

City Council Meeting
July 11, 2017
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

Mayor Michael J. Heitzler; Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips; Councilmember James R. (Kimo) Esarey; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Brandon L. Cox; Councilmember Gregory Habib; Councilmember Kevin M. Condon

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Assistant Chief of Police John Grainger; 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 Kara Browder; Economic Development Director Matt Brady; Assistant Finance Director Tyler Howanyk

Staff Absent:

Chief of Police Harvey Becker

Invocation:

Councilmember James R. (Kimo) Esarey

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:

None

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Heitzler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Heitzler introduced Ms. Mary Graham from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce who presented the "Great American Defense Communities Award." Ms. Graham stated the Charleston region was selected among eight (8) communities in the country to be named a Great American Defense Community. Ms. Graham stated an award was presented in June in Washington, D.C. to the metro Charleston community. Ms. Graham presented the City of Goose Creek with the "Great American Defense Community" flag.

Mayor Heitzler presented Mr. Faretra with a City Resolution for his nineteen (19) years of dedicated service to the City of Goose Creek. Mr. Joel Arenson thanked Mr. Faretra for his public service. State Representative Joe Daning presented Mr. Faretra with a Resolution from the State House.

II. Comments from the audience

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Arenson who inquired if the signs on vehicles would be brought back before City Council. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ryan Agostinelli who requested City Council to consider adding a "bubble" over the City's swimming pool.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – April 25, 2017
City Council Meeting – June 13, 2017

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

IV. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of a proposed ordinance that would repeal Chapter 110 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY THE CURRENT CHAPTER 110. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, TAXES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS AND ADOPTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW CHAPTER 110. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, TAXES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE XI: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF AS IF FULLY SET OUT HEREIN (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adopt 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.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading to amend the City's Code of Ordinances regarding property maintenance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY THE CURRENT CHAPTER 93. HEALTH AND SANITATION UNDER TITLE IX GENERAL REGULATIONS, AND ADOPTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW CHAPTER 93. HEALTH AND SANITATION ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF AS IF FULLY SET OUT HEREIN; AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER UNDER TITLE IX GENERAL REGULATIONS BY CREATING CHAPTER 95. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF AS IF FULLY (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to adopt 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 next item was the introduction and first reading to a proposed ordinance that would create a new zoning class titled "Business and Professional Office (BPO) District." Mayor Heitzler inquired from a representative of the Planning Commission, Mr. Josh Johnson, as to why this new zone is necessary. Mr. Johnson stated a few vacant sites were looking to rezone and the Planning Commission did not feel the City's current zone classifications were suitable due to the surrounding community. Mr. Johnson stated instead of revising restricted commercial, it was suggested the Planning Commission create a new zoning classification that is more restrictive. He stated the new zoning class would be a low traffic generator, low noise and transitional zone between a residential area and a commercial area. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Luther Steel who stated Mr. Bill Sharp, an anchorman from Live 5 News, mentioned this topic on the news today. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired about the amendment of the City's Table of Land Uses. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who stated City Council workshops are not made public and that he opposes the new rezoning. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council workshop meetings are made public and only in an emergency are decisions made in these workshops. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA BY AMENDING SECTION 151.125, REGULATIONS, APPENDIX B – TABLE OF LAND USES, AND APPENDIX D – ZONING DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK TO INCLUDE THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICE (BPO) DISTRICT (Introduction and First Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Habib made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, as presented by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Councilmember Green-Fletcher read a statement she wrote: "I have not changed my position to being opposed to rezoning a residential property in the subdivision next to and within proximity to existing homes for business use. I am concerned for the citizens that this will affect and what adverse effect it will have on individuals that are right next to the piece of property that wants to be rezoned." Mayor Heitzler clarified that the topic before City Council was to create a new zoning classification, not to rezone any specific part of the City. Mayor Heitzler stated he would stand with Councilmember Green-Fletcher if this is inappropriately used and it will be City Council's responsibility to make sure it is not. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated he was in favor of the new zoning class as City Council was just voting to create a new district. Councilmember Habib stated a zone like the one being proposed would protect residents from General Commercial being right next to their homes and it would help with economic development. Councilmember Habib states there will be numerous opportunities to employ a zone throughout the City, like the one being proposed.

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips, Councilmember Esarey, Councilmember Habib, Councilmember Condon and Councilmember Cox voted in favor of the motion and Councilmember Green-Fletcher opposed the motion. Motion carried.

V. Department Reports:

Police Department – Major Grainger stated July 24 – 27, 2017, the Police Department would be visited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He stated the Commission will spend four days to go through everything the Police Department does and to verify it meets over 480 standards that are best practices for law enforcement. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired if there was a plan to bullet proof the windows on the City’s police cars. Major Grainger stated the City was not currently considering this as it is very costly. Mayor Heitzler recognizes Mr. Luther Steel who inquired if Chief Becker was okay since he had not seen him lately. Mayor Heitzler stated he was doing great. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Hudson who stated she was aware approval was made for additional fire safety equipment for the City’s fire fighters and that protection was needed for those who protect civilians. Ms. Hudson stated she was aware this type of purchase was considered quite expensive and inquired if bullet proofing the windows could be done a few cars at a time. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council would consider her suggestion.

Fire Department – Mayor recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired if the Fire Department’s Headquarters’ station was open. Chief Chapman stated yes, and his department was ready to start planning a grand opening ceremony.

Department of Public Works (DPW) – Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman from the audience who stated she lives in The Hamlets and her water was brown. Mayor Heitzler stated her neighborhood receives water services from Charleston Public Works (CPW). Mr. Price stated he could only speculate that CPW had a main break in the neighborhood; however, he had no reports from CPW as it relates to water quality issues. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who stated there was a lot of publicity that Mt. Pleasant had insecticide in their water system and he was wondering if that was something that is checked regularly within the City of Goose Creek’s water system. Mr. Price stated we have two (2) different utilities that provide water in the City. He stated Charleston Public Works (CPW), which was involved in some of the discussion as it relates to the issue in Mt. Pleasant and the City’s water system which is part of the Lake Moultrie Water Agency (LMWA). Mr. Price stated the LMWA and CPW systems are tested annually for pesticides and the City’s system was free of any contaminants related to pesticides. Mr. Price stated he believed it is the same for CPW. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Nash who inquired if the City was spraying for mosquitoes. Mr. Price stated the City has been spraying every day since May, when it is not raining.

Administration Department & Municipal Court – Mr. Faretra thanked City Council for providing the tools he needed for the past twenty (20) years and stated his staff was the best staff you will ever meet in your entire life.

Recreation Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who inquired of Mr. Stuber if he thought the request for a “bubble” over the pool would happen by Fall 2017, if approved. Mr. Stuber stated he did not that happening in the fall.

Golf Department – Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who inquired as to what kind of work was being performed on the greens at hole fourteen (14). Mr. Sanders stated the City was improving one of the cart paths and had eliminated fifty percent (50%) of its bunkers.

Public Information Officer/Annexation Coordinator – There were no comments or questions.

Planning and Zoning Department – Mayor Heitzler recognizes Mr. Steele who thanked Mrs. Browder for doing a great job.

Department of Economic Development – Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Nash who stated there was an article in the Post and Courier titled “Goose Creek Residents Hungry for More Restaurants” according to Yelp and inquired about Yelp. Mr. Brady stated Yelp is an application that you can use on your cell phone, tablet and computer to find and rate restaurants. Mr. Nash stated the restaurants that were mentioned as being in the City of Goose Creek are not actually in the city limits. Mr. Brady stated he did not write the article and it was based on the writer’s experience.

VI. City Administrator’s Report:

Berkeley County EMS Contract – Mr. Broom stated the first item before City Council was a proposed contract between Berkeley County and the City regarding the provision of EMS services by the City’s Fire Department. Mr. Broom stated the City has been operating an ambulance on behalf of Berkeley County since the 1980’s, and the proposed contract would continue that same practice. He stated City staff was recommending approving of the contract.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to approve the contract between the City and Berkeley County. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Consideration of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency/Disaster Response and Recovery - Mr. Broom stated the second item was a Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Disaster Response and Recovery. He stated the

proposed Mutual Aid Agreement is signed by agencies statewide, which allows for a clear process of requesting and providing mutual assistance during the leadup, or aftermath to a natural disaster or other emergency. He stated the program was created by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and City staff recommending approval of the agreement as written.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Habib made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Annual Audit Report (Mauldin & Jenkins) – Mr. Broom stated in City Council’s packet is a letter from Mr. David Irwin, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), with the City’s audit firm, Mauldin & Jenkins, regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2016 annual audit. As Mr. Erwin stated in his report during June’s City Council Workshop meeting, the City once again received an unmodified or “clean” audit. He stated City staff was requesting City Council to formally vote to accept the audit that was presented by Mr. Irwin during June’s workshop.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to accept the audit results. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to accept the audit results. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Employment Matter Related to the Retirement of the Finance Director – Mr. Broom stated the City’s Finance Director, Ron Faretra, was retiring, effective Friday, July 28, 2017. He stated the City’s Code of Ordinances states the City Administrator “appoint(s) department managers with the approval of Mayor and Council.” He stated pursuant to the requirements of the ordinance, he recommended hiring Mr. Tyler Howanyk, the City’s Assistant Finance Director, to replace Mr. Faretra upon his retirement.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the request to appoint Mr. Howanyk as the City’s new Finance Director. Councilmember Habib seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor Report:

Mayor Heitzler stated since there was a lot to cover on the agenda and the meeting had run long, he was not going to report out on what he was going to review under the City’s goals and would do it in August.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Joel Arenson who inquired about the Berkeley County EMS contract with the City. He inquired if there was an emergency in Berkeley County and the City at the same time, did Berkeley County get priority. Mr. Broom stated the City’s ambulance is the primary responder for any calls within the City’s limits. Mr. Broom explained if the ambulance was occupied on a call, the closest county unit to the caller would arrive and the City also provides backup to the Berkeley County in the same way. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who stated the annual audit report that was just approved was a lengthy discussion at the last workshop. Mayor Heitzler stated the audit report was on the City’s website for public viewing. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Shamika who stated she was present for the meeting to support the “bubble” over the pool and stated she appreciated any time City Council would take to consider it an option. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Ravenel who inquired about a sidewalk on Amy Drive. Mayor Heitzler stated the City was working on the matter and had received a grant. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Ellen and Ms. Hudson who individually stated their support of the “bubble” over the pool.

Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Date: August 8, 2017

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.