

City Council Meeting
September 19, 2017
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Chief of Police Harvey Becker; Director of Planning and Zoning Kara Browder; Director of Economic Development Matt Brady

Staff Absent:

None

Invocation:

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips

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.

II. Comments from the audience

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Nash who inquired as to why the phone system has not been updated regarding meeting times and stated he would like to follow up on some questions he had regarding the last City Council Workshop. Mr. Jerry Glass inquired as to why the City would allow Berkeley County to take over the mosquito abatement program. Mayor Heitzler stated that decision has not been finalized. Mr. Glass inquired if the Millage Rate and Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor to Berkeley County had been finalized. Mayor Heitzler stated no, it must have two (2) readings to be finalized by City Council and it is done when City Council passes the budget. Mr. Glass inquired about street light fees. Mr. Broom stated no action has been taken regarding the street light fees. Mr. Glass inquired if the format of the City Council meeting has been changed. Mayor Heitzler stated yes as only the department heads giving a report will be required to attend. Mayor Heitzler recognized Ms. Katherine Hendrick of Davidson and Floyd Law Firm, who stated she will be attending City Council meetings on occasion to get familiar with the City of Goose Creek. Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who inquired who is responsible for the ditch that runs from Belknap and Wisteria. Mayor Heitzler stated the State owns those ditches and is responsible for clearing them.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Workshop – May 23, 2017
City Council Meeting – August 8, 2017
City Council Workshop – August 22, 2017

Councilmember Green-Fletcher 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 will amend the City's business regulations ordinance and that will add a new chapter under Economic Development Incentives Program. Mayor Heitzler introduced Mr. Brady and asked him to explain the program. Mr. Brady stated the proposed ordinance is designed to encourage private investment in certain parts of the City. He explained the difference between the Incentive Zone and Super Incentive Zone: the Incentive Zone requires an investment of \$1,000,000 or more and the Super Incentive Zone requires an investment \$750,000 or more; this can be achieved by many factors such as property acquisition and job creations. He stated the incentives offered will be in reference to impact fees, building permit fees, business license fees and hospitality fees if they meet certain criteria; and, these incentives will be at the discretion of City Council and will be awarded to business in the form of rebates after they have paid their normal fees. Mayor Heitzler requested Mr. Brady get the most recent drawing for the Berkeley County flyover from Highway 176 to Highway 52 and provide the information he had just briefed City Council on to any prospective investors.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE XI BUSINESS REGULATIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY AUTHORIZING, ESTABLISHING AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 112. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES PROGRAM, TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE INCENTIVE AREA OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember Habib made a motion to approve the second and final reading of the proposed ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated this incentive package was similar to the Tax Increment Finance District, which was used by the City in the past and it worked out great. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of a proposed ordinance regarding tattoo parlors.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 151.128 DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND TERMS, SECTION 151.109 SPECIAL USES AND APPENDIX B – TABLE OF LAND USES OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE TATTOO FACILITIES (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Cox made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, as stated by Mayor Heitzler. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated the City does have significant restrictions as to where tattoo parlors can be located, which he believes is more restrictive than the State's law. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler read the title to the second and final reading of a proposed ordinance to change the zoning of a piece of property in Quail Hill from R2 to Conservation Open Space. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who inquired as to the purpose of going down in classification. Mayor Heitzler stated he did not inquire from the property owner what their motivation was for the request.

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 PROPERTY: THE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE QUAIL HILL COMMUNITY DESIGNATED AS TMS #235-10-03-138 FROM RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY (R-2) TO CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (CO) (Second and Final Reading)

Councilmember Habib made a motion to adopt 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 stated the last item under Public Hearings was a resolution that would commit the City of Goose Creek to pay a certain amount of money towards the Economic Development Grant. Mr. Brady stated this is a Municipal Association Economic Development Grant that would be used toward branding and marketing the City. Mayor Heitzler read the title.

RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK TO PROVIDING A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT (First and Only Reading)

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution, 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.

V. Monthly Department Report:

Police Department – Mayor Heitzler introduced Chief Becker who stated he would like to touch on a variety of areas that include personnel, staffing, crime, capital assets and some positive things going on in the Police Department. Chief Becker stated the 2017 budget authorizes for sixty-six (66) police officers. He stated these positions are filled; however, two (2) were pending a start date. He stated on October 2, 2017, the Police Department anticipates hiring a 67th position which will be a DUI Enforcement Traffic Officer. Chief Becker stated this position will be paid via a grant that was awarded to the Police Department.

Chief Becker stated in the 2018 FY Budget, City staff has requested a new investigator's position. He stated the new hire will bring the number of officers up to sixty-eight (68) and the status of the sixty-six (66) officers that are currently employed is as follows: Two (2) are pending; Five (5) are in pre-certification training; Three (3) are on Family Medical Leave Act; One (1) is on light duty; Two (2) are on military leave; One (1) is at the Criminal Justice Academy which totals to fourteen (14) out of sixty-six (66) officers, twenty-one (21) percent of the force not in place. Chief Becker stated, to date, the turnover rate within the Police Department was at fourteen (14) officers.

Chief Becker stated regarding crimes, most crimes in the City are against property not persons. Chief Becker stated the number one (1) category in crimes against persons was drug related; the second was fraud and forgery and the third was simple assault. Regarding property, the number one (1) crime is theft, usually petty theft in unlock automobiles; the second is vandalism and the third is shoplifting. He stated traffic collisions are up five (5) percent with traffic stops up over eight (8) percent compared to last year.

Chief Becker stated regarding capital assets, the Police Department has eighty-five (85) vehicles in the fleet. Twenty-one (21) of those vehicles have over 100,000 miles. Two vehicles in the fleet were totaled this year. All patrol cars have mobile data terminals and cameras. All uniform police officers have body worn cameras. Regarding Capital equipment, the building that the Police Department is housed in has some serious water leaks.

Chief Becker stated on a positive note: the Police Department has 6,153 Facebook followers; the new decal scheme for the marked police cars has been a morale booster as the department is getting numerous compliments from the public and Facebook followers; three (3) of the seven (7) new Dodges have been marked with the new decals, nineteen (19) are slated to be redone; Cop Stop is alive and well as this month marks the first anniversary;

Westview Elementary School has offered to host lunches for police officers on Thursdays; some of the popular programs the Police Department continues to engage in are Women's Self-defense program; House Watch program, and Welfare Check for those who are homebound; the Police Department also offers a Citizen Police Academy that runs eight (8) weeks; and, a character enhancement training for its personnel that has been in active since 1997.

Chief Becker stated the Police Department has a Mutual Aid Agreement with surrounding police agencies in the tri-county area and the Goose Creek Police Department enjoys a good working relationship with the fellow Police Departments.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Request to Purchase Two (2) Pickup Trucks (Police Department) – Mr. Broom stated there was a request to purchase two (2) Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x2 pickup trucks for \$29,502.00 each totaling \$59,004.00 from Cooper Motor Company (Clinton, S.C) a South Carolina contract vendor. He stated the vehicles would be assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau. He stated funds to purchase the vehicles exists in the Fiscal Year 2017 Police Department budget under Vehicles and Small Equipment.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Esarey made a motion to approve the request, as presented by Mr. Broom. Councilmember Condon 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 one (1) item under the 2017 One (1) Year Goals & Objectives is to Complete Water System Improvements. Mayor Heitzler stated the most important thing the City does is deliver water to eight-five (85) percent of its residents; the other fifteen (15) percent get their water from Charleston Water Services. Councilmember Esarey inquired as to the status of the new tower. Mr. Broom stated the tower was ninety-eight (98) percent complete. Mayor Heitzler stated Mayor Pro Tem Phillips suggested the City invite the community to a water tower opening and he thought it was a great idea.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Councilmember Green-Fletcher thanked Mr. Broom and City staff for all their updates throughout the hurricane.

IX. Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

_____ Date: October 10, 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.