

# TOWN OF IRMO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

**April 21, 2020**

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting online using Zoom on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Councilwoman Condom, Councilmen Busch, Sickinger, and Danielson. Others present were Mr. Robert Brown, Town Administrator; Chief Don Perry, Mrs. Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer and Mr. Jake Moore, Jr., Town Attorney. The public was allowed to call into the Zoom meeting, watch it live-streamed on the Town's Website and YouTube Channel.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, April 17, 2020 to meet FOIA requirements.

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 17, 2020 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded the motion. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the April 3, 2020 minutes and Mr. Danielson seconded the motion. 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.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:  
Express Employment Professionals, Zebra Lawn Care, LLC, The Skin Spot, Purple Crane, LLC, and Joshua Fulton Dentistry

## AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

## CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor Walker provided Council some information on a company out of Greenville offering Covid-19 testing. He would like Council to review the information to decide if they would like to proceed with the program they offer.

B. Mr. Danielson stated that he wants the Irmo Chamber of Commerce to receive an application to apply for Accommodations Tax Funding.

C. Mr. Danielson was contacted by Beach Loveland about the two roads (Laurens and Mowers) and stated that he has reached out to the owner of the ATM kiosk, who has not responded. Mr. Danielson believes that Council needs to stay on top of this matter to resolve the issue with the left hand turn.

D. Mrs. Condom stated she received an email from Dr. Waldman regarding her concerns on Ordinance 20-06.

E. Mr. Walker asked Mr. Brown about reducing the speed limit on Carlisle Street. Mr. Brown stated that he is waiting for an answer from Department of Transportation; who owns the roadway.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 20-06 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE II, COUNCIL; DIVISION 1, GENERALLY; SECTION 2-31 COMPOSITION AND ELECTION (SICKINGER):**

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve and Mr. Sickinger seconded. Mr. Sickinger made a motion to amend to add the sentence, "In the event no one files for the vacant seat a majority of Council can allow the incumbent to refile for their seat" before the last sentence and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mr. Busch stated he has heard from many residents that are against term limits for Council. Mrs. Condom explained that she received an email from Dr. Waldman with her concerns that an existing Councilmember would have to be present on the last day of filing at Town Hall to see if anyone files. Mayor Walker explained that Council would have to vote to allow the Councilmember to run for their seat and is opposed to the amendment.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted "Aye", Mr. Busch voted "Nay", Mrs. Condom voted "Nay", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", and Mayor Walker voted "Nay". Mayor Walker recognized that the vote to amend failed 2 to 3.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted "Aye", Mr. Busch voted "Nay", Mrs. Condom voted "Nay", Mr. Danielson voted "Nay", and Mayor Walker voted "Nay". Mayor Walker recognized that the vote failed 1 to 4.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 20-09 TO ADOPT THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR FY20/21 (STAFF):**

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. Mrs. Condom commended Mr. Brown on his budgeting efforts. Mayor Walker stated that Council needs to consider the impact the Covid-19 Virus could have on revenue going forward because some purchases may need to be put off.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted "Aye", Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". Mayor Walker recognized that the vote for approval was unanimous.

**B. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 20-3 TO ENSURE FAIR HIRING PRACTICES ACROSS TOWN EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH ARREST OR CONVICTION RECORDS (MAYOR):**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion for approval and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mr. Sickinger explained the resolution. Mrs. Condom explained that state law requires the Police Department to do intensive background checks.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”. Mayor Walker recognized that the vote for approval was unanimous.

**C. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT MOSELEY STREET PAVING PROJECT TO LEXINGTON COUNTY FOR INCLUSION ON THE 2020 BALLOT WITH THE CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX QUESTION (STAFF):**

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mayor Walker seconded it. Mayor Walker stated that he has received feedback where some approve, and some are opposed to the project due to increase traffic.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”. Mayor Walker recognized that the vote for approval was unanimous.

**D. APPROVAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR WALKER TO THE COMET BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mayor Walker seconded it. Mayor Walker explained this opportunity would provide Council information on public transportation routes including any proposed routes that would impact the Town.

Mayor Walker called on each Councilmember to vote. Mr. Erik Sickinger voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”. Mayor Walker recognized that the vote for approval was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS VIA TELEPHONE:**

Mr. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road , addressed Council on the Agenda, Term Limits and Comet.

**DISCUSSION:**

**A. Discussion on re-appointing seven board members to the Irmo Economic Development Corporation and establishing financial support in the form of collateral for local banks to provide loans to Irmo businesses (Mayor):**

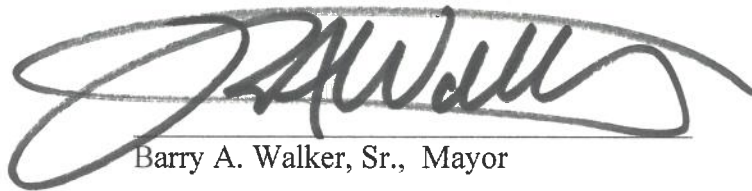
Mayor Walker explained that in the past the Council had an Economic Development Corporation and thinks that the Council should consider re-establishing the existing account or creating another one. This would allow the Town to provide relief to small business through small business incentives. Mr. Brown stated that he was waiting for answers from the IRS regarding the existing account. Mr. Brown also explained that it might be easier to open a new account which may only take 4-6 weeks. Mrs. Condom, Mr. Sickinger and Mr. Busch were in favor of the economic program as long as it does not hurt Town finances. Mr. Danielson added that it should be easier to start a new account. Mr. Busch stated that he does not want the Town's assets to be put up for collateral.

Mayor Walker is concerned about the local businesses and asked Council if they should open in-town business despite Governor McMaster's executive orders. He stated the Town could request business to test all employees for the Covid-19 Virus prior to opening. Mrs. Condom, Mr. Sickinger and Mr. Danielson do want to help business and make visiting businesses safer for the public but voiced their concerns on the mandatory testing. Mrs. Condom is in favor of requiring all business employees to wear a N95 mask. Mr. Busch stated that the town should not get in the testing business and to leave it up to the professionals.

Mayor Walker ended the discussion asking Council to think about ways where they can help local businesses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Busch made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer