

City Council Meeting
November 14, 2017
7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Mark A. Phillips

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Major John Grainger; Fire Chief Steve Chapman; Director of Finance Tyler Howanyk; Director of Public Works; Director of Recreation Gary Stuber; Director of Planning and Zoning Kara Browder; Director of Economic Development Matt Brady; Information Technology Director Ryan Byrd

Staff Absent:

None

Invocation:

Jerry Glass

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Heitzler

Press Present:

Rodney Dennis Goose Creek Gazette

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order:

Mayor Heitzler called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Comments from the audience

Mayor Heitzler recognized and presented Mr. Price with a Resolution from the Lake Moultrie Water Agency for his distinguished service. He also recognized the following for their service to the City.

Police Department Explorer of the Year- Ryan Adams

Volunteer of the Year- Jeremy McNeer

Board/Commission Member of the Year - Joshua Johnson (Planning Commission Member)

Mayor Heitzler recognized a lady from the audience who stated Crowfield Golf Course needed lights as there were none leading from the parking lot to the building. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Jerry Glass who stated any person standing at the podium to speak for or against an item being discussed, deserved respect and consideration; and, any elected official who thinks of, or portrays themselves as being greater than those they serve, is totally unacceptable.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes:

City Council Budget Workshop – September 22, 2016

City Council Workshop – September 26, 2017

City Council Meeting – October 10, 2017

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

IV. Public Hearings:

Mayor Heitzler stated that evening was the introduction and first reading of the City's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. He stated if the proposed budget passed, taxes on homes would raise by about \$13.00, which would be the fourth-time taxes had risen in 39 years. He stated the increase was mandated by the State of South Carolina for the State Employee Retirement Fund. Mayor Heitzler stated his disapproval of the State's mismanagement of funds. Mayor Heitzler recognized a gentleman from the audience who stated he was fine with the tax increase as it is so little compared to the amenities the City provides for their residents. Mayor Heitzler read the title of the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018 (Introduction and First 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. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Councilmember Cox thanked City Council and City staff for finding savings within the budget. Hearing no further 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 regulating storage facilities as recommendations had been provided by the Planning Commission. He read the title to the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 151.082 DESIGN STANDARDS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO REGULATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE FACILITIES (Introduction and First Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. 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 next item was the introduction and first reading regarding the Economic Development Incentives Program that would include a location near the corner of Plantation North Boulevard and St. James Avenue for the Goose Creek Village. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Glass who inquired as to why this property was being included in the "incentive zone" since the Incentives Ordinance was created for a specific purpose and area. Mayor Heitzler stated this was a commercial developer who wanted to develop a village which will include shopping and restaurants. He stated the developer cited problems with the land which will be costly to fix and build. He stated the developer requested City Council to accept this as justification for being comparable to a blighted area that needs assistance. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council discussed this project at length with the developer in a City Council Workshop; hence, City Council has not agreed to give the developer any kind of incentive. Mayor Heitzler stated City Council agreed being a part of the "incentive zone" would allow the developer the opportunity to negotiate with City Council. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE XI BUSINESS REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 112. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES PROGRAM, BY AMENDING THE INCENTIVES PROGRAM AREA MAP AND ADDING THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS TMS NUMBER 234-00-00-047 (LOCATED NEAR THE CORNER OF PLANTATION NORTH BOULEVARD AND ST. JAMES AVENUE) (Introduction and First 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 Condon seconded the motion. Councilmember Esarey recused himself from voting because the real estate agent who was representing the developer works for the same company as Councilmember Esarey. Councilmember Esarey stated he did not have a relationship with the agent, or

his office, but it could be perceived that way and choose not to vote. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. Five (5) in favor, one (1) refusal. None opposed. Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item was the second and final reading of a proposed Ordinance that would allow residents to raise bees. Mayor Heitzler recognized a woman from the audience who stated her concerns regarding residents who could possibly be allergic to bees and that she felt the City would open themselves up to liability. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Cantrell who stated the proposed Ordinance was flawed as it stated docile bees can be raised in the community. Mr. Cantrell stated there was not a way to measure a docile hive versus an aggressive hive as written in the proposed Ordinance, and requested the wording within the body be reconsidered. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Glass who shared his opposition for the proposed Ordinance. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY AMENDING TITLE IX: GENERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS AND FOWL SECTION 90.01 DEFINITIONS AND ADOPTING SECTION 90.16 APICULTURE (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 Habib seconded the motion. Councilmember Cox clarified by stating yellow jackets and honey bees are two (2) separate species. Councilmember Habib stated liability was not an issue. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote.

- Mayor Heitzler – Yes
- Councilmember Esarey – Yes
- Councilmember Green-Fletcher – No
- Councilmember Habib - Yes
- Councilmember Cox – Yes
- Councilmember Condon - Yes

Motion carried.

Mayor Heitzler stated the next item was the second and final reading regarding construction dumpsters. Mayor Heitzler read the title to the proposed Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 151.108 ACCESSORY USES OF THE ZONING CODE OF ORDINANCES, GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY ADDING SUBSECTION (I) NON-CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTERS, TO REQUIRE A PERMIT FOR NON-CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTERS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Condon made a motion to accept 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 stated the last item under Public Hearings was the second and final reading of a proposed amendment to the City’s Zoning Map that will rezone property located along Old Moncks Corner Road from Low Density Residential (R-1) to Business Professional (BPO) Zone. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Glass who stated he believes the BPO district was created to specifically rezone this piece of property, as well as two (2) other parcels, and he felt it was wrong. Mayor Heitzler read the title of the proposed amendment.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: THE PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG OLD MONCKS CORNER ROAD (TMS#234-00-00-146) FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICE (BPO) (Second and Final Reading)

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act. Councilmember Habib made a motion to approve the proposed amendment, 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:

Public Works (DPW) (Steve Price) – Mr. Price stated he wished to close out the year with some facts and figures regarding DPW. He stated currently, the Water Division maintains one hundred and forty-two (142) miles of waterline, nineteen thousand and ninety-two (19,092) valves, seven hundred and thirty-three (733) fire hydrants and two (2) elevated tanks. He stated the water system improvement project will add five (5) miles of twenty-four (24) inch transmission line and an additional million-and-a-half-gallon elevated tank. Mr. Price stated this project, in conjunction with the City's additional supply capacity in the expansion of the Lake Moultrie Water Treatment Plant, will provide sufficient water system capacity to the City for at least the next twenty (20) years. He stated currently the City's water systems serve a population of twenty-six thousand two hundred and fourteen (26,214) residents, which totals to ten thousand two hundred (10,200) water taps. Mr. Price stated the Water Enterprise Fund balance was in excellent financial condition with more than \$3,000,000 dollars.

Mr. Price stated the Sanitation Division provides service to eleven thousand eight hundred and forty-two (11,842) households. He stated last year the Sanitation Division collected twenty thousand six hundred and forty-seven (20,647) tons of household garbage and four thousand four hundred fifty-eight (4,458) tons of yard waste. He stated the delivery of the three (3) new rear loading sanitation trucks are expected at the end of the month; and, the replacement of the rear steer loader, has been a key purchase for DPW. Mr. Price stated he appreciated City Council's support on the purchase. He stated the need for systematic replacement of additional collection equipment will be critical in subsequent budget years. He stated in 2018, the addition of four refuse collectors, through the transfer and reclassification of existing maintenance positions, will provide ample staffing to the Sanitation Division for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Price stated the Maintenance Division maintains green space, streetscapes, public rights of way, ditches, assists with sanitation collection staffing when needed, and provides general maintenance to the Municipal complex and the Public Works Complex. He stated in 2018, with the implementation of maintenance contracts to maintain the City's right of ways and hiker biker trails, the cost associated with the Maintenance Division staffing and the overall cost of general maintenance could potentially be reduced if managed effectively.

Mr. Price stated currently the Garage Division maintains one hundred and forty-six (146) fleet vehicles in addition to backhoes, tractors, mowing equipment and emergency generators. He stated in 2017, a fleet vehicle status monitoring system, which allows the Garage Division to monitor the fleet vehicles computer in real time, was implemented throughout the City's fleet. He stated this monitoring system utilizes the City's GPS tracking platform and enabled this division to manage the City's fleet proactively, which has already shown reductions in repairs and unplanned maintenance costs. Mr. Price stated, due to the size of the City's already growing vehicle fleet, it should be expected the Garage Division budget will require additional funding in subsequent fiscal years.

Mr. Price stated DPW was currently staffed with fifty-four (54) positions, and the staffing positions in 2018 would be forty-nine (49) positions, as reduction to the Maintenance Budget were made by eliminating four (4) positions not currently filled. He stated, upon his retirement, the position of Assistant Director of Public Works would be eliminated. He stated the current average length of employment service in DPW was 9.89 years and attracting and maintaining qualified Public Works employees will continue to be a challenge across the Public Works field. Mr. Price stated the recently completed Classification and Compensation Study should benefit the recruiting retention efforts across the City; and, moving forward, investments, career development and training will be crucial to maintain a qualified workforce and he was confident his successor would be able to address this effectively.

Mayor Heitzler thanked Mr. Price for his report. Councilmember Esarey stated it had been an honor to work with Mr. Price and thanked him for his many years of service to the City. Mr. Price stated he appreciated the support of the past and present members of City Council and any success has been a result of the men and women who have worked for DPW. Mr. Price stated it has been a privilege to work as the Public Works Director to the residents of Goose Creek.

VI. City Administrator's Report:

Purchase Request – Fire Department – 800 MHz Radio Equipment – Mr. Broom stated the Fire Department was requesting to purchase three (3) 800 MHz radio consoles, three (3) antennas, two (2) Petron Channel Cards and other equipment necessary to complete the Fire Department's 800 MHz radio system. He stated City staff requested to purchase the equipment from Radio Communication of Charleston and Motorola Solutions, which was the City's contractor for radio related issues in the total amount of \$31,947.20. Mr. Broom stated transitions to 800 MHz will provide the City's Fire Department with better coverage city wide, as well as inside buildings. He stated it will allow operations over three (3) channels which currently operations are only over one channel for all three (3) fire stations and ambulance. Mr. Broom stated the funds were not in the Fire Department's budget for 2017; however, the City has funds available to make the purchase without exceeding the authorized budget.

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 Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase Request – Recreation Department – Playground Equipment – Mr. Broom stated the Recreation Director was requesting the purchase of grant-funded playground equipment for St. James Park and Ryan Creek Park. He stated City staff was requesting the approval to purchase the equipment from the low bidder Cunningham Recreation (Charlotte, NC) in the total amount of \$53,487.05. Mr. Broom stated this was a State grant which requires 20% local match and the City's portion required would be \$10,697.41. He stated the expenditure was included in the Recreation Enterprise Fund for the FY 2017 Budget.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the request, as presented by Mr. Broom. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase Request – Recreation Department – Community Center Wi-Fi – Mr. Broom stated there was a request from the IT Director to purchase Wi-Fi equipment for the Community Center. He stated the IT Director spoke with the vendor the City hired to install the Wi-Fi equipment in Phase II of the Gymnastic Center, and he received a quote to expand the system to include the Community Center. He stated City staff was requesting to purchase the equipment and have it installed by Carolina Sound Communications (North Charleston, SC) in the total amount of \$13,931.16. Mr. Broom stated there was not a reoccurring annual cost associated with the project, and that the expenditure was not included in the FY 2017 Budget, but there were funds available in the Recreation Enterprise Fund to cover the expense.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Green-Fletcher made a motion to approve the request, as presented by Mr. Broom. Councilmember Esarey seconded the motion. Councilmember Condon inquired as to the number of users who would have access to Wi-Fi in the Gym at one time. Mr. Byrd stated the more users accessing Wi-Fi, the more restrictive it would be during that time. Mr. Byrd stated if everyone was streaming movies, only have about fifty (50) people would be able to access Wi-Fi; however, if people are checking e-mail than up to two-hundred and fifty-four (254) people would be able to access Wi-Fi. Mr. Byrd stated Wi-Fi could only be accessed inside the building. Councilmember Habib confirmed this was only a onetime expense. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Employment Matter Related to the Retirement of the Human Resources Director – Mr. Broom stated the Human Resources Director, Joellyn Robbins, retired on Friday, October 6th; and according to the City's Code of Ordinances, the City Administrator "appoint(s) department managers with approval of the Mayor and City Council." Mr. Broom stated he was happy to request their approval to hire Mrs. Lauren McNeely as the new Human Resources Director effective Monday, November 20th. Mr. Broom stated he believes Mrs. McNeely will be an asset to the City for many years to come.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Cox 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.

Employment Matter Related to the Retirement of the Public Works Director – Mr. Broom stated the Public Works Director, Steve Price, was retiring Friday, December 1st; and he was happy to request City Council’s approval to promote Mr. Chuck Denson to the position of Public Works Director effective Monday, December 4th. He stated Mr. Denson has been working as the City’s Assistant Director of Public Works and City Engineer since November 2003. He stated Mr. Denson knows the City’s operations, policies, procedures and finances inside and out. Mr. Broom stated he believes Mr. Denson will continue to do an outstanding job for the City.

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 Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

VII. Mayor Report:

Recommendation - Appointment to the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) – Mayor Heitzler requested City Council to appoint Ms. Eyamba Williams to the Cultural Arts Commission, as Ms. Williams was first alternate should anyone step down from the CAC.

Mayor Heitzler inquired if City Council wished to act on the request. Councilmember Habib made a motion to appoint Ms. Williams to the Cultural Arts Commission. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Heitzler called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

An item under the 2017 One (1) Year Goals & Objectives – Mayor Heitzler stated City Council directed City staff to create a plan for the location, staffing requirements, construction costs and operating costs of a new fire station in the Carnes Crossroads area. Mayor Heitzler stated Mr. Broom was currently working on the goal.

VIII. Comments and Questions:

Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Josh Johnson who stated when he earlier accepted his award, he neglected to recognize his wife, Jenna Johnson, for allowing him to participate in the City’s meetings and he wished to thank her for her support. Mayor Heitzler recognized Mr. Nash who inquired if City Council passed an Ordinance regarding barb wire in residential areas. Mayor Heitzler stated yes, but since its passing, residents did have an allotted amount of time to remove any barb wire from their fence.

IX. Adjournment:

Councilmember Esarey made a motion to adjourn. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

_____ Date: December 12, 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.