

**TOWN OF IRMO
PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

JANUARY 16, 2018

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in the Municipal Building. Council members present were Mayor King, Councilmen Pouliot, Waites, Walker and Councilwoman Condom. Others present were Mr. Robert Brown, Town Administrator; Chief Don Perry; Mr. Eric Hale, Town Attorney; Mrs. Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer. Mr. Al Dozier of *The New Irmo News* was also present.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor King called the public hearing to order at 7 p.m. The following addressed Council regarding the Ordinance 17-26 – Supplemental Off-Street Parking:

Mrs. Terri Waites
Ms. Gloria Jordan
Ms. Brenda McLain
Mr. David Longston
Ms. Brandi Clarkson
Ms. Elizabeth Keller
Ms. Jada Powell
Mr. Kenny Johnson
Mr. Wayne McDaniel
Ms. Joan Mobley
Mr. Tony Oravec
Ms. Susan Pope
Ms. Leslie Boland
Mr. Steven Johnson
Mr. Brandon Gillion
Mr. Hunter Hilley
Mr. Daniel Eubanks
Mrs. Lori Pouliot
Mr. Mathew Hall
Mr. Brain Jordan
Mr. Vernon Beaty
Mr. Jake Moore

Mayor King then called the regular meeting to order at 9:10 pm and Mr. Pouliot led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve the December 19, 2017 minutes and Mr. Waites seconded the motion. Mr. Pouliot requested that the duplicated words “to go” be deleted from the 3rd page on the first sentence under executive session. The vote to approve the minutes as amended was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – The Administrator furnished a written briefing to Council in their agenda packets. Mr. Walker asked if there was an issue with the live streaming.

B. Code Enforcement Update - Senior Patrolman Stokes of the Irmo Police Department gave a brief update.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Home Value Report (Brent Chitwood) – Mr. Chitwood presented the results of the Texas Tech survey he conducted on the following factors: Effect Demand, Effect Neighborhood Demand, Poorly Maintained Yards, Untidy Yards, Dilapidated Homes, Yard Erosion, Dirty Streets, Allowing Street Parking and Allowing Yard Parking. He explained that the results showed that local real estate agents feel that their customers consider all the factors listed above when they decide on a home to purchase as well as the price they are willing to pay.

B. National Home-Sale Database Program (PorchD/Anand Vora): Mr. Vora explained that PorchD will take pictures of the home and put them on their website for six months and solicit public opinions from all over the country. This will be a free service for any resident that lives in the town limits of Irmo. PorchD will create a report based on the results of the survey. The winner will receive \$5,000.

C. Mrs. Condom stated that she contacted Danny Hood of Coldwell Banker and reported that the Irmo real estate market is great with the lowest average days on the market (only 46 days) and average sales price is the highest ever. The reporting came from Consolidated Multi Listing.

Mayor King made a motion to suspend Robert’s Rules of order to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter regarding Court and DMV issues involving mandated initiatives. Mr. Waites seconded the motion and the vote for approval failed with all of Council voting in opposition.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Brandi Clarkson addressed Council concerning item A under “Unfinished Business”
Elizabeth Keller addressed Council concerning item A under “Unfinished Business”
Mathew Hall addressed Council concerning item A under “Unfinished Business”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 17-26 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, APPENDIX A ZONING ORDINANCE; ARTICLE VI, SUPPLEMENTAL OFF-STREET PARKING & LOADING REGULATIONS SECTION 6-4, PARKING, STORAGE AND USE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve third and final reading and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Walker explained that he was trying to repeal this ordinance since September 2017. He stated that a blanket ordinance with the possibility of a \$1,084.00 fine should be completely repealed and that the Town does not need to impose a Homeowners Association on the residents. He felt that enforcing compliance across the town may be difficult. Mr. Walker wants the Irmo Police to concentrate on enforcing laws regarding violence and drug issues not homeowner association laws. Mrs. Condom stated that Council needs to consider property rights and that curb appeal does matter but not as much as we think. As previously stated, home sales are up and average days on market is down, and that the condition of the house is more important than residents parking in their front yards. She believes that this ordinance is unenforceable and that some of the residents cannot abide by the ordinance due to the size of their lots.

Mr. Pouliot acknowledges that home values are up but stated there are other areas in the town that are adversely affected by allowing residents to park all over their front lawns. He stated that schools draw people to Irmo but has been told by many real estate agents that parking on front lawns affects home sales. He mentioned that the same agents told him that they will drive out of the way to avoid certain areas to show a home. Mr. Waites stated that he wants to clean up the town, and that other cities and towns in the midlands have passed similar ordinances. Mr. Waites explained that he has been contacted by many residents to clean up the town both during his campaign and after he was elected. He also talked to the same real estate agent as Mrs. Condom and was told that parking on the lawn does impact home values.

Mayor King stated it is true that people move to Irmo for the schools. He noted the people can move outside of the town and go to the same great schools. He is concerned because he has been told by people that they did not move into town due to the curb appeal in some areas within the town. Also, he said neighborhoods in the town need to compete with other neighborhoods not located in town. Mayor King explained that crime is not a problem in Irmo and that the Irmo Police is divided into three departments: Investigations, Code Enforcement and Patrol. The officers enforcing town ordinances have no affect on the other divisions of the Irmo PD. Mayor King mentioned that if Council does not pass this ordinance then citations can be written starting February 1, 2018 due to Ordinance 17-18 already passed.

Mr. Walker made a motion to delete paragraph 4 of Ordinance 17-26 and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The motion to amend failed 2 to 3 with Mayor King, Mr. Pouliot and Mr. Waites voting in opposition.

Mr. Walker made an amendment to change the grace period from six months to 2 years and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The vote failed with a 2 to 3 vote with Mr. Waites, Mayor King and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

Mayor King explained that the new language gives residents more options and an extended grace period. The vote for approval of third and final reading of Ordinance 17-26 was 3 to 2 with Mr. Walker and Mrs. Condom voting in opposition.

***Mrs. Condom made a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of order and go into Executive Session and Mr. Waites seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.**

****After Council came back from Executive Session, Mayor King made a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of order again and go to item B under New Business and Mr. Waites seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.**

B. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 17-34 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 26 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT; ARTICLE III, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL; SECTION 26-87, CONDITIONS FOR COLLECTION (STAFF):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve Ordinance 17-34 and Mr. Waites seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

C. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 17-35 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14 ENVIRONMENT; ARTICLE II, NUISANCES; SECTION 14-32 – UNSANITARY, UNSIGHTLY CONDITIONS (MAYOR):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve Ordinance 17-35 and Mr. Walker seconded it. Mayor King explained that this will replace “residential zoned property” to “residentially zoned subdivision”. Mr. Walker stated that it should address all residential zoned property. Mr. Waites made a motion to defer Third and Final Reading of Ordinance 17-35 until the next Council meeting on February 6th and Mrs. Condom second the motion. The vote to defer was unanimous.

D. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 17-36 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, APPENDIX B LAND DEVELOPMENT; ARTICLE 4 – IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEES (STAFF):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve Ordinance 17-36 and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor King explained that once this is passed, the developer would be required to provide a letter of credit or cash as an improvement guarantee. The vote for approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 18-02 ADOPTING MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS WITH MULTIPLE JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA (STAFF):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

(OUT OF ORDER) B. ACCEPTANCE OF LETTER OF CREDIT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FROM HURRICANE BUILDERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$186,732.39 FOR THE SHOALS LANDING PROJECT (STAFF):**

Mr. Jerry Smith of Hurricane Builders presented some information on the Shoals Landing neighborhood development. He stated that there will be approximately 182 lots in the gated community with an average cost being \$250,000. He stated that they are seeking approval for the Letter of Credit for phase one. After a brief discussion, the vote to approve the letter of credit in the amount of \$186,732.39 from Hurricane Builders was unanimous.

C. APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT TO CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,500.00 TO ASSIST WITH THE UPDATING OF THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL (PLANNING COMMISSION):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

D. APPROVAL FOR CHANGE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,200.00 TO LINDLER'S CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CORNERSTONE PROJECT (STAFF):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

E. APPROVAL OF REVISED BOND POLICY (MAYOR):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded. The vote for approval was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS: None

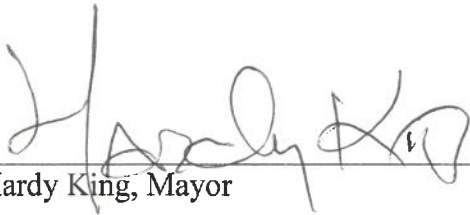
DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion on home value report and ideas from Porch.D (Mayor): Mayor King decided to withdrawal the discussion until another meeting.

(*OUT OF ORDER) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Mrs. Condom made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter regarding Court and DMV issues involving stated mandated ticketing initiatives. Mr. Waites seconded the motion and it passed unanimously; therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Brown, Mr. Hale, Judge Epting, Judge Adams, and Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Clerk of Court, entered executive session at 11:12 p.m. Following executive session, Mayor King called the meeting back to order at 11:29 p.m. and stated that no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Waites made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 a.m.



Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer