

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor  
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President  
Mike Atkins, Councilman  
Erik Emely, Councilman  
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman  
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer  
Rick Pollitt, City Manager  
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Absent due her employment – Councilwoman LaVerne Johnson

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary (see sign in sheet of others in attendance)

INVOCATION, LORD’S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order with the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the agenda. Councilman Emely requested that Appointment to the Marina Commission be added. Mr. Pollitt requested that Information concerning Planning Grants to be presented by Mr. Jason Loar be added. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely, with the noted additions. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Motion seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

Mr. Pollitt recommended a clarification to the minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup>, to page 2. “Mayor Lawson

requested a 25' drainage easement be provided to the City from the street to the water. Mr. Good agreed."

Mayor Lawson noted that on page 8 the correction should say "will be re-striped".

Mr. Sullivan noted that, in reference to Mr. Good's property, the right of way won't be part of the plat, but will be an attachment.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 10, with the necessary corrections. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Rick Pollitt, City Manager, reviewed his monthly activity report, highlighting various activities for the month. He also noted that a pre-bid meeting was held today for the depot bulkheading. He also made reference to an email from County Administrator Doug Taylor, with four alternatives for mitigation projects at the airport. He noted that two of the alternatives proposed closing the turf runway, which he feels should not be done. Mr. Pollitt advised that he emailed Mr. Taylor indicating the City preferred Alternative Two.

Mr. Pollitt also read into the record a letter from Tillie Doyle to the Marina Commission, resigning her seat, and asking that she be replaced.

Mayor Lawson noted that the next Marina Commission meeting is in August and advised that he would like to appoint Mr. David Mason to fill the vacancy. Mayor Lawson reviewed Mr. Mason's background qualifications, noting that the appointment was the Mayor's exclusively to make, but that he was advising the Council as a courtesy.

Councilman Emely advised that he objects to the appointment as he had asked that Mr. John

French be appointment for three months. He reviewed Mr. French's qualifications.

Councilman Atkins commented that the Board has traditionally tried to appoint city residents, but would have no objection to David Mason. Councilman Atkins noted that the Somers Cove Marina Executive Director Doug Reedy had asked for someone in the Marine Industry to be appointed to the board, Mr. Mason fills that requirement very well.

Councilman Emely commented that he feels Mr. Mason is too busy with his businesses to put in the time needed for serving on the Marina Commission.

2<sup>ND</sup> READER WATER RATE INCREASE ORDINANCE #648

Mayor Lawson noted that the Ordinance had been read in its entirety when presented for 1<sup>st</sup> Reader, with the water increase of \$1.50 and 11%. Approval moved for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader by Council Vice President Scott, seconded by Councilman Konapelsky and carried unanimously.

2<sup>ND</sup> READER SEWER RATE INCREASE ORDINANCE #649

Mayor Lawson noted that a public hearing was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> with no attendance other than the Mayor, Council, City staff, and Press. He advised that the sewer increase was \$1.50 and 6%.

Councilman Atkins made a motion to approve Ordinance #649 for 2<sup>nd</sup> reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> READER 2015-2016 BUDGET

Mayor Lawson presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader Budget Ordinance 650.

Councilman Konapelsky inquired if Mr. Pollitt had any concerns.

Mr. Pollitt commented regarding the need for looking at water and sewer revenue funding water and sewer services for the next year's budget.

Councilman Atkins advised that he has the same concern that water and sewer doesn't pay for itself, but with the deadline, we have to accept the Budget as it is. He advised that he feels there will be a shortfall in the budget for legal costs next year.

Council Vice President Scott commented that Mr. Pollitt will be meeting with Mrs. Jean Holloway, the lady who will be doing the water rate study, to get a clearer picture of what water charges should be.

With no further business for discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept Budget Ordinance #650 for 2<sup>nd</sup> reader. Motion seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Lawson noted that Councilwoman Johnson would either be late or not present at all for this meeting, as she was attending a work conference.

STORAGE CUBE ORDINANCE DRAFT FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Sullivan noted that he had revised the draft per the minutes from the last meeting.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to removal of cubes with expired permits. Mr. Sullivan advised that this is found on page 4 – F6c.

He advised adding language to section E Page 3 that “upon the expiration of a permit, and any extension thereof, the application shall remove the container from the property or site at the applicant’s sole cost.”

Councilman Atkins made reference to section E Page 3 – specification of a time frame. Mr. Sullivan advised that this would be upon the expiration of the permit and any extension thereof.

Councilman Konapelsky suggested giving them 15 days to remove the cube.

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Mr. Pollitt suggested notifying them when it gets near the end of their extension.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about moving them when expired or notifying them two weeks prior to expiration.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to cubes with no permit. Mr. Sullivan advised that this falls under the Sunset Provision.

Council Vice President Scott noted that she feels enough days have been given.

Mr. Sullivan suggested that preliminary notices could be sent out.

After further discussion, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the Storage Cube Ordinance for presentation to the Planning Commission, inclusive of amendment to Section E thereof as follows;

“Upon the expiration of any permit, and any extension thereof, the applicant shall remove the container from the property or site at the applicant’s sole cost.” Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Mr. Pollitt noted one area of “housekeeping”; there are two letter “I’s”. He suggested changing the second “I” to “J” and changing the existing “J” to “K”. This was agreed upon by consensus.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO BETSY THOMPSON FOR THE PLEIN AIR EVENT

Mayor Lawson thanked various people for their volunteer service to the City; Billie Jo Chandler, Bo Joyner and John Tawes, who were in attendance.

He then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Betsy Thompson and the other volunteers for their work in organizing the Plein Air Event held last Saturday.

MR. JASON LOAR RE: PLANNING GRANT

Mr. Loar advised that he had met with USDA concerning a Planning Grant for wastewater. He noted

that the population of the City prevents us from obtaining a 100% grant. He advised that the amount of the grant is \$25,000., with the City paying for \$8,350.

Council Vice President Scott inquired what is in the grant and if it will allow experts to evaluate the Plant.

Mr. Loar advised that the grant is for waste water only, and will be looking at pump stations and collection systems for any deficiencies. He advised that there is a 60-90 day review.

Council Vice President Scott advised that the grant is urgent.

Councilman Emely noted that this matter was addressed five months ago. Council Vice President Scott advised that this was originally addressed through Corey Hill, SERCAP, but Mr. Loar would now be doing this for us.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to accept the USDA Planning Grant. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Morgan noted that a meeting with a software representative has been scheduled and she would also check with Mr. Loar concerning working on an application for software. Mr. Pollitt concurred.

Mayor Lawson noted that during meter readings today, 150 were unreadable. Mr. Loar noted that some of the problem is duplication of addresses.

Mayor Lawson requested a recommendation from Mr. Pollitt regarding the software for the first meeting in July.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS, Q &A

Mayor Lawson inquired of the Council about having one meeting in the month of July and August.

Councilman Emely advised that he feels we should stay with two meetings a month, as we have a

new City Manager and need to keep moving forward.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that tonight's agenda was short, but feels we need to continue with two meetings a month.

Councilman Atkins commented that we need to stay on task of the items that must be addressed.

Councilman Atkins advised that he would be happy with either option, one or two meetings a month, but we may find that there are not enough issues to discuss to merit two meetings per month.

Councilman Konapelsky commented that he is very sorry to hear about the illness of Governor Hogan.

Council Vice President Scott thanked everyone in attendance. She commended Mr. Pollitt on his responsiveness and approachability. Council Vice President Scott stated that she appreciates having a City Manager and that it is a blessing.

Councilman Atkins thanked Mrs. Morgan and Mayor Lawson on their hard work on the Budget.

He made reference to the requirement for sprinklers for new home construction in the City and advised that they are now a requirement in the County, making safety of families a priority. He thanked the previous inspector, Mr. Noah Bradshaw for his tenacity in seeing that this requirement was adopted in the City.

Councilman Atkins noted that due to a prior engagement, he will not be able to attend the reception for Mr. Pollitt tomorrow evening.

Councilman Emely noted that he feels the turf runway at the airport should remain open for emergency use and kept cut. Councilman Emely requested an update of what went on in Mr. Pollitt's meetings with various people and agencies. Mr. Pollitt advised that he would be doing Friday updates.

Councilman Emely thanked those who attended the Grand Opening of Crabi Gras. He also commented on the Flag Day ceremony, noting that he was upset there was no coverage.

Councilman Emely commented on the large attendance that the Crab Place is drawing with their Crab & Cruise events.

Council Vice President Scott made reference to the Crab and Cruise event last weekend, and noted that in attendance was a Marketer from New York. Council Vice President Scott advised that she asked her what stood out and she advised the venue and the food , but especially the pride of the public in their City.

Councilman Emely commented that this year's Flag Day ceremony meant a lot because his grandfather, Austin Cox, Sr., who has been dealing with a lot of health issues, is the last surviving D Day Veteran.

Mayor Lawson commented that in 2006, Public Input was moved to the end of the meeting agenda.

He noted that it is for input only, not conversation between the Mayor and Council, or immediate answers. Mayor Lawson advised that this rule needs to be gotten under control and advised that the new rule tonight is "there will be no quick answers given until the question is researched. Then the person who asked the question will be gotten back to."

Mayor Lawson advised that by the first meeting in either July or August, a set of rules will be established concerning Public Input, Number One being, the person will come to the front and sit and after speaking , they will be thanked, but no response given.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Billie Jo Chandler advised 1) the City website needs to be updated, 2) current email addresses are needed, 3) the term "come here" should not be used and a ceremony at the pavilion should be

done for new-comers and 4) the meeting room needs better air conditioning.

Mr. Pollitt noted that at his former job, the discussion was always about wanting “come heres to be “stay heres”.

Woody Rybyzynski made reference to 1) the American Legion. He noted that the Legion gives over \$75K to the community every year and can’t get Lori Quinn Drive paved, 2) as the owner of the Ice Cream Gallery, his customers, especially the elderly, used to pull up to the front door, but now the area is blocked to through traffic. He commented that this is not Business Friendly and asked that it be re-opened, 3) the Green Space issue – people wanted to park there and it should be a citizen decision. He suggested a small grassy space with a small parking lot, 4) In reference to Hammock Point road, curb and gutter, Mr. Rybyzynski advised that he wanted sidewalk there as he was told he would have when he purchased the property. He commented about the fact that there are plans to tar and chip the road but not pave it. He also commented that curb and gutter is proposed for only the cul de sac and questioned why this property owner, who is the squeaky wheel, is more special than anyone else there.

Mayor Lawson advised that he would schedule a meeting for him to meet with him and Mr. Pollitt.

Irving Saltz commented about Public Input and suggested that a program with formal rules be established where a person could submit a signed document and be answered in writing by the Council. He commented about there being no progress in the City and suggested using local talent.

Mayor Lawson noted that the center line of the road on Hammock Point is now marked.

He noted that that Hammock Point will be tarred and chipped but the cul-de-sac at Anchor Road won’t

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have curb and gutter.

Mayor Lawson noted that he met with the engineers today concerning the bulkheading for the Green Space. He advised that the winning bidder will prepare proposals for the Council to review.

There being no further business for discussion, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn seconded by Council Vice President Scott and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

