

TOWN OF IRMO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 19, 2020

The Irmo Town Council held a regular virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Councilwoman Condom, Councilmen Busch, Sickinger, and Danielson. Others present were Mr. Robert Brown, Town Administrator; Mrs. Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer and Mr. Jake Moore, Town Attorney. The public was able 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, May 15, 2020 to meet FOIA requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Walker called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance 20-09 (FY 20/21 Budget): No one spoke. Mayor Walker closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. and called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Sickinger led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve the April 29, 2020 minutes and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve the April 30, 2020 minutes. Mrs. Condom seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Brown furnished a written briefing to Town Council in their packets and informed Council that Richland County approved to keep Broad River Road on the Penny Tax Project List. However, they are making modifications to the original plans.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:
Ashley Kingston Boutique and Haygood Complete Lawn Care

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor Walker stated that Dave & Busters are scheduled to reopen on Friday, May 22 and believes Council should consider allowing Stars and Stripes to reopen also.

B. Mayor Walker addressed his concerns on the recent shots fired near Hollow Tree, Cape Flattery Court, and Beacon areas. He explained to Council that the shooting occurred outside of Town on Timber Hill Court. He believes Council needs to meet either in person or a virtual workshop needs to be set up with Irmo Police Department, City of Columbia, Lexington and Richland County to address these concerns.

C. Mayor Walker stated with all the parks open, Council should consider reopening the bathrooms as well.

D. Mayor Walker explained that he worked with Senator Dick Harpootlian to have MUSC do a drive thru Covid-19 testing in early June. Citizens will not be charged a fee.

E. Mayor Walker stated that he emailed Town Council a Town Policy on outside communication and wants this item to be put on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

F. Mayor Walker mentioned that the MASC meeting was canceled in July but wants Council to consider doing a Council Retreat July 16th – 17th.

G. Mayor Walker stated that a local Blythewood resident, Mr. Cammwess, will be on the Voice tonight at 8:00 a.m. and asked everyone to vote and support Mr. Cammwess.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS VIA TELEPHONE:

Ms. Charlene Young – 34 Cape Flattery Court, addressed Council on recent violence and gang activity

Ms. Tammy Pierce – 22 Cape Flattery Court, addressed Council on recent shootings

Mr. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road, addressed Council on virtual meetings, Ords 20-10, 20-11

Mr. Adam Fisher – 120 River Song Road, addressed Council on Ordinance 20-11

Ms. Marsha Clark – 1000 Hollow Tree Court, addressed recent break-ins

Ms. Audra Haisher – 20 Crown Point Court, addressed Council on the increase in violence

Mr. Zack Wildman – 20 Crown Point Court, addressed Council on timer for presentations by citizens

Ms. Benjie Friday – 20 Cape Flattery Court, addressed Council on recent shots fired incidents

Ms. Cheryl Krupp – 1109 Woodtree Court, addressed Council on recent violence

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote. Mayor Walker voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 20-10 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE FOR ALL REFERENCES TO TOWN COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS (MAYOR):

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mr. Busch seconded the motion. Mr. Sickinger voiced his concerns about making such an important decision with just a majority of Council. Mr. Sickinger made a motion to change “majority” to a “2/3” vote and Mr. Busch seconded the motion.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mayor Walker voted “Nay”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye”. The vote for approval to amend was 4 to 1 with Mayor Walker voting in opposition.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mayor Walker voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye”. Mayor Walker announced the first reading as amended was unanimous.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 20-11 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS; SECTION 6-8 – HOGS, CATTLE, CHICKENS, HORSES AND STABLES (BUSCH):

Mr. Busch made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Busch explained that the ordinance would allow four hens in the backyard. No roosters will be allowed, and a resident would need to get a permit for approval. Mr. Sickinger confirmed with Mr. Brown that requiring a permit will allow code enforcement to check their backyard to verify they are in compliance.

Mayor Walker explained that this subject has been discussed several times. He added that in the 2017 election, a referendum was on the ballot. The results showed that 516 residents were against it and only 382 were in favor of the chickens.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote on Ordinance 20-11: Mayor Walker voted “Nay”, Mrs. Condom voted “Nay”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Nay”, and Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye”. The vote failed 2 to 3 with Mayor Walker, Mrs. Condom and Mr. Danielson voting in opposition.

C. APPROVAL TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTATION RE: PERFORMANCE REVIEWS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS EMPLOYED BY THE TOWN (MAYOR):

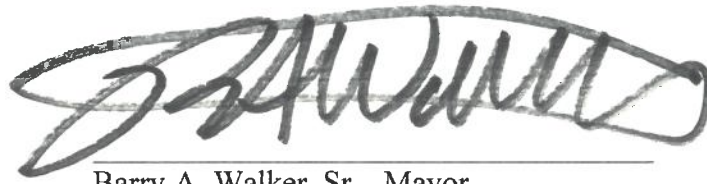
Mayor Walker stated this would allow the company to help Council evaluate the department heads and it was not a contract but a one-time fee of \$350. Mr. Danielson believes it is a good idea and the management team should set the parameters for their own review. Mrs. Condom stated this is not necessary and is happy with the department heads and agrees with the current advancement policy where the Town tries to promote within. Mr. Busch agrees that reviews do need to be completed and clarified his understanding that this is an approval to solicit bids. Mayor Walker stated that this is not a bid, but a one-time fee and Mr. Danielson added this is a proposal. Mr. Busch asked Mr. Brown to clarify if this needs a bid. Mr. Brown stated that the Town procurement code requires competitive prices and under fifteen hundred dollars, we require a minimum of three verbal quotes. Mr. Sickinger stated that this is a good price and believes it will make a positive impact on performance.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mayor Walker voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Nay”, Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, and Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye”. The vote for approval was 4 – 1 with Mrs. Condom voting in opposition. Mr. Danielson confirmed that this gives approval for Mr. Brown to get two additional verbal bids.

DISCUSSION: None

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 8:31 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry A. Walker, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renee Caviness", written over a horizontal line.

Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer