

**TOWN OF IRMO  
PUBLIC HEARING AND  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 21, 2019**

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 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.

At 6:55 p.m., Mayor King requested that Mr. Larry Slaughter, Okra Strut Chairman, recognize the 2019 scholarship recipient prior to the public hearing. Mr. Slaughter presented Mr. Jonah DeHart of Dutch Fork High School a \$2,000 scholarship awarded by the Okra Strut Commission.

Dr. Adrian Bird thanked Council for their support of the Irmo International Festival that was held in the Community Park of Irmo and is looking forward to working with the Town again next year.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor King called the public hearings to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Ordinance 19-06 (Budget ): No one else spoke so Mayor King closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.
2. Ordinance 19-05 (Density): The following addressed Council:

Mr. Larry Haltiwanger, 140 Botany Drive  
Ms. Paula Dannels, 125 Hamilton Park Drive  
Ms. Cornelia Rudesill – 115 Hamilton Park Drive  
Mr. Paul Beasley  
Ms. Greta Gerald – 1424 Fork Avenue  
Mr. Lloyd Kimberle – 1424 Fork Avenue  
Ms. JoeAnn Chaney – 1425 Fork Avenue  
Ms. Jan Kessler – 1425 Fork Avenue  
Mr. Art Braswell – 1105 Woodtree Court  
Mr. Kevin Connelly, Connelly Development  
Ms. Marie Hutchison, 109 Hamilton Park Drive  
Ms. Kay Brown, 133 Hamilton Park Drive  
Ms. Margarita Brissett, 1424 Fork Avenue  
Mr. Kenneth Krupp, 1109 Woodtree Court  
Ms. Debbie Thomas, 229 Walnut Lane  
Ms. Reind Floyd, 104 Aspen Court  
Mr. Erik Sickinger, 407 Cressfell Road  
Ms. Jada Powell, 212 Boulters Lock Road

Mayor King closed the public hearing at 8:41 p.m. and called the regular meeting to order. Mayor King led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Dr. Charles Walkins, Pine Grove AME Pastor, if he would give the Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve the May 7, 2019 minutes and Mr. Waites seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes as submitted was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Brown furnished a written briefing to Council that was included in their packets for the meeting and had no additional information to add at this time.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Award of \$2,000 Okra Strut Scholarship to Jonah DeHart (Okra Strut Commission): See above – The Scholarship was awarded prior to the Public Hearing.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Ms. Barbara Walden, 900 Shadowleaf Court, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business  
Mr. Erik Sickinger, 417 Cressfell Road, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business  
Ms. Susan Pope, 581 Cornerstone Circle, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business  
Rev. Steven Evans. – St. Paul A.M.E. Pastor, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business  
Ms. Brandi Clarkson, 318 Lord Howe Road, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business  
Ms. Kathleen Clark, Hidden Oaks, addressed Council on item “A” under Unfinished Business

OUT OF ORDER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Legal Matter to receive advice from SCMIRF Attorney regarding possible lawsuit:

Mayor King made a motion to suspend Robert’s Rules of Order to take item “A” under Executive Session out of order to receive legal advice on a possible lawsuit. Mr. Waites seconded the motion and it passed 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition; therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Brown, Mr. Hale, and Mr. Andrew Lindeman, SCMIRF Attorney, went into executive session at 9:22 p.m. Mayor King called the meeting back to order at 9:53 p.m. and stated that no votes were taken.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. THIRD AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 19-05 AMENDING THE TOWN CODE; APPENDIX A, ZONING ORDINANCE; ARTICLE II, ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS; SECTION 2-2, USE OF TABLES AND TABLE I – SCHEDULE OF PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES, AND OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS BY DISTRICT; TABLE II – SCHEDULE OF LOT AREA, YARD, SETBACK, HEIGHT, DENSITY AND FLOOR AREA REQUIREMENTS BY DISTRICT (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. He stated that he wanted to correct the ordinance that was previously changed. He does not have a problem with these types of developments but feels that it needs to be built in areas that make sense to include General Residential (RG) zoning districts. Mr. Walker further explained that home ownership needs to be encouraged to have more “skin in the game” instead of apartments with transient residents.

Mr. Walker made a motion to amend the ordinance from 7 units per acre to “pursuant to this ordinance no more than 7 dwelling units may be erected on 1 acre. For the purpose of this ordinance, a dwelling unit is structured design to house one single family. Whereas a person desires to construct multi-family housing has a track of land of more than 1 acre, will not be allowed to group structures together so there are not more than 7 residential units per acre”. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Pouliot stated Mr. Walker has made this political and has played out on social media and feels it is putting the town at risk. He explained that Council has fiscal responsibility to all the citizens in the Town of Irmo.

Mr. Waites explained the density was set to 7 units per acre in 1991 and the density was changed to 16 units per acre in 2016 which he and Mrs. Condom voted against. The State Housing Authority controls the outcome of these developments and Council cannot legally change the density while these projects are being evaluated for state tax credits.

Mayor King explained that he is against changing the density due to potential lawsuits and that there is a great need for low income housing. He mentioned that most want the higher density in General Commercial (CG) rather than in residential zoning where neighborhoods are located.

Mrs. Condom explained that she would like the density to be a maximum of 7 units per acre. However, due to legal issue, Council must vote to protect the town and the residents.

The vote for third and final reading of Ordinance 19-05 failed 1 to 4 with Mayor King, Mr. Pouliot, Mr. Waites and Mrs. Condom voting in opposition.

### B. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 19-06 ADOPTING THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR FY 19/20 (JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,392,267 (STAFF):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve second reading of Ordinance 19-06 and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

**C. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 19-07 TO REZONE A 0.99-ACRE PORTION OF RICHLAND COUNTY TMS# 03202-01-03 (LOCATED OFF DREHER SHOALS ROAD AND ADJACENT TO MUSKRAT ROAD) FROM FRINGE AGRICULTURAL (FA) TO GENERAL RESIDENTIAL (RG) (STAFF):**

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve and Mrs. condom seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF IRMO SPONSORING THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE'S RAMADAN DINNER (WALKER):**

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mayor King seconded it. Mr. Walker stated that Mayor King sent an email asking Council to support sponsoring the Atlantic Institutes' Ramadan Dinner. Mr. Walker thought this should be discussed in a Council meeting instead of by email. Mayor King explained that he told The Atlantic Institute that their item was put on the agenda. He further stated that he is not sure if they are still interested in holding the Ramadan Dinner here because they did not receive a response by their May 7<sup>th</sup> deadline and most likely made other plans. He stated that they wanted to use the Municipal Building or a shelter for free. The vote for approval was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:**

Ms. Patricia Whitt, 213 Minehead Road, addressed Council on their behavior

**DISCUSSION:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

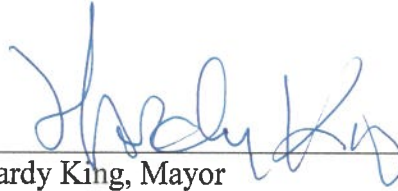
**OUT OF ORDER A. Legal Matter (advice from SCMIRF Attorney regarding possible lawsuit):**

See page 2.

**B. Security Matter (Discuss confidential police department security initiatives):**

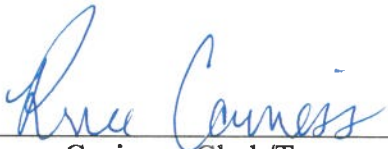
Mr. Waites made a motion to defer this security matter until the June 4, 2019 meeting and Mr. Walker seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Waites made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Walker seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.



Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer