

City Council Meeting
July 12, 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 Dennis C. Harmon; Assistant City Administrator Jake Broom; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Assistant 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:

Chief of Police Harvey Becker

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. Recognition of City Administrator Dennis Harmon

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Dennis Harmon, the City Administrator, for his 38 years of service to the City and presented him with a Meritorious Service Award Pin.

III. Comments from the Audience:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Eaton who inquired about the existence of an ordinance pertaining to vehicles parking on sidewalks. Mr. Eaton stated there is a problem in Liberty Hall Plantation wherein residents have to walk in the street to pass vehicles parked on the sidewalks. He requested the Police Department be able to issue warnings. Mayor Heitzler stated he would proceed with Mr. Eaton's request to enforce the law regarding vehicles parking on or blocking sidewalks.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who inquired about the pooling of water on his street. He stated the problem has gone unresolved since he began his efforts in 2011. Mayor Heitzler stated Mr. Broom, the Assistant City Administrator, was in contact with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). He stated the City would continue to pass along his complaints since the road is maintained by the State.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes:

None.

V. Public Hearing

Mayor Heitzler stated there were four (4) items under Public Hearings and briefly stated each item. He stated the first item was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance that would authorize the City to amend the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

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 SECTIONS: 151.085 LAND USE BUFFERS; AMEND APPENDIX D TABLE OF ZONING DISTRICTS; AND DELETE IN ITS ENTIRETY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT; SECTION 151.230 GENERAL PROVISIONS; SECTION 151.231 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT; SECTION 151.232 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARDS; SECTION 151.233 SUBMITTAL PROCESS; SECTION 151.234 ARCHITECTURE; SECTION 151.235 SITE PLANNING ;SECTION 151.236 LIGHTING; AND SECTION 151.237 SITE FEATURES

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to make a motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Philips made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler moved on to the second item under Public Hearings wherein he stated before City Council was a proposed Ordinance up for second and final reading to change the Zoning classification of properties located at 435 Old Mount Holly Road. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

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 PROPERTIES:

THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 435 OLD MOUNT HOLLY ROAD DESIGNATED AT TMS# 234-07-05-44, AND TMS# 234-07-05-030 FROM CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) TO GENERAL INDUSTRIAL (GI); AND TMS# 234-07-05-029, TMS# 234-07-05-031 AND TMS#234-07-05-042 FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) TO GENERAL INDUSTRIAL (GI)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to make a motion. Councilmember Condon made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler moved on to the third item under Public Hearings wherein he stated before City Council was a proposed Ordinance up for second and final reading to annex 829 St. James Avenue. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-260 OF THE CODE LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX (KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WEST CONGREGATION – 829 ST. JAMES AVENUE) AN AREA OWNED ENTIRELY BY AN ESTABLISHED CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS GROUP INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to make a motion. Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the fourth item under Public Hearings was the introduction and first reading of a proposed Ordinance that would allow the City to convey property (100' x 100' parcel) to Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority (BCWSA) to rebuild a pump station. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who inquired if giving the property to BCWSA would affect his water or sewer bill. Mayor Heitzler stated yes, but not because of the City was giving the property to Berkeley County. Mayor Heitzler stated he would pass along the gentleman's concerns to his County Councilman, Mr. Dennis Fish, of this bill increasing.

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5-7-40 OF THE CODE OF LAWS 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 Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to make a motion. Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve conveyance of property to BCWSA, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

VI. Department Reports:

Police Department – Chief Becker reported that bicycle patrols were more prevalent in the community. Mayor Heitzler thanked Chief Becker for setting the tone and culture of the Goose Creek Police Department, as he has received praise from the community about the Police Department.

Fire Department – Chief Chapman stated an “Open House” was scheduled for Fire Station 3, located on Old Mount Holly Road, on Thursday, July 21, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Administration Department – There were no comments or questions.

Municipal Court – There were no comments or questions.

Recreation Department – Mr. Stuber invited everyone to attend the City’s annual swimming meet that coming Saturday on the grounds of the Crowfield Golf Course, wherein thousands of kids would be participating.

Golf Department – Mr. Sanders stated the Golf Department just hosted its first major golf tournament at Crowfield, wherein 169 kids from all over the country participated. He stated it was a very successful event and hoped to host more in the future.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – Mr. Johnson stated the date has been set for the City’s annual Fall Yard Sale to be held at the Casey Center on Saturday, September 10th. He stated they were taking reservations for vendors.

Planning Department – There were no comments or questions.

VII. City Administrator’s Report:

Signature Authority (Corporate Resolution) - Mr. Harmon stated before City Council was a request to designate Mr. James “Jake” Broom as the signature authority of the City effective Friday, July 29, 2016. Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to take action. Councilmember Habib made a motion to adopt the proposed Corporate Resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

VIII. Mayor’s Report:

Consolidate Greater Goose Creek Area (Item #7 of the 2016 Goals and Objectives): Mayor Heitzler stated the City of Goose Creek will continue to consolidate and focus primarily on doughnut holes. He defined the term “doughnut hole” as a piece of property this is not located inside the City, but is completely surrounded by property located inside the City limits. He stated the State of South Carolina currently had a Bill that was being reviewed by a committee that if there is a doughnut hole, it is completely surrounded by a municipality and it has been like that for at least eight (8) years and is not bigger than twenty (20) acres than the City can annex it by way of a proposed annexation Ordinance through City Council.

IX. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler stated City Council was going to go into Executive Session to discuss who amongst the employees have been selected by the various City departments as their “department employee of the year”, should be selected as the overall City Employee of the Year. Mayor Heitzler entertained questions from the audience.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who stated the felt there was a loophole in the City's Sign Ordinance when it relates to businesses. He stated he has noticed businesses will purchase a big truck and they will park it in the parking lot toward the street and then they put a sign to the business on the back of the truck. He stated he believed the way the Sign Ordinance is written, nothing can be done and he would request City Council to discuss this matter and whether or not it was something they wished to see throughout the City. Mayor Heitzler requested Mr. Broom to add that to the items that need to be addressed by City Council in a workshop.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mrs. Mary Riley, who apologized for being late, but wished to thank Mr. Harmon for his service, for always being a gentleman and for the way he has always handled and talked to people. Mrs. Riley shared her reason for being late was due to being stuck for twenty (20) minutes on the other side of the railroad tracks waiting for a train that had completely stopped to move. She stated her fear was someone who needed medical attention would not be able to get to a hospital. She inquired if there has been any further discussion about an overpass going over Highway 52 at Red Bank Road/St. James Avenue. Mayor Heitzler stated the project was slated for Berkeley County and monies from the 1% Transportation Tax would be used for the purpose of effecting that overpass. He stated he has signed off on the general engineering plans to bring St. James Avenue (Highway 176) up and over Highway 52, over the railroad tracks, and it was currently scheduled for 2023.

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who thanked Mr. Harmon's wife, Mrs. Denise Harmon, for the sacrifices she has made over the years and for sharing her husband, Mr. Harmon, while he dedicated so many years of his life to the City of Goose Creek.

Mayor Heitzler recognized State Representative Joe Daning. Mr. Daning stated he was there to support Mr. Harmon during his final City Council Meeting as the City Administrator.

X. Executive Session:

Mayor Heitzler requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro-Term Phillips made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried. (7:36 p.m.)

Mayor Heitzler requested a motion to go out of Executive Session. Councilmember Esarey made the motion. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (7:48 p.m.)

Mayor Pro-Tem Phillips made a motion to nominate Police Officer PFC Justin Heart as the City of Goose Creek Employee of the Year and Mr. Rick Buckner as the Volunteer Board and Commission Member of the Year. Councilmember Habib seconded the motion. Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

XI. Comments and Questions:

There were no comments or questions.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Kimo Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 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.