

Summerville Town Council Meeting

May 10, 2018

Observer: Sharon Holden

Meeting Highlights

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mr. Jackson in the absence of the Mayor and adjourned to Executive Session at 7:40

Invocation: Mr. Jackson

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation:

Introduction of new Town employees

Mary Edwards – PIO Special Events Coordinator

Matthew ? - Staff Engineer

Rebecca Jackson – Grant writer

Proclamation was read declaring the week of May 7- 11 Municipal Clerks Week.

Finance: David Irwin of Mauldin & Jenkins presented the 2017 Audited Financial Statements. Mr. Irwin was happy to present a Clean Opinion Audit for the third year in a row. He indicated this meant the financial records were in good standing. He went into detail, strongly suggested the council read the Management Discussion Analysis on pages to gain a general understanding of the financial status of the town.

Parks & Recreation: Dr. Bob Brookover presented the Parks & Recreation Strategic Needs/Assessment Plan via teleconference. He and Dr. Harris had collected 670 surveys and an additional 70-80 people were polled in focus groups to gain an understanding of the needs and perceptions related to the towns Parks and Recreation facilities and programs. After analysis of the data Dr. Brookover presented several recommendations to improve the towns Parks & Recreation areas.

The first recommendation was to increase and plan for expanded trails, greenways, biking and walking trails as well as river access. Dr. Bookover went into greater detail in the report and provided additional suggestions for increasing revenues as well as increasing FTE (Full-time Employees) to bring the town up to the national average. Council consensus was this matter should be addressed to prevent having to play catch up in the future. Overall, the community is satisfied with the current services but would very much like to see expansion and would be willing to pay more to see improvements.

Public Comments:

1. Little Main Street: Nine Summerville residents spoke during this session. Five addressed concern over the "Little Main Street" project that was slated to begin in April. The residents voiced concern that they had had difficulty getting specific details as to when the road would be closed and for how long. Most who spoke were small business owners that were concerned that the rumored two and a half month closure could end their business that is dependent on foot traffic. They all requested better communication and asked to be included in the planning.
2. Accommodation Tax: One resident requested that before the Town Council spent the portion of the accommodation tax that they consider partnering with the Charleston Tourism Bureau as it is non-profit and pro Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There was some questioning as to where this resident had heard about this. He stated at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. McIntosh asked that the video be reviewed. The resident went on to request that whatever program they use this money for, that documents should be made available, due to FOIA.
3. Road Covering: There was one resident that wanted to make the council aware of a plate that was covering a hole in the road that was not properly in place and he was concerned it would be a risk. He asked that someone address this quickly.
4. Expansion of Greenways: Lastly, a resident spoke to ask that the council consider partnering with Dorchester County and some subdivisions to expand greenways. He proposed a "LincolInville Lakes Trail" to link up to Gahagan trail and the Saw Mill Branch trail. Doing this would create a 12-mile loop for bikers/walkers to enjoy.

Approved:

Previous meeting notes from 4/12/18 and all Council Committee reports.

Petitions

1. Petition by Edward and Brittany Kirsch to annex Dorchester county TMS #145-09-02-006. Unanimous.

Pending Bills and Resolutions

1. Second and final reading of petition by Whitney Kriewaldt to annex Dorchester County TMS# 144-16-03-006 into the town. See minutes. Unanimous

Introduction of Bills and Resolutions

1. Introduction and first reading of ordinance to rezone Commissioner of Public Works property TMS# 144-00-00-008 to general business. - Unanimous
2. Introduction and first reading of ordinance to rezone property owned by Tracy Page TMS# 136-07-02-004 to neighborhood Business Center. Unanimous

3. Introduction and first reading of ordinance to rezone property owned by Catherine Strickland TMS# 130-15-01-007 to neighborhood Business Center. Unanimous
4. Introduction and first reading of ordinance to rezone property owned by Samuel and Helen Hiott and Mary Coker from a PUD to a Single-family Residential TMS# 130-15-05-001 to neighborhood Business Center. Unanimous
5. First Reading of an ordinance to approve a quit-claim deed to transfer two portions of unimproved road right of way adjacent to Conifer Drive to Calatlantic Group, Inc. by title only. Unanimous.

Miscellaneous

Discussion of construction on Little Main Street- Hutchinson Square project. Doyle fielded questions regarding the project and had been in touch with Wilwood Contractors to discuss options for decreasing the time of road closure. There were four options to consider:

1. Proceed with demolition of road, drainage, curb, re-grade the road, install new drains, curb and repave including brick walkways at either end of the square and in the middle. This cost would be \$1.58 million and take 90 days. With overtime and evening hours it could be done in 50 days (weather permitting) for \$1.61 million.
2. Proceed with above with no brick pavers. It would take 60 days \$1.45 million. With overtime it could be completed in 35 days for \$1.52 million
3. Leave current drainage, mill road and repave with asphalt. This would take 14 days and cost \$1.36 million.
4. Do nothing. Cost \$1.25 million.

There was much discussion and several questions were answered. Specifically about drainage, there seems to be no current issue with drainage problems on the square. A motion was put forth by Mr. McIntosh and seconded by Mr. Brown to go with option 3 and instead of no bricks look at having bricks stamped with the cost savings. It was passed unanimously.

The mayor was not present Mr. Jackson spoke as Mayor Pro-tem. He began to ask that the video of the Finance Committee be reviewed. At which point Ms. Czarnik informed the council that she had spoken to the gentleman and repeated a comment made to her in executive session. Mr. Jackson spoke to the importance of keeping those discussions private. Ms. Czarnik acknowledged this and reported this was a conversation with "Colin" and she had only repeated what he had said in response to her question outside the executive session.

At 7:40 there was a unanimous vote to move to executive session.