

**TOWN OF IRMO  
BUDGET WORKSHOP AND  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 17, 2018**

The Irmo Town Council held a budget workshop and regular meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 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; and Mrs. Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer. Mr. Al Dozier, *The New Irmo News*, was also present.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mayor King called the budget workshop to order at 6 p.m. Council discussed the revenue stream for the proposed FY 2018-2019 budget and a salary increase for both judges, and the attorney.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor King called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and Mr. Waites led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve the March 17, 2018 minutes and Mr. Pouliot seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes as submitted was unanimous.

**REPORT OF STANDING:**

A. Administrative Briefing – The Administrator furnished a written briefing to Council that was included in their packets for the meeting.

B. Code Enforcement Update – Chief Perry gave a brief presentation on March Code Enforcement activities in town.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Mr. Whitt Cline informed Council on Stormwater activities to include tagging stormwater drains and educating the residents that storm drains are for rainwater only.

B. Mayor King took a moment to clarify a post that was stated incorrectly on Facebook. He stated that the cost to repair the rotten wood on the front porch is \$15,400 instead of \$38,000 that was stated on Facebook. He also specified that the repairs were needed due to safety concerns and bringing the porch up to current building codes.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 18-05 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14, ENVIRONMENT; ARTICLE II, NUISANCES; SECTION 14-32 – UNSANITARY, UNSIGHTLY AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS (MAYOR):**

Mrs. Condom made a motion for approval and Mr. Waites seconded it. Mrs. Condom made a motion to amend the ordinance to remove “no more than (4) appliances” and replace with “appliances (unless installed)”, and Mr. Waites seconded. The vote for approval of the amendment was unanimous, and the vote for approval of third and final reading as amended was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

### **B. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 18-06 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14, ENVIRONMENT; ARTICLE V, FLOODPLAIN MANUAL; SECTION 14-161 – LANDS TO WHICH THIS ARTICLE APPLIES (STAFF):**

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

### **C. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 18-07 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 14, ENVIRONMENT; ARTICLE II, NUISANCES; SECTION 14-32 – UNSANITARY AND UNSIGHTLY CONDITIONS (WAITES):**

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded. The vote to approve the second reading was unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-08 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 22; OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS; ARTICLE IV – OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE; SECTION 22-103 – CONCEALED WEAPONS (WALKER):**

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve. At first, Mrs. Condom seconded the motion but withdrew it. There was no second. Therefore, the motion failed.

B. APPROVAL TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENT, PROMOTING THE TOWN OF IRMO, IN THE “EXPLORE LEXINGTON COUNTY” MAGAZINE FOR THE 2018-2019 PUBLICATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000 (STAFF):

No motion was made. Therefore, it failed.

C. RATIFICATION OF OPTION-3 FOR THE SOLID WASTE INCREASE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019 (COUNCIL):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded. Mayor King explained that the sanitation rates would increase over a three-year period. The vote for approval was unanimous.

D. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH EAST COAST ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE BAND “ROOT DOCTORS” FOR THE 2018 OKRA STRUT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,100 (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve the East Coast Entertainment contract and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor King stated this contract represents “The Root Doctors” band. The vote for approval to contract with East Coast Entertainment not to exceed \$5,100 was 3 to 2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

E. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH FAT CAT PRODUCTIONS FOR THE “ROB CROSBY BAND” FOR THE 2018 OKRA STRUT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,400 (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve the Fat Cat Productions contract and Mayor King seconded it. The vote for approval to contract for the Rob Crosby Band not to exceed \$5,400 was 4 to 1 with Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

F. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH FAT CAT PRODUCTIONS FOR THE “BLACKWATER RHYTHM & BLUES BAND” FOR THE 2018 OKRA STRUT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,200 (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve the Fat Cat Productions contract and Mayor King seconded it. The vote for approval to contract for the Blackwater Rhythm & Blues Band not to exceed \$5,200 was 4 to 1 with Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Ms. Elizabeth Keller, 300 Waltham Abbey Road, addressed Council on Code Enforcement

Ms. Jada Powell, 212 Boulters Lock Road, addressed Council on the front porch

Mr. Lindley Hummel, 112 London Pride Road, addressed Council on item D, E and F under New Business

## DISCUSSION:

### A. DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL REVENUE STREAM (MAYOR):

Mayor King opened the discussion with the following:

- ◆ Increase Business License Fees – Mayor King explained that the town receives most of the revenue from business license fees. Therefore, he believes this would put an added burden on businesses.
- ◆ Charge Uniform Service Fee – He stated that each resident would pay a flat fee of \$50 and the revenues could be used to add the Lieutenant position or supplement the cost of running the police department.
- ◆ Increase Franchise Fees – Irmo is currently getting 3% but could go up to 5%.
- ◆ Implement a Hospitality Tax – Richland County charges 2% in the county and 1% in town. If the town passed a Hospitality Tax, both Irmo and Richland County would get 1% each. Lexington County does not charge a Hospitality Tax currently. Mayor King also noted that there are spending limitations on revenue collected under this tax.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that Council would gather additional information to discuss at the next Council meeting.

### B. DISCUSSION OF TOWN CODE 22-103 “CONCEALED WEAPONS” (MAYOR):

Mayor King stated that this was discussed at the July 19, 2016 Council Meeting and he had given a copy of the minutes to all of Council. He then stated that the Town Attorney explained the State Law regarding concealed weapons and how it could affect his prosecution of certain cases for the town and the Police Department.

Chief Perry stated that the State Law does not cover bb guns, replica guns, pellet guns, etcetera because they do not meet the definition of handguns. The police officers and the attorney use this ordinance to charge individuals with those types of concealed weapons. If this ordinance is passed, then the police officers would not be able to charge individuals with a municipal violation. He also agreed with Mr. Hale that this would take away the ability to plea bargain on certain misdemeanors.

Mr. Walker stated he wants to clean up this ordinance and make the law clear to everyone. He made a motion to amend the motion to keep the word "pistol" but add "except where SC Code Section 23-31-210 is applied." The motion was not proper under discussion, so there was no second.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. Hale to write a new ordinance with the proper language and to include it on the next agenda.

C. DISCUSSION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION PROTOCOL (POULIOT):

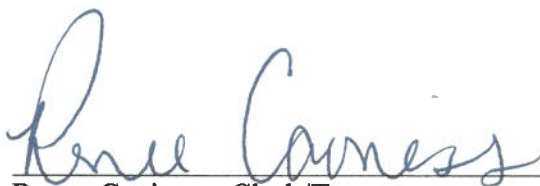
Mr. Pouliot stated his concerns over an issue that happened during a recent Executive Session. He stated that one Councilmember recorded the session and another Councilmember discussed the Executive Session outside of the meeting. He then defined executive session as "sworn to secrecy". He explained that both Councilmembers had violated the law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Waites made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

  
Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer