs. Hanson, the Director of Planning and Zoning, to answer Mr. Shutterburg's question. Mrs. Hanson explained that the Planning Commission met last week to hear requests from property owners to rezone the property to General Commercial. The Planning Commission did approve the request and sent it to City Council to be added to a future agenda. Mayor Heitzler went on to answer Mr. Shutterburg's second question wherein he stated the timeline for Henry Brown Boulevard connecting to Highway 52 would probably be completed this year. Mayor Heitzler further explained that a portion of the roadway was waiting to be striped which is the developer's responsibility. Mayor Heitzler stated that the future plan for this road is to expand it to a three (3) lane parkway with a ten (10) foot wide hiker/biker trail. Mr. Broom stated the full project was anticipated to be completed in 2019. Mr. Broom stated Berkeley County would be able to provide more details since it is their project. Mr. Shutterburg stated the biggest concerns of the residents within that area were semi-truck traffic. Mr. Shutterburg stated he did not believe the roundabout would be wide enough for semi-truck traffic. Mayor Heitzler stated that as of that moment, semi-trucks would not be allowed to use the parkway as a thoroughfare.

VI. Public Hearing:

Mayor Heitzler stated the first under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance to transfer property from the City of Goose Creek to Berkeley County. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5-7-40 OF THE CODE OF LAW OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, TO CONVEY PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BERKELEY COUNTY WATER AND SANITATION AUTHORITY (BERKELEY COUNTY) TO REBUILD PUMP STATION 2

Mayor Pro-Tem Philips made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Mayor Heitzler asks for any discussion by city council. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the second item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance that would authorize and provide for the issuance of Special Obligation Bonds. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS (HOSPITALITY FEE PLEDGE) OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA; PRESCRIBING THE FORM OF BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS FROM THE SOURCES PROVIDED HEREIN; CREATING CERTAIN FUNDS AND PROVIDING FOR PAYMENTS INTO SUCH FUNDS; MAKING OTHER COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

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

Mayor Heitzler stated the third and final item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance that will issue a Special Obligation Bonds of \$9,000,000, to build a recreation facility that will attach to the current community center. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson from the audience who inquired of Mayor Heitzler if he could explain how the Special Obligation Bonds would work. Mayor Heitzler stated there is a special revenue source called the Hospitality Tax in which we pay 2% in our restaurants and for any prepared foods. Mayor Heitzler thoroughly explained how the funds from the Hospitality Tax would be used to pay off the \$9,000,000, to build the recreation facility and how, under State law, those monies could be used to build the facility. He further stated the new Activities Center would hold gymnastics meets in which teams would travel from all over the State and maybe the southeast, to compete. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Gary Becker from the audience who inquired if the City of Goose Creek would be selling the bonds to the residents of Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler stated the City was not selling the bonds and requested Mr. Broom to further explain the process. Mr. Broom stated City staff essentially went to every bank within the City and stated the City would like \$9,000,000, what interest rate would they charge the City to lend us the money. He stated the City creates a physical bond that the bank purchases and the City pays the bank back \$9,000,000, and in this instance, the low bidder was offering an interest rate of 2.22%. Mr. Becker also inquired if there were any penalties for non-performance to the builders. Mayor Heitzler stated yes, that was built in to every construction contract. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, SPECIAL OBLIGATION BONDS (HOSPITALITY FEE PLEDGE), IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$9,000,000. IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, BY CONTRUCTION OR PURCHASE, OF A RECREATIONAL FACILITY, APPUTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS RELATED THERETO; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, OR ANY TWO OF THEM ACTING TOGETER, TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO THE BONDS; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

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

VII. Department Reports:

Police Department: Chief Becker thanked City Council for recognizing police personnel and Jeremy McNeer for his support of the police mission. Councilmember Green-Fletcher thanked Chief Becker for the Police Department's House Watch Programs.

Fire Department: Chief Steve Chapman thanked City Council for recognizing the Fire Department employee of the year.

Department of Public Works: Chuck Denson thanked City Council for recognizing Mr. Zeke Banks and stated he was their employee who is always up at the Municipal complex and cleaning the grounds around City Hall and taking care of things and he was their representation of the Department of Public Works and he does a very good job and he thanked City Council for recognizing him for his efforts. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired about the intersection at College Park Road and I-26. Mr. Denson stated he did not know and that Mr. Arenson could contact the Berkeley County Roads and Bridges or the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) District Six office.

Administration Department: Mr. Faretra thanked City Council for recognizing Mrs. Amy Weatherford, from the Municipal Court as the Administration Department's Employee of the Year. He stated it was really tough to work in the court and most people who have to go are not very happy about being there and Amy is a smiling face over there that always has the ability to calm people down when necessary. Mr. Arenson inquired what the general qualifications were of a Municipal Court Judge, relative to whether or not a legal back was necessary. Mr. Faretra stated in the State of South Carolina, a Municipal Court Judge has to have a high school education; however City Council recently instituted a policy for the City wherein a new Municipal Court Judge must have passed the South Carolina Bar and/or is currently an attorney. Councilmember Green-Fletcher inquired if the Hospitality Tax could be used for another police officer. Mr. Faretra stated the Hospitality Tax could be used for police officers in specific circumstances. Mr. Faretra provided the following example by stating that during the winter months Edisto Beach only has a few hundred residents, but during the summer a lot of tourists visit Edisto Beach and the municipality pays for all but one (1) of their

police officers with monies from the Hospitality Tax. He stated this was only because the influx of tourists required a bigger police presence. Mr. Faretra stated if the City of Goose Creek ever had a major event, like the Cooper River Bridge Run, we would be able to use monies from the Hospitality Tax to pay for the extra officers that would be needed for that event.

Recreation Department: Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who inquired how the new Activities Center would be attached to the current Community Center. Mr. Stuber stated the connection would be through a back hallway. A lady from the audience inquired about the timeline for Activities Center to project. Mr. Stuber stated once the contract was awarded, it would be approximately eighteen (18) months.

Golf Department: Mr. Sanders thanks City Council for recognizing his department's Employee of the Year, Mr. Bobby Donnellan. Councilmember Habib praised the Golf Department on the course for being in really good shape and for doing a really good job.

Public Information Office: Mr. Johnson reminded everyone there were still spots available for the Fall Yard Sale. Mr. Johnson stated that there would be an outdoor movie night Saturday, September 24th, and sponsorships for that event were available. Mr. Johnson also stated the Fall Festival was scheduled for Saturday, October 8th.

Planning and Zoning Department: Mrs. Hanson stated that Wednesday afternoon, the following day, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there would be an Open House Gala at the Berkeley Electric Cooperative in their conference room for residents of the City of Goose Creek.

VIII. City Administrator's Report:

Approval of Records Retention (City Clerk) – Mr. Broom stated he had a request from the City Clerk regarding a Specific Records Retention Schedule prepared by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. He stated it pertains to Fixed Asset Records Sheets and states the City will retain these records for three (3) years after the assets have been disposed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Phillips made a motion to accept the Specific Records Retention Schedule, as stated by Mr. Broom. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Proposed Award of Contract (Recreation Department) Construction of Activities Center – Phase II - Mr. Broom stated the remaining item under his report was the proposed award of contract for the construction of the Activities Center – Phase II. Mr. Broom stated the City opened the bid on July 14, 2016, and received four (4) bidders. Mr. Broom stated the bidders:

- Contract Construction with \$11,115,000
- Hill Construction Services of Charleston with 11,866,693
- Hogan Construction Group with \$11,654,000
- MB Con Construction Company \$11,680,000

Mr. Broom stated City staff was recommending City Council award a contract in the amount of \$11,115,000, to Contract Construction, Inc., for the construction of Phase II of the Community Center. Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Habib made a motion to award the contract to Contract Construction, Inc., as presented by Mr. Broom. Councilmember Cox seconded. Mayor Heitzler inquired if there was any discussion by City Council. Mayor Pro-Tem Phillips recused himself from voting due to a previous contractual relationship with Contract Construction, Inc. Mayor Heitzler also recused himself because his son works for Contract Construction, Inc. Mayor Heitzler inquired if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Greg Hughes, the President and Mr. Kyle Farley, the Project Manager, for Construct Construction.

IX. Mayor's Report:

Appointment of Two (2) Municipal Court Judges – Mayor Heitzler stated City staff and City Council spent several hours reviewing numerous applications from attorneys who passed the SC Bar and who were interested in serving as a Municipal Court Judge for the City. He stated there are three (3) positions for Municipal Court Judge and the City

currently had one (1) on board and vacancies for (2) more judges. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council has selected Mrs. Colleen Taylor and Mr. Percy Beaufort. At that time, Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act that evening. Councilmember Habib made a motion to appoint the two (2) candidates for Municipal Court Judge, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Designation of Chief Municipal Court Judge - Mayor Heitzler stated the next item under his report was to designate the Chief Municipal Judge. Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to take action. Councilmember Habib made a motion to appoint Mr. Danny Wilson, as the City's Chief Administrative Judge. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Safeguard Physical and Environmental Resources. (Item 8 of the 2016 Goals & Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated it had been a long meeting and he would report on this item at the September regular City Council Meeting.

X. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who inquired as to why the company the City hired for an estimate of what it would cost to build Phase II of the Community Center was \$2,000,000, off of the bid submitted of what it will actually cost to build the facility. Mayor Heitzler stated that all the company can do is give a professional estimate and provide a methodology for how that figure was reached.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

_____ Date: October 11, 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.