

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

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michael J. Heitzler; Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips; Councilmember James (Kimo) Esarey; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember John McCants; Councilmember Jerry Tekac

Council Members Absent:

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; Public Information Officer Frank Johnson; Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Hanson; IT Director Ryan Byrd

Staff Absent:

Director of Golf Operations Troy Sanders

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. Kevin Condon who stated he lives 412 Terrier Road, in the Foxborough subdivision and that he wished to take a moment to thank Mayor Heitzler, the members of City Council and the City's staff for the wonderful job they all do and to let the people in the audience know he is running for a seat on City Council and that he will be on the City's election ballot on April 5, 2016. Mrs. Ilene Lord was recognized and she stated she lives on Bridlewood Place in Crowfield Plantation and that she too was a candidate for Goose Creek City Council. Mr. Brandon Cox stated he was running for City Council; and, Mr. Greg Habib stated he has lived in Goose Creek since 1982, that he appreciates everything City Council and its three (3) outgoing members have done for our community and that he is also running for a seat on City Council. Mr. Gerald Stinson stated he was thankful for the job City Council has done and he was not running for City Council. Mayor Heitzler stated he had asked Mr. Stinson about fifty (50) times to run for City Council.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Meeting – December 8, 2015

Councilmember Esarey 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 first item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading to a proposed Ordinance that would amend the City's Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Heitzler stated it would provide for some change in the zoning districts of the City and the property known as the Mackey Tract, located on Old Summerville Road, contiguous to the City at the Carnes Crossroads' development. He stated the tract has approximately thirty (30) acres and when you initially annex a piece of property it is automatically zoned as Conservation Open Space, which means nothing can be built on the property. He stated the owner then approaches City Council to request for specific zoning and this would be the second and final reading of changing the zoning from Conservation Open Space to Residential High Density. 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 PROPERTY LOCATED ON OLD SUMMERVILLE ROAD, DESIGNATED AS TMS# 222-00-00-006, (MACKEY TRACT) FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-3) (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding property known as the Mackey Tract, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. 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 to approve a Development Agreement to the Mackey Tract. Mayor Heitzler read the title of the proposed development agreement.

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK AND THE ESTATE OF EARL E. MACKEY, FOR AN AREA IDENTIFIED AS THE MACKEY TRACT, TMS # 222-00-00-006, OLD SUMMERVILLE ROAD, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 29.37 ACRES (Second and Final Reading)

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

Mayor Heitzler stated the third item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance to establish a Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) for the City of Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Veronica Dukes, President of the Goose Creek Branch NAACP. She stated there were people in the community who are interested in serving on the CAC and she would appreciate it if information would be advertised so people could apply to have a seat on the Commission. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who inquired how the CAC would be funded. Mayor Heitzler stated it would depend on the type of request and City Council would decide how much money they would need should a request be made.

Mayor Heitzler took a moment to answer Mr. Hearn's questions and he briefly explained the process of how the CAC would be established, funding, and the creation of the proposed CAC Ordinance before City Council. Mayor Heitzler briefly spoke about history of wanting to create a CAC for the City of Goose Creek. Heitzler read the title of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Pro Tem Esarey commented on the CAC Ordinance and stated he was unaware art teachers incorporated what they believed should be in the proposed Ordinance and he added City Council was not setting the CAC up to be able to spend a lot of money, but he stated Mayor Heitzler pointed out the CAC would not be spending; however, based on some of the items listed within the proposed Ordinance, there probably would be spending and he wanted to point that out. Mayor Heitzler thanked Councilmember Esarey for pointing that out.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. Five (5) in favor, Two (2) opposed. Motion carried. (Note: Councilmember McCants and Councilmember Tekac voted no.)

Mayor Heitzler Mayor Heitzler stated the fourth item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance that would amend the City's Zoning Map to provide for changes in the zoning classification of the property located at 505 Old Moncks Corner Road, to provide for changes in the Zoning District. 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 FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 505 OLD MONCKS CORNER ROAD, DESIGNATED AS TMS #234-08-00-095, AND THE ADJACENT PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS TMS #234-08-00-054 FROM PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD) TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember McCants made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance to the Zoning Map, as read 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 fifth item was the introduction and first reading of a proposed Ordinance to amend the City's Zoning Ordinance regarding Design Standards of Sidewalks. Mayor Heitzler stated sidewalks are required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and these changes have been approved by the Planning Commission. Mayor Heitzler requested Mrs. Hanson to explain the changes made regarding sidewalks. Mrs. Hanson stated the only change really had to do with incorporating ADA standards to the Design Standards section of the Zoning Ordinance. There was a brief discussion concerning the ADA's necessary requirements for sidewalks. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler read the title of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES TO SECTION 151.082 (G)(5) DESIGN STANDARDS (SIDEWALKS) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE (Introduction and First Reading)

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

Mayor Heitzler stated the sixth item under Public Hearings was the introduction and first reading to the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Hanson provided a brief overview as to what the Comprehensive Plan entails. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler read the title of the Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2015 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE FOR THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, PURSUANT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ENABLING ACT 1994, AS AMENDED (Introduction and First Reading)

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

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – There were no comments or questions.

Fire Department – There were no comments or questions.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Luther Steele, a resident of The Hamlets. Mr. Steele stated he needed to have a French drain put in and he was trying to find out who was responsible for the berm located in The Hamlets. Mayor Heitzler stated either the Crowfield Homeowner's Association or Berkeley County would own the area Mr. Steele was describing.

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 – Hearing no comments or questions, Mayor Heitzler stated he would be meeting with a section of The Hamlets that he invited to attend a Town Meeting. He stated it takes approximately 3 years to go around the entire City of Goose Creek, by meeting with the various subdivisions located throughout the City. He stated even though invitations are sent to subdivisions monthly (January through September annually), the Town Meetings were open to anyone who wished to attend.

Mr. Johnson stated he wished to remind everyone there would be the first of two (2), Women's Self Defense Seminars, which would take place at the Goose Creek Police Department, on Thursday, February 25th, along with other events and more information could be found at www.cityofgoosecreek.com.

Planning Department – There were no comments or questions.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase – Fire Department (Breathing Air Compressor) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request and supporting documentation from the Fire Chief to purchase a breathing air compressor to equip the new Fire Department Headquarters' Station that is currently under construction. He stated the total amount from the low bidder, Air Centers of South Carolina, Greer, South Carolina, for the total amount of \$46,622.00. Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration for approval.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the request to purchase a breathing air compressor for the new Headquarters' station, as stated by Mr. Harmon. Councilmember McCants seconded the motion. Councilmember Phillips inquired if the request was a budgeted item. Mr. Harmon stated yes. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Request to Purchase – Police Department (Vehicles) – Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request from the Chief of Police for six (6) Dodge Chargers, one (1) Ford F150 Pickup Truck and one (1) Chevrolet Impala through various State Contract vendors, and the total amount of the purchase is with equipment is \$294,800.36, which is budgeted in the City's 2016 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Harmon requested City Council's consideration at that time.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the request to purchase six (6) vehicles as stated by Mr. Harmon. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor's Report:

Continue Interaction with Others - Item #4 of the 2015 Goals and Objectives: Mayor Heitzler stated Goose Creek used to be an isolated community and the City pretty much kept to themselves and did not get involved with the politics or the initiatives in the tri-county area. He stated those who have served that culture over the last decade or two (2) and they want the position of the Mayor to be fully engaged to the greatest extent; therefore when it states "Continue Interaction with Others" which means City Council wants Mayor Heitzler to serve on various key boards and committees throughout the tri-county areas and to interact with the other governments, agencies and the initiatives.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Luther Steel who stated he liked the Mayor interacting with the citizens of Goose Creek with his historical programs and books and he would like for him to continue. Mr. Phillips stated one thing that was not mentioned was that several members of City Council traveled to Columbia the week prior for the Municipal Association's Legislative Winter Meeting, wherein City Council met with the local Berkeley County Legislative Delegation.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Larry Hearn who stated the Cultural Arts Ordinance Mandates the creation of a Welcome Center and he added there was nothing mentioned within the proposed Ordinance about diversity and was diversity intentionally left out of the Ordinance. Mayor Heitzler stated no. Councilmember Esarey stated he was not a strong proponent of the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC), but to correct Mr. Hearn, the proposed Ordinance states the CAC's duties may include, it does not require certain responsibilities to be included. He stated an example would the proposed Ordinance does state the CAC "may" include the building of a Welcome Center. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman who inquired if Councilmember Esarey could qualify the term "may". Councilmember Esarey stated Mr. Hearn was stating the items listed as duties of the CAC and that have "may" before them was a requirement, he stated that is not what that means.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

_____ Date: April 12, 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.