

City Council Meeting
January 8, 2019
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.
City Hall

Council Members Present:

Mayor Gregory S. Habib; Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Condon; Councilmember Debra Green-Fletcher; 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; Public Information Officer Frank Johnson; Fire Chief Steve Chapman; Director of Information Technologies Ryan Byrd

Staff Absent:

Invocation:

Pastor Howard Cole

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. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Habib introduced Mr. Howard Cole, Senior Pastor of Metro North Church, who presented the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

III. General Public Comments:

Mayor Habib recognized Mr. Richard Fritz who introduced himself as a representative of the Cobblestone Community. He stated he received information, via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and wherein he shared his findings and his concerns regarding the Cannon Tract with City Council. Mr. Lance Thrall, the President of the Cobblestone Village Home Owner's Association, also shared his concerns regarding the Cannon Tract project.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

a) City Council Meeting – December 11, 2018

A motion was made by Councilmember Green-Fletcher to approve the minutes, as stated by Mayor Habib. Councilmember McClary seconded the motion. Councilmember McSwain mentioned two (2) typographical errors in the spelling of two (2) last names that were stated in the minutes. Mayor Habib inquired if City Council would like to accept the minutes with typographical corrections. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

V. Public Hearings, Presentations & Proclamations:

There was nothing to present.

VI. New Business:

There was nothing to present.

VII. Old Business:

There was nothing to present.

VII. Monthly Department Report:

Frank Johnson, Public Information Officer: Mr. Johnson stated the City has two (2) main goals regarding communication. The first is to communicate with its residents effectively which includes having easy access to information. The second is to share the story of the City. Mr. Johnson stated since the new website was launched three (3) years ago, analytics have shown that residents have been able to find the information they need quickly and easily. He stated he is actively providing updated information via social media and news outlets. Mr. Johnson shared analytics from the City's website from the last six (6) months. He stated the website has received 340,000 views since July 2018 and there were around 70,000 users. He stated that fifty-three (53) percent of users access the website via mobile devices and that recreation and job search are topics that are driving users to the website. He stated a significant difference from previous years is business related pages. He stated having access to the business license form on the website has made doing business with the City easier. He stated that close to 2,000 people are using the "Notify Me" feature on the website which allows users to sign up to receive alerts from the City. Mr. Johnson stated Facebook usage is growing and Twitter is being used to share information with media outlets. He stated that at the direction of Mayor Habib, the City's newsletter is now available on the website which residents can download. Mr. Johnson stated the City uses the website and social media to spread and celebrate news of the community.

VIII. City Administrator's Report:

a) REQUEST TO PURCHASE – FIRE DEPARTMENT – BATTALION CHIEF SUV (x2)

Mr. Broom stated the Fire Department is requesting permission to purchase two (2) 2019 Chevy Tahoe PPV vehicles to serve the two (2) newly created positions of Fire Department Battalion Chief. He stated City staff was requesting to purchase the vehicles from the South Carolina State Contract Vendor, Love Chevrolet, located in Columbia, SC, for the combined price of \$77,432.34. The 2019 Fire Department budget include \$80,000 for this expenditure.

Mayor Habib inquired if City Council wished to act. A motion was made by Councilmember Tekac to approve the request for two (2) Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) for the Fire Department in the total amount of \$77,432.34. Mayor Pro Tem Condon seconded the motion. Councilmember McSwain inquired if the vehicles were 2018 or 2019. Mr. Broom stated 2019. Councilmember McSwain inquired how these vehicles will be used. Fire Chief Chapman stated these vehicles will be issued as a take home vehicle and will be used for the daily business for the Fire Department such as responding to calls, traveling to meetings, conferences and training classes. Fire Chief Chapman stated these are classified as command level vehicles. Mayor Habib stated in the 2019 Budget two slots were added to bring the total of Battalion Chiefs to three (3) as our community and needs are growing. He stated the City's ability to respond effectively to emergency situations needed to be enhanced. He stated this allows for a command person to be on scene for every incident. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Habib called for the vote. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

IX. Mayors Report:

Mayor Habib stated that next Friday at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, the new Police Chief will be sworn in and the public was invited to attend. He stated that on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. he will be offering the first State of the City Address in Council Chambers, and it would be streamed live on the City's website and the public was invited to attend.

Councilmember Tekac inquired of Mr. Broom for an update about filling the vacant seat on City Council by former Councilmember Brandon Cox. Mr. Broom stated that filing opens for the Special Election on Friday January 18, 2019 at noon and closes Monday, January 28, 2019 at noon. He stated the election will be held on March 26, 2019. Mr.

Broom stated the election will not be held at City Hall as was previous elections, but at various polling placing in the City. He stated the polling places will be announced by the County Election Commission.

Councilmember McSwain stated the new recycling facility in Berkeley County called RePower has invited City Council to tour their facility that Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Councilmember McSwain stated the Planning Commission has a vacancy and stated if someone was interested to contact the City Clerk, Kelly Lovette.

X. Adjourn:

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Condon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Date: February 12, 2019

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.