

**City Council Meeting**  
**October 9, 2018**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**City Hall**

**Council Members Present:**

Mayor Gregory S. Habib; Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Condon; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; Councilmember Brandon L. Cox; Councilmember Jerry Tekac; Councilmember Corey McClary; Councilmember Gayla McSwain

**Council Members Absent:**

None

**Staff Present:**

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Director of Finance Tyler Howanyk; Public Information Officer Frank Johnson; Director of Planning and Zoning Kara Browder

**Staff Absent:**

**Invocation:**

Mr. Tyler Stille

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mayor Habib

**Press Present:**

**Guests Present:**

**I. Call to Order:**

Mayor Habib called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. General Public Comments:**

Mayor Habib recognized Ms. Clare Jefferson Norewood who thanked the City for all the services provided to her family regarding the extensive search, recovery and assistance with her missing father. Mr. Jerry Glass shared his concern regarding retention ponds. A gentleman from the audience thanked the Public Works Department for their quick action regarding a water leak.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

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A motion was made by Councilmember Tekac to approve the minutes, as stated by Mayor Habib. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**IV. Public Hearings, Presentations & Proclamations:**

- a) **AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019 (Introduction & First Reading)**

Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Habib stated City Council is presenting a budget that is greater than last year with no tax increases, and with money going into the City's reserve account. A motion was made by Councilmember Cox to adopt the proposed Budget for 2019, as stated by Mayor

Habib. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Councilmember Cox stated that Mr. Broom's staff did a fantastic job in creating a balanced budget without raising taxes. Councilmember Tekac stated the budget for the first time will be funding a budget for the Economic Development Director to utilize. He stated additionally, the City is transiting to the State Health Plan which will save the City \$200,000 in health benefit cost. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**V. New Business:**

**a) AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS AS A PART OF DELINQUENT DEBTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT (Introduction & First Reading)**

Mayor Habib stated the Municipal Association will collect roughly 1.6 million dollars for the City with minimal fees. A motion was made by Councilmember Cox to adopt the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Habib. Mayor Pro-Tem Condon seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**b) A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ACT AS CLAIMANT AGENCY FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBT ON BEHALF OF CITY OF GOOSE CREEK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT (First & Final Reading)**

Mr. Broom summarized that the Resolution authorizes Mayor Habib to enter into an agreement with the Municipal Association to collect the debt. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Condon to adopt the proposed Ordinance, as stated by Mayor Habib. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Condon inquired if this is a year to year agreement. Mr. Broom replied this updated the language of the Municipal Association Ordinance. Hearing no discussion Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**VI. Old Business:**

**a) AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-150, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA IDENTIFIED AS TMS 244-01-04-047 (171 LINDY CREEK ROAD) INTO THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second & Final Reading)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Tekac to approve the annexation of 171 Lindy Creek Road, as stated by Mayor Habib. Councilmember Cox seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**b) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 99 BEVERLY DRIVE (TMS#235-13-02-018) FROM CONSERVATION/OPEN SPACE (CO) TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) (Second & Final Reading)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cox to rezone 99 Beverly Drive from Conservation/Open Space (CO) to Medium Density Residential (R-2), as stated by Mayor Habib. Mayor Pro Tem Condon seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- c) **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 441 LIBERTY HALL ROAD (TMS#244-06-00-066) FROM CONSERVATION/OPEN SPACE (CO) TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD) (Second & Final Reading)**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Condon to rezone 441 Liberty Hall Road from Conservation/Open Space (CO) to Planned Development (PD), as stated by Mayor Habib. Councilmember McClary seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- d) **AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE BERKELEY COUNTY TO ENFORCE ITS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS AND TO REPEAL AND RESCIND ANY PROVISIONS WITHIN CHAPTER 50 OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 07-017, ESTABLISHED ON 11-13-2007 FOR THE CREATION OF A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ORDINANCE, WHICH ARE IN CONFLICT WITH ANY PROVISIONS OF THE BERKELEY COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE 14-11-36, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS OR AMENDMENTS OF ORDINANCE 14-11-36. (Second & Final Reading)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Green-Fletcher to authorize Berkeley County to enforce its Stormwater Management program within the municipal limits and to repeal and rescind any provisions within Chapter 50 of Ordinance number 07-017. Councilmember McClary seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion between Councilmember McSwain, Mr. Broom and Mayor Habib regarding the history of stormwater in the City and the responsibility of Berkeley County, Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

## **VII. Monthly Department Report:**

**Tyler Howanyk, Finance Director:** Mr. Howanyk thanked City Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Administration Department. He stated as of September 30, 2018, the General Fund had approximately \$564,000 in revenue over expenditures. He stated in comparison to this time last year, the General Revenue is up nine (9) percent. General Fund expenditures are up sixteen (16) percent due to property taxes, business licenses, building permits, and grant revenue. Property taxes are up sixteen (16) percent as the direct result of the increase in millage that passed last year. Business licenses are up eight (8) percent. He stated the City issued twenty-three (23) additional business licenses inside City limits compared to this time last year. He stated Reported Gross Sales for businesses inside the City limits was up fifteen (15) percent; and reported Gross Sales for businesses outside the city such as contractors or service providers are up twenty (20) percent. Hospitality Tax also increased eight (8) percent from the prior year.

Mr. Howanyk stated building permits are up slightly by six (6) percent due to new housing and constructions. He stated year to date there are two hundred and forty (240) new housing starts which is up thirteen (13) from the prior year of six (6) percent; however, compared to September of 2016, new housing starts are up seventy-seven (77) percent. He stated grant revenue is up is \$173,000. So far this year the City has recorded more than \$184,000 in Grant revenue compared to a little more than \$10,000 last year. He stated \$92,000 of this is a DUI Countermeasure Grant and \$64,000 is reimbursements for Hurricane Matthew from FEMA.

Mr. Howanyk stated interest income is up which was accomplished by moving money through the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool. He stated the City is earning two-point one (2.1) percent interest as of September with the State and one and a half (1 ½) percent interest with our local bank.

Mr. Howanyk stated the two main reason for the increase in the General Fund expenses is health insurance and retirement. He stated health insurance is up fifty-six (56) percent and City contributions to the South Carolina Retirement System and Police Officer Retirement System is up forty-one (41) percent . He stated

City leaders have already acted to approve the change to the State Health plan which will save several hundred dollars in 2019.

Mr. Howanyk stated the administration staff processes water payments. This department has processed more than eighty-five thousand (85,000) water bills and twenty thousand (20,000) late notices. He stated more customers are paying online or utilizing the monthly credit card draft services as each year they increase about one (1) percent. He stated about thirteen (13) percent utilize the draft, twenty-seven (27) percent pay online, and sixty (60) percent either mail their payment or pay in person. He stated late last year City staff implemented a remote deposit system where checks can be scanned electronically and deposited into the bank earning interest right away. Mr. Howanyk stated on average City staff processes about thirty-five hundred (3500) checks a month electronically. He publicly thanked the Administration staff for all their hard work as they are always looking for ways to improve efficiency while not jeopardizing quality of work.

Councilmember McClary thanked Mr. Howanyk and his staff. Mayor Habib thanked Mr. Howanyk and his staff.

#### **VIII. City Administrator's Report:**

- a) **Appointment to Employee Grievance Committee:** Mr. Broom stated that Ryan McLeod, the Assistant Superintendent at the Golf Course resigned to take the Parks Director position with the City of Walterboro. Mr. Broom stated his departure created a vacancy on our Employee Grievance Committee which is appointed by City Council and composed of employees from all departments. He stated at the request of the Golf Course, Mr. Broom nominated Bobby Donnellon to replace Mr. McLeod on the committee. Mr. Donnellon will fill Mr. McLeod's term which expires December 31, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cox to approve Bobby Donnellon for the Grievance Committee. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### **IX. Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Habib stated he wanted to formally and publicly welcome Councilmember McSwain to City Council. Mayor Habib stated there are a few items on the Strategic Plan that City Council saw as important and stated the budget should reflect the Strategic Plan. Mayor Habib provided examples as how the budget reflected the Strategic Plan such as adding two additional Battalion Chief positions in the Fire Department; purchasing new equipment for the Fire Department; adding a new senior program in the Recreation Department and providing affordable family health coverage to City employees. Mayor Habib stated City Council did not raise taxes and are hopeful to be on a path where we will not have to raise taxes anytime soon.

#### **X. Adjourn:**

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Condon second the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: November 13, 2018

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.*