

TOWN OF IRMO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 1, 2018

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 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.

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve the April 17, 2018 minutes and Mr. Waites seconded the motion. Mayor King requested that the video be reviewed due to an improper motion that was made on item B under Discussion. Mr. Walker made a motion to defer reading of the April 17, 2018 minutes to the May 15th meeting and Mr. Waites seconded the motion. The vote to defer was 4 to 1 with Mayor King voting in opposition.

REPORT OF STANDING:

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor King stated that Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Upsilon Omega Omega Chapter is having a shredding event on Saturday, May 5 at Harbison West Elementary School from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

B. Mrs. Condom mentioned that Mr. David Stewart has found an individual from the Coatsworth Neighborhood that is willing to be on the committee to choose a winner for the Elmer Danko Award.

C. Mr. Waites took a moment to inform the residents that the Irmo Police Department offers a free property check of your property when you are away or on vacation. He explained that he has used the service in the past and was very thankful for the free service.

D. Mr. Waites mentioned he recently went to a reception to celebrate the Rawls Creek property that was donated to Saluda Shoals and will be used as greenspace and eventually have a bridge that will cross over Rawls Creek.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

A. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road, addressed Council on item F and H under New Business

B. Mr. Lindley Hummel, 112 London Pride Road, addressed Council on item A, B, C, D, E, G, H & I under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. THIRD AND FINAL 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. Waites made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The vote to approve was unanimous.

B. THIRD AND FINAL 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. Mr. Waites expressed his concerns about giving violators a short window to remedy the situation under this ordinance as it is currently written. He stated that some residents may have trouble paying fees for the utility service and get a ticket from the Town of Irmo, which would add to the resident's money concerns. Mr. Waites questioned Mr. Hale if it was legal for the town to put a certain amount of days that a violator would have to connect to sewer service and told it was legal. Mr. Brown explained if the ordinance stays as it is currently written, that they have only 10 days to connect to the sewer service.

Mr. Waites made a motion to add "Any person receiving an abatement notice hereunder shall have a period of 15 days after receipt of said notice to abate the violation." and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Pouliot said this was a health hazard and is against changing the 10-day abatement period to 15-day abatement period. The vote to approve the amendment was 3 to 2 with Mayor King and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

The vote to approve third and final reading of Ordinance 18-07 as amended was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-09 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 and Mr. Waites seconded. Mr. Pouliot asked the Chief and the Town Attorney if they are satisfied with this change and both agreed this was helpful. The vote for approval was 4 to 1 with Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-10 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, APPENDIX A ZONING ORDINANCE; ARTICLE VII – GENERAL PROVISIONS AND REGULATION; SECTION 7-7 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND USES (STAFF):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. Mr. Brown stated that a concerned citizen had contacted him regarding a satellite dish violation. After Mr. Brown did some research, he stated that this law was originally written when satellite dishes were 8ft wide and that the dishes are now much smaller. The vote to approve first reading of Ordinance 18-10 was unanimous.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-11 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 30, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES; ARTICLE III – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING; SECTION 30-79 TICKETING OF OFFENDING VEHICLES (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mayor King explained that he presented this ordinance and Ordinance 18-12 because the two are in direct conflict with each other. One ordinance states that an unlicensed vehicle had to be in an enclosed building and the other ordinance stated that the unlicensed vehicle could be under a car cover or hidden from view. Also, unlicensed vehicles cannot be parked in the street. The vote to approve the was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition

D. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-12 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, APPENDIX A ZONING ORDINANCE; ARTICLE VI – SUPPLEMENTAL OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REGULATIONS; SECTION 6-4 – PARKING, STORAGE AND USE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES (MAYOR):

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

E. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-13 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE II, COUNCIL; DIVISION 2, MEETINGS; SECTION 2-62 – EXECUTIVE SESSIONS (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded. Mayor King stated that the Municipal Association of SC (MASC) and state law prohibits a person from recording executive sessions. He explained this ordinance would allow an executive session to be recorded if there was a 2/3 majority vote. Mr. Walker questioned why this is being added to the current ordinance if it is already outlined in the state law. The vote for approval was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

F. APPROVAL TO PLACE ADVERTISEMENT, PROMOTING THE TOWN OF IRMO, IN THE “EXPLORE LEXINGTON COUNTY” MAGAZINE FOR THE 2018-2019 PUBLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mayor King stated that this is a Lexington County magazine that would promote the Town of Irmo and the funds would be from the Accommodations Tax. He also stated that this magazine is a good avenue to promote the town since it is distributed throughout Lexington County. He felt that local businesses would be upset if the fee is put in the general fund instead of promoting Irmo. Mr. Walker explained that he does not think this magazine is the best way to promote the Town of Irmo. He stated that he could get national exposure for a lot less money.

Mr. Pouliot made a motion defer until Tuesday, May 15th to give Mr. Walker an opportunity to search for a better publication and cheaper way to promote the Town of Irmo. Mr. Waites seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

G. APPROVAL TO INCREASE SALARIES OF CONTRACT EMPLOYEES (JUDGE EPTING, JUDGE ADAMS AND ERIC HALE) BY 10% (WALKER):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mr. Walker seconded. Mr. Waites stated that Judge Epting has not had a raise since 2014, Judge Adams has never gotten a raise since she started seven years ago, and Mr. Hale has not received a raise since 2015. Mr. Walker agreed and stated that the town has put a burden on Court. Mayor King stated that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court put the burden on the court not the Town of Irmo. Both Mrs. Condom and Mr. Pouliot expressed their concerns about increasing salaries due to revenues being down.

Mayor King does believe that Judge Adams should be given a raise but stated that both Judge Epting and Mr. Hale should have requested a pay increase when Council appointed them. Mayor King made a motion to defer until the May 15th meeting and Mr. Pouliot seconded it.

The vote to defer until the May 15th meeting was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

H. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE ROOTS AGENCY NOT TO EXCEED \$12,500 FOR “THE WEIGHT BAND” TO PERFORM AT THE 2018 OKRA STRUT FESTIVAL (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve the Roots Agency contract and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor King stated this contract represents “The Weight Band”. Mr. Waites commended Chairman Larry Slaughter and the Okra Strut Commission for all their hard work and noted that Mr. Slaughter and the Commission are volunteers. Mr. Slaughter expressed his concerns relating to the ordinance stating the exact day the Okra Strut is held every year. He stated that the Commission may never change the date of the Okra Strut but would like the Council to consider changing that language in the code.

The vote to approve the contract with Roots Agency not to exceed \$12,500 was unanimous.

I. APPROVAL TO EXTEND CONTRACT WITH TYLER SANITATION OF COLUMBIA (STAFF):

Mayor King made a motion to extend the contract with Tyler Sanitation of Columbia by 1-year and Mrs. Condom seconded it. He explained that Tyler Sanitation sent a letter requesting extension for another three years. Mayor King believes that the town should only extend it by one year instead of three years to avoid what happened when Southland Sanitation sold the business to Advanced Disposal and the service deteriorated. All of Council agreed that Tyler Sanitation of Columbia was doing a good job.

Mr. Walker made a motion to amend for a 3-year extension on the contract and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. The vote to amend was 3 to 2 with Mayor King and Mrs. Condom voting in opposition.

The vote for approval of the 3-year extension of the contract with Tyler Sanitation was 4 to 1 with Mayor King voting in opposition.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Mr. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road, addressed Council on Judge’s salaries and the Irmo News Article.

Lindley Hummel, 112 London Pride, addressed Council on the Okra Strut, and Presentations by Citizens.

Wade DeLoach, 156 Finsbury Road, addressed Council on a rain barrel event he is hosting at the Community Park of Irmo.

DISCUSSION:

A. DISCUSSION ON REVENUE SOURCES: HOSPITALITY, FRANCHISE, ADMIN, ETC...
(MAYOR):

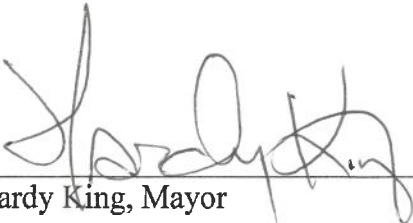
Mayor King gave a brief summary of the different revenue sources that are available to the town that was discussed in the April 17th budget workshop and regular meeting. He expressed his concerns about increasing the franchise fee, that it would affect businesses more than residential. Most of Council agreed that the quickest and easiest fix would be to increase the franchise fees.

Mr. Walker was concerned about the fact that the hospitality tax would burden certain businesses. Mayor King cautioned that a plan would need to be in place if Council decides to implement a Hospitality Tax but stated that Council should have a 5-year plan to spend that revenue stream. Mr. Waites stated that he had read a comment from a citizen that the town should consider purchasing a certain property and create a town center with a railroad museum. It was also discussed that some of the money could pay for upkeep of the town parks, some of the police department's expenses and adding a communication director position.

The discussion ended with Mrs. Condom asking Bob to put this item on both the Budget Workshop agenda and the regular meeting agenda for the May 15th meeting.

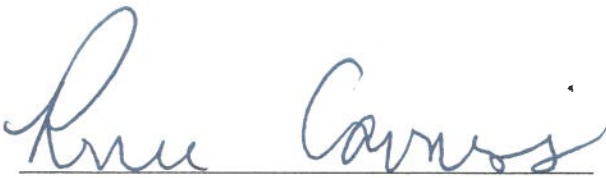
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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 9:43 p.m.



Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer