

TOWN OF IRMO
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 20, 2021

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Councilwoman Condom, Councilmen Busch, Danielson and Sickinger. Others present were Mr. Robert Brown, Town Administrator; Police Chief Courtney Dennis; Vi Racine, Municipal Clerk and Mr. Jake Moore, Town Attorney.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, April 16, 2021 to meet FOIA requirements.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mrs. Condom led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the March 16, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Brown furnished a written briefing to Town Council in their packets. Mr. Brown added that the Municipal Association SC Annual Meeting will be held in Hilton Head on July 21-25, 2021.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:
Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Coastal Carolina Fishing Charters, Arby's, Sig Cox, Inc.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Mayor Walker made a motion to amend the agenda by adding a discussion under item XII for the annexation of the Dominion property from St. Andrews Road to Bush River Road. Mr. Sickinger seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Town Council awarded the "Small Business of the Month" to Beach Loveland, owner of "Loveland Coffee Co., LLC", located at 7475 Carlisle Street.

B. Town Council presented St. Andrews Women’s Club with a Proclamation proclaiming April as “*Child Abuse Prevention Month*”.

C. Mayor Walker announced that Town of Irmo is slated to receive Covid-19 relief money from the Federal American Rescue Plan, and he would like to offer a grant program to aide local businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

D. Mr. Danielson reported a meeting with SC Career Kids which is a 4K program, and they hope to partner with Dr. Akil Ross with Irmo Kids.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Julius Waites - 124 Boulters Lock Rd – addressed Council on item “A” under Old Business and item “E” under New Business

Skyler Hutto – 1281 Russell St, Orangeburg, SC – addresses Council on item “F” under New Business

Barb Waldman – 900 Shadowleaf Ct – addressed Council on item “A” under New Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH HYBRID ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,957.00 TO PREPARE A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON BLUE GRANITSEWER SYSTEM ACQUISITION (BUSCH)

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve, and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mayor Walker stated that Blue Granite sent a letter indicating what the monthly fee impact would be if they went to volumetric billing. Mr. Busch explained that Irmo is part of the entire Blue Granite system statewide and upgrade costs are spread across all systems. Volumetric billing would cause Irmo to no longer be a part of the whole system or subsidized, therefore Irmo would bare the increase of costs. Mr. Danielson declared obtaining Blue Granite was biting off more than Irmo can chew. Mr. Sickinger stated that Blue Granite is currently doing a better job than before and are making necessary repairs as they stated they would. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Nay”, Mrs. Condom voted “Nay”, Mr. Danielson voted “Nay”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Nay” and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”.

B. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 21-02 TO REZONE RICHLAND COUNTY TMS# 03300-03-46 (LOCATED ALONG KOON ROAD) FROM PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PDD) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG)

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve, and Mr. Danielson seconded. Mr. Sickinger stated he was in favor. Mr. Danielson stated that the property was clearly best used as commercial. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye” and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 21-03 TO ANNEX RICHLAND COUNTY TMS# R03300-03 Lots (s) 02, 37 and 44 (LOCATED ALONG SHADY GROVE RD, ADJACENT TO I-26) AS GENERAL RESIDENTIAL (RG)

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve, and Mrs. Condom seconded. Mr. Sickinger stated he was in favor for annexation but was concerned about the burden it might place on the Town's infrastructure. Mrs. Condom stated she was in favor of new growth. Mr. Busch stated his concern for the infrastructure impact especially for police services. Mr. Danielson stated he was generally in favor and mentioned impact fees as a way of off-setting service costs. Mayor Walker stated he was in favor of the annexation, but not the zoning of General Residential (RG) which would allow a maximum of 16 units per acre. Kimberly, a representative from Civil Engineering of Columbia, spoke on behalf of Great Southern Homes, and stated the 67.9-acre development would provide about 165 single-family homes on minimum lot sizes of 7000-7500 square feet and include fifty percent green space, which would require General Residential (RG) zoning. Mr. Sickinger made a motion to call the previous question and Mayor Walker seconded. The vote was unanimous, therefore Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Nay", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Nay".

B. APPROVAL TO OBLIGATE \$745,969 TO BE DISTRIBUTED UPON RECEIPT OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING APPROVED BY CONGRESS. THE PROPOSED PURCHASES WILL BE MADE USING SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CONTRACTS AND SINGLE-SOURCE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS (COUNCIL)

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve, and Mayor Walker seconded the motion. Mr. Sickinger stated that there were several items on the list that were clearly outlined as approved. Mayor Walker explained that the funds to be received from the American Rescue Plan would cover water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure as well as related Covid relief directly to employees and businesses. After a brief discussion of eligible items, Mayor Walker made a motion to amend the approval for the following items: Town Employee One-Time Bonus for \$49,340.00; Grant to Irmo Future Growth Corporation for \$125,000.00; Design / Permits / Geo-Tech (Moseley Street) for \$56,355.00; Digitizing permanent municipal records for \$ 118,690.00; Wi-Fi in the Town Parks for \$32,100.00 and Install Fiber Optic in PD / Town Hall for \$19,764.00. Mr. Busch seconded the motion. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote on the amendment in the amount of \$401,249.00: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye".

C. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER WHO WILL PAY THE TOWN A FEE OF \$100,000 FOR A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT TO SPONSOR THE OKRA STRUT (\$15,000) AND ADD THEIR NAME TO THE TWO (2) RESTROOM FACILITIES (\$5000) IN THE COMMUNITY PARK OF IRMO (MAYOR)

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve, and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor Walker stated that Lexington Medical Center presented the Town with a proposed agreement in the amount of \$100,000.00 to be paid in increments of \$20,000.00 per year for the calendar years 2021 through 2025 as the "Title Sponsor" of the Irmo Okra Strut with sponsorship benefits outlined in the contract. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote for the amended motion: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye".

D. APPROVAL TO TRANSFER AN ADDITIONAL \$125,000 TO THE IRMO FUTURE GROWTH CORPORATION (DANIELSON)

Mr. Danielson asked to withdraw Item "D" since it was approved with Item "B" under New Business.

E. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT PARD GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$194,400 TO REBUILD THE FORMER RCRC TENNIS COMPLEX WITH A DOG-PARK AND COMMUNITY GARDENS (MAYOR)

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve, and Mr. Danielson seconded the motion. Mr. Sickinger stated that this was an exciting project to benefit the Irmo community. Mr. Danielson declared his support to put vacant land to good use. Mr. Busch and Mrs. Condom agreed that improvement of an existing area was important and were in favor. Mayor Walker reiterated that the Town was responsible for the infrastructure of water and sewer and that each committee was responsible for building their respective portion. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye” and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”.

F. COUNCIL DECISION ON STATUS OF BUSINESS LICENSE 8005 (IRMO TOBACCO & VAPOR) LOCATED AT 1100 DUTCH FORK ROAD THAT HAS BEEN DEEMED A NUISANCE (COUNCIL)

Mayor Walker asked Mr. Brown if he suspended the business license for Irmo Tobacco and Vapor and he confirmed that he had issued a 30-day administrative suspension. He reminded Council that this was not a legal proceeding, nor a formal hearing. Mrs. Condom stated she understood the foundation for the suspension and agreed. Mr. Busch stated his understanding but felt the owner should be allowed to stay open until such time as a formal hearing is called. Mr. Danielson stated the business owner had the “Right to Cure”, and Andy Delaney, Attorney for Irmo Tobacco & Vapor, asked for the license to be reinstated. Chief Dennis explained that Irmo Police had executed a search warrant at Irmo Tobacco & Vapor and seized items that were already under investigation due to a complaint that the business was selling products under different labels. He furnished Council with the lab test results of the products and reported that no one had been criminally charged in a case. Mr. Busch made a motion to amend and reinstate the business license with conditions of removing all products discussed by Chief Dennis. Mr. Sickinger seconded, and the vote was 3 to 2 with Mrs. Condom and Mr. Danielson voting in opposition. Mr. Skylar Hutto, Attorney for Irmo Tobacco & Vapor, stated their consent to remove all said products, but they were not conceding to any illegal products being sold. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Racine for a rollcall vote on the motion to allow the business to re-open: Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Nay”, Mr. Danielson voted “Nay”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye” and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”.

G. APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION (STAFF)

Mrs. Condom made a motion to appoint Judy Deloach and Mr. Danielson seconded it. The vote to appoint Judy Deloach to the Planning Commission was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

None

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Walker asked Town Attorney Jake Moore about the process of annexing untaxable land owned by Dominion Energy. Mr. Moore explained that a legal description of the land is needed first and he would research the law for annexation with and without a petition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Sickinger made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Busch seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Vi Racine, Municipal Clerk