

# Charleston City Council Meeting Report

August 15, 2017

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## Meeting Summary

A final vote on the proposed six-month moratorium for dense residential development on James Island was the featured item on a packed agenda for the August 15 Charleston city council meeting. But that issue was overwhelmed by a re-zoning issue on John's Island.

The James Island moratorium passed unanimously with Council members urging the planning department to look at the big picture for James Island and take into account infrastructure development needs to accompany residential building development projects.

The John's Island issue concerned a re-zoning proposal to allow an office park development along the highway in a primarily residential area. Many John's Island residents spoke to the need for the office park and a proposed medical clinic that would be established there. They cited the current situation where people with medical emergencies had to be transferred off Island for help, and the serious delays caused by heavy traffic on the bridges. One John's Island property owner spoke against the proposal; approximately a dozen spoke in favor. The planning commission had recommended against it.

Council voted for the re-zoning, overriding the planning commission recommendation. Several members spoke of the need for a coordinated and comprehensive plan that looked at infrastructure and flood control issues for the entire Charleston region. The audience seemed to agree.