

City Council Workshop
Fire Department HQ - Training Room
September 24, 2019
6:00 P.M.

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; Councilmember Christopher Harmon

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

City Administrator Jake Broom; Assistant City Administrator Daniel Moore; City Clerk Kelly J. Lovette; Director of Economic Development Matt Brady; Director of Finance Tyler Howanyk; Director of Planning and Zoning

Staff Absent:

Press Present:

None

Guests:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Habib called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS & UPDATES

- I. St. James Avenue Safety Project Median Design Follow-Up** – Mr. Broom provided City Council with the cost estimates by Yellow Stone, to maintain the median on a monthly basis which comes to \$1,400 per month (\$16,800 per year) plus the cost of mulch. He recommended the project not be budgeted for 2020 because it may not be completed until 2021. He recommended once the project was complete, they put the maintenance of the median out for bid again to obtain a better cost estimate. There was a brief discussion about BCD COG possibly being able to assist the City through one of their programs with the cost of landscaping the medians.

- II. Boulder Bluff Park Design Progress Report** – Mr. Broom stated the Landscape Architect estimated the cost of the rough rendering done by Mr. Moore to be approximately \$1,400,000 to \$1,700,000 and that the Landscape Architect had a lot of suggestions on how to cut costs depending on what the City's budget would be for the project. Mr. Broom stated City staff would need guidance from City Council on how much they wished to spend on the project, and the landscape Architect has hired a surveyor to do a typographic survey of the property and he would work on design development documents and then they will be able to show City Council a more professional rendering before he makes construction drawings. He stated the initial drawing should be available in November for City Council to review and it's approximately a nine (9) to ten (10) month timeline, once approved and six (6) months of that being construction. After some discussion, the consensus of City Council was to begin with a baseline of \$1,000,000 for the project.

- III. Mural Ordinance Briefing & Discussion** – Mr. Broom stated City staff was working on coming up with something that would not go against the City's Sign Ordinance, as well as the decision of which boards/commissions would be responsible for the review and approval of the proposed mural before it came to City Council for final approval. After discussion amongst City Council, the consensus was a mural would not be considered a sign, therefore the ARB would be removed from the approval process and the mural would not be allowed for purposes of advertising.

IV. Accommodations Tax Information – Mr. Broom reminded City Council they recently made an inquiry at their budget workshop as to what the Accommodations Tax could be spent on. He stated 2% is collected from hotels/room rentals and state law outlines strictly where the monies will go. He stated the first \$25,000 goes directly into the General Fund, the balance is allocated as follows: 5% goes to the General Fund, 30% goes towards a tourism fund for advertising and promotion and that is sent to the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, 65% of the balance goes toward a Tourism Fund for tourism related expenditures which we use for the advertising the Spring Concert Series and the Fall Festival. He stated there is some flexibility in only two (2) areas, who spends the tourism promotion monies and there is a laws that says they must have an ongoing tourism promotion program and most municipalities give the monies to their local Chamber of Commerce, or Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Broom stated the law is very specific in what the Accommodations Tax can be used towards and provided some examples stating its used to attract people from more than 50 miles away. City Council requested Mr. Broom find out what the Berkeley Chamber spends the monies on that is sent to them for tourism.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

I. FY 2020 Budget – Discussion – Mr. Broom stated first reading of the budget will be presented at the October City Council Meeting. He commented on just a few changes and inquired if there were any questions prior to it going before them in October. There was a brief discussion concerning salaries and the sell back of vacation time within the Police Department. It was stated there could be a few varying factors due to an increase from 2019 to the 2020 budget that have to due to the Compensation Study, officers who have college degrees versus non, as well as officers who come to the City already certified as police officers, all of which provide for a bump in salary or higher starting salaries.

Councilmember McClary stated he knew City Council has discussed the topic before, however he would like to discuss providing the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) some sort of budget, suggesting \$25,000. There was discussion amongst City Council to continue doing what they are and that’s submitting their ideas for projects to City staff and/or City Council, depending on the project, for approval. After some discussion, Councilmember McSwain inquired when the deadline is for the following year’s budget that the CAC needs to submit their requests for monies on projects in order to be placed within the budget. Mr. Broom stated September of each year would be a deadline.

II. MASC Economic Development Grant Resolution (First & Only Reading) – Presented for approval was a Resolution from the Municipal Association of South Carolina that would entail a matching Grant to be used toward a grander “Truck, Truck Goose Festival”, that would include live music and activities for kids. Mr. Brady stated the proposed budget they came up with is \$3,252 from sponsorships through the Recreation Department and if the Grant is awarded to the City, MASC would match the funds.

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to approve the Resolution with the small change in the wording that the Resolution show consistency with the wording of City versus Town. Councilmember Green-Fletcher seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

III. Conservation Voters of S.C. Offshore Drilling Resolution – Discussion – Mr. Broom stated Mr. Brady was approached by the Conservation Voters of South Carolina opposing offshore drilling and since that is a little more political, he was inquiring if City Council wished for the item to be added to the Agenda. Mr. Brady commented on some municipalities that have passed the same Resolution. There was some discussion and concern regarding offshore drilling and the effects it could have on the areas and States tourism, the economy, and effects on the coastal environment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- I. **Section 30-4-70 (A) (2) Discussion of Negotiations Incident to the Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property – TMS# 244-05-01-032** – Councilmember Tekac made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Condon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (7:05 pm)

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember Harmon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (7:15 pm)

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Tekac made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Condon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. (7:15 pm)

Minutes approved and adopted:

_____ Date: November 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.