

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

**May 15, 2018**

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 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 6:05 p.m. Council discussed the revenue sources to include increasing the franchise fee from 3% to 4% and implementing a 1% hospitality tax. They also discussed a solid waste administrative fee, a stormwater fee, and increasing the business license fee.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor King called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and 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. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve the May 1, 2018 minutes and Mr. Waites 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 update on the most recent violations to include the illicit discharges, dilapidated properties, sign violations, vehicle violations, animal complaints, and business license checks.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

A. Mayor King made a motion to add an executive session for a contractual matter and Mr. Waites seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Town Council presented a proclamation to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority recognizing their valuable contributions to the local charities in and around Irmo, South Carolina.

B. Mayor King stated that he presented a proclamation to the Irmo Police Department on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> declaring that all flags on town property be flown at half-staff on May 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

C. Mr. Jerry Bellune gave a presentation on the Explore Lexington County magazine and addressed Council's questions regarding advertising in the publication that is distributed throughout Lexington County and surrounding areas.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

A. Mr. Mathew Hall, 106 Saint Albans Court, addressed Council on item A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I under Unfinished Business

B. Ms. Elizabeth Keller, 300 Waltham Abbey Road, addressed Council on item A under New Business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. SECOND 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. Then, Mr. Walker made a motion to remove the word "pistol". The motion was not seconded and failed.

Mr. Walker voiced his concerns that this law contradicts state law and the word "pistol" should be removed. However, he is satisfied with this ordinance as amended.

Mayor King, Mr. Waites, Mrs. Condom and Mr. Pouliot, agree that the town code is superseded by state law and wanted to clear up any confusion. It was explained that both Mr. Hale and Chief Perry are satisfied with this ordinance. Chief Perry explained that all his police officers understand and know that the state law supersedes municipal law. Mayor King stated that due to all the confusion he thinks Council should vote against ordinance 18-09 and leave the current law as written. The vote for approval as written was 3 to 2 with Mayor King and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

**B. SECOND 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. Pouliot seconded it. Mr. Pouliot made a motion to change the wording from "...satellite dishes (not to exceed 3' in diameter)," to "...satellite dishes (**not to exceed 1 meter in diameter**)," and Mrs. Condom seconded it. The vote to amend was unanimous.

Then, Mayor King made a motion to amend to add the words "**Except, satellite dishes shall be allowed in the side portion of any front yard**" at the end of the second paragraph under Conditions. Mr. Pouliot seconded it and the vote to amend was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

The vote to approve second reading of Ordinance 18-10 as amended was unanimous.

**C. SECOND 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):**

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mayor King seconded it. Mayor King explained that this was brought up to remove "enclosed building" due to conflict with another law on the books. He also stated that Irmo Police Officers know what should be licensed and what is not required to be licensed as defined by state law. The vote to approve was unanimous.

**D. SECOND 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. Waites made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mayor King explained that the current law was poorly written and hard to understand. Mr. Hale reworded it to eliminate confusion. The vote to approve was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

**E. SECOND 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 it. Mr. Walker again questioned why this is being added to the current ordinance if it is already outlined in the state law. Mr. Hale restated that he does not believe the state statute makes it illegal to record executive sessions. He confirmed that he agrees with MASC that municipalities should pass language like this to make the law crystal clear to everyone. Mr. Pouliot requested clarification from Mr. Hale as to whether the recording would be allowable under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Hale stated that most items discussed in Executive Session do not fall under the Freedom of Information Act. 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):

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve and Mayor King seconded it. Mr. Pouliot explained that this was deferred to the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to give Mr. Walker time to research a better publication to promote Irmo. Mayor King stated that this advertisement would be paid from the Accommodations Tax funds.

Mr. Walker voiced his concerns about the distribution of the magazine. He stated that he would not oppose running a ½ page in the publication and use the difference to run an ad in the New Irmo News and the State Newspaper. He made a motion to take out a ½ page ad for \$1,200. It was not seconded, and the motion failed.

Mr. Pouliot explained that most of the Town’s money comes from in-town businesses and that promoting Irmo would promote these in-town business. He made a motion to purchase an inside ad cover for \$2,500 and Mayor King seconded it. The vote for approval in the amount \$2,500 was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker in opposition.

G. APROVAL TO INCREASE TOWN JUDGE SALARY (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor King made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the salaries of the Town Judge, Associate Judge, and Town Attorney. Mr. Waites seconded it and it passed with a 4 to 1 vote with Mr. Walker voting in opposition. The Mayor, Council, Mr. Brown and Mr. Hale went into executive session at 8:32 pm. Following “Executive Session”, Mayor King called the meeting back to order at 8:52 and stated no action was taken.

Mrs. Condom made a motion to defer until the June 19, 2018 meeting and Mr. Waites seconded it. The vote to defer was 2 to 3 with Mr. Walker, Mayor King, and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

The vote to approve an increase without a certain dollar amount failed 2 to 3 with Mr. Waites, Mayor King and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

H. APROVAL TO INCREASE ASSOCIATE JUDGE SALARY (WALKER):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. After some discussion, Mrs. Condom made a motion to increase the Associate Judge’s salary to \$25,000 plus \$5,000 that goes to Lexington County for administrative cost and Mayor King seconded it. The vote for approval to amend was unanimous.

The vote for approval as amended was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

I. APROVAL TO INCREASE TOWN ATTORNEY SALARY (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mayor King seconded it. Mayor King requested that Mr. Hale put in writing his request for an increase in salary, so it can be discussed during the next budget year. The vote to approve failed 1 to 4 with Mr. Waites, Mayor King, Mrs. Condom and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-14 TO ADOPT THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR FY 18/19 (STAFF):**

Mr. Waites made a motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 18-14 and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mrs. Condom requested that a 1% Franchise fee increase be on the agenda for the second meeting in June and that a 1% hospitality tax be on the July 17<sup>th</sup> agenda.

All of Council agreed that they do not like going into the reserves next year but that expenses have increased. Mr. Walker explained that the town is not broke and that over the past 5 years the town has had a surplus each year.

Mayor King stated the town will have a surplus due to the shortage in police staff. He also stated that he requested a Stormwater fee and a Uniformed Service fee be added to the agenda for the second meeting in June. Mayor King asked Council to consider purchasing the four police vehicles in this budget year, which would remove the expense from the FY 18/19 Budget. The vote for approval was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Mr. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road, addressed Council on Executive Session, FY 18/19 Budget, and Confederate Holiday

Mrs. Elizabeth Keller, 300 Waltham Abbey Road, addressed Council to inform everyone that residents can call Lexington County at (803)785-2454 to get help on nuisances

Mr. Lindley Hummel, 112 London Pride, addressed Council on the slides and FY 18/19 Budget

DISCUSSION:

A. DISCUSSION ON TOWN CODE 28-123 “NUMBERING” (MAYOR):

Mayor King explained our current law requires all residential property be numbered but has not been enforced. He stated that the numbering helps emergency services to find locations. Mayor King stated that Council needs to either amend the law stating where the numbering is displayed as well as enforcing it or just remove it from the books. The discussion ended with Council agreeing to put an ordinance on the next agenda to amend the current law.

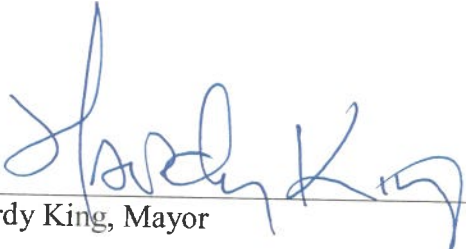
A. DISCUSSION ON HOSPITALITY TAX (CONDOM):

Mrs. Condom stated that this has been discussed enough and she has placed it on the July 17<sup>th</sup> agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter regarding town property. Mrs. Condom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously; therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Hale went into executive session at 9:40 p.m. Following "Executive Session", Mayor King called the meeting back to order at 9:54 p.m. and stated no action was 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 9:55 p.m.

  
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Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer