

TOWN OF IRMO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 21, 2018

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 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 Mrs. Condom led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to approve the August 7, 2018 minutes and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. Mrs. Condom identified a mistake and stated that the vote for approval on Ordinance 18-18 was not 4 to 1 but was actually 3 to 2 with Mr. Walker and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition. The vote for approval with the change was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Brown informed Council that he received the first bill on housing prisoners for the month of July. It was \$4,100 which includes the rate increase from \$43 to \$71 per day. He also mentioned that he received a notice from Sonoco Recycling stating they are doubling our recycling rates from \$25 to \$55 per ton.

B. Code Enforcement Update – Chief Perry stated the Police Department is still working to get fully staffed. He mentioned the 2018 National Night Out was a great success and raised approximately \$2,500 to be used on “Coffee with a Cop”, and to purchase supplies that will be donated to the local schools. He then gave a brief presentation on the recent Code Enforcement activities.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mrs. Jada Powell addressed Council on getting approval to have a “Trunk or Treat” event on Saturday, October 27th from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Community Park of Irmo. She gave Council a flyer that she had created for the event and stated there will be a limit of 25 vehicles and they must register to participate. All of Council agreed the event is a wonderful community event.

B. Mrs. Jacqueline Buck of Keep the Midlands Beautiful, explained all the different projects they have been working on and announced a recycling event to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on October 20th at Irmo High School.

C. Mr. Cline informed Council that Lexington County is doing a stormwater survey on whether the residents want the creeks to be cleaned out. Anyone who completes their survey will be put in a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. He encouraged all residents that live in the Town of Irmo regardless of the county they live in to participate.

D. Chief Perry was excited that Allen University is starting back their football program on September 1st. They have not had a football team since 2005. They will start using the football field at Irmo High School for their college football games and believes this is great news for the Irmo community.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Mrs. Brandi Clarkson, 318 Lord Howe Road, addressed Council on items “D” and “I” under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-22 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE I, IN-GENERAL; SECTION 2-4 – RECOVERY COLLECTION COSTS OF DELINQUENT DEBTS (STAFF):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. Mr. Brown stated that the fines will be collected by the Department of Revenue on an annual basis. The vote for approval was unanimous.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-23 TO DECREASE THE FRANCHISE PAYMENTS FROM 4% TO 3.5% FROM ALL ENTITIES THAT COLLECT AND SUBMIT A FRANCHISE FEE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF IRMO (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mayor King explained that he feels that the increase in franchise fees is too much and that we should decrease it from the recently passed 4% to 3.5%. Mayor King, Mr. Walker and Mr. Pouliot all agreed that Council should only increase rates to what is needed. Mrs. Condom and Mr. Waites agree that due to a shortage in funds, the fee should stay at 4% as passed at last Council meeting. She stated that a disaster has the potential to devastate the Town’s finances. The vote to approve was 3 to 2 with Mr. Waites and Mrs. Condom voting in opposition.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-24 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 20, MUNICIPAL COURT; SECTION 20-3 - MUNICIPAL JUDGE (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Waites seconded it. Mayor King explained that due to recent discussions on the appointment of Judge Adams that the Town’s code of laws needed to mirror state law. State laws allow Council to contract or appoint a Municipal Judge. He feels this change will clarify any questions regarding dual appointments. Mrs. Condom asked Mr. Hale how he feels about the proposed change. Mr. Hale stated that once appointed then Judge Adams would have dual appointments. There was no additional discussion and the vote for approval as written was unanimous.

D. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 18-25 AMENDING 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 (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Walker mentioned that he has been approached by several residents with valid Handicap stickers or tags and they should be exempt from the parking ordinance. He believes that handicap individuals should be allowed to park wherever they need to park to safely enter and exit their home. Mrs. Condom stated she agreed with the change and believes it is the right thing to do. Mr. Waites understands the concerns, but Council should do research prior to passing the ordinance. He explained that every case needs to be evaluated because he has noticed that individuals have their garages filled with junk and park in their yards. Major King agrees exceptions should be made but feels that each case should be approved by the Town Administrator as to where they can park. Mr. Pouliot agrees that allowances should be made but believes this still needs to be discussed as Council proceeds with second and third reading of the proposed ordinance. The vote for approval was unanimous.

E. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 18-06 TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ACT AS CLAIMANT AGENT FOR THE TOWN OF IRMO FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT (STAFF):

Mayor King explained that the Resolution and the agreement will need to be approved by Council before participating in the setoff debt collection program. Mr. Waites made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

F. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS WITHIN THE TOWN OF IRMO MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES BETWEEN MID-CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS (STAFF):

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

G. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ACT AS CLAIMANT AGENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT (STAFF):

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

H. APPROVAL TO CLOSE PORTIONS OF CHURCH STREET, LAKE MURRAY BOULEVARD, ST ANDREWS ROAD, EASTVIEW DRIVE AND BATTERY ROAD FOR THE OKRA STRUT FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018 (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to close portions of Church Street, Lake Murray Boulevard, St. Andrews Road, Eastview Drive and Battery Road during the 2018 Okra Strut Parade and Festival. Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. The vote for approval was unanimous.

I. APPROVAL TO CREATE A TOWN CENTER (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. Mayor King explained that the Planning Commission would like Town Council's approval on a town center before they spend time creating one. He then presented both the Planning Commission's proposed area and his plan. Mayor King feels the town center should be smaller than the Planning Commission's proposed area. In creating a town center, it would change a particular area to a zero lot line with buildings being 2 or 3 stories tall built where retail could be on the bottom level and a residence or office could be on the upper levels. Mrs. Condom stated she likes the idea but thinks the Planning Commission's plan is too big and Mayor's plan is too small. The vote for approval of the town center concept was unanimous.

J. APPROVAL TO SPONSOR A TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT IN THE COMMUNITY PARK ON OCTOBER 27, 2018 (WALKER):

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Walker believes the town should donate \$1,000 to the event. Mrs. Powell stated that she does not need the \$1,000 donation. Mayor King explained that this event has been approved earlier in the meeting when Mrs. Powell presented the idea to Council. He also explained that the event will be promoted on the Town's Facebook, and website page.

Since Mrs. Condom rescinded her second, Mayor King seconded the motion. He then made a motion to amend to sponsor the event in the amount of \$1,000 and Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The vote for approval as amended failed 0 to 5 with all of Council voting in opposition.

The vote to sponsor the event failed 1 to 4 with Mr. Waites, Mayor King, Mrs. Condom, and Mr. Pouliot voting in opposition.

K. RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE BECKI ADAMS AS TOWN JUDGE (MAYOR):

Mayor King made a motion to approve and Mr. Pouliot seconded it. The vote to approve was 4 to 1 with Mr. Walker voting in opposition.

L. APPOINTMENT TO THE TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAFF):

Mrs. Condom made a motion to nominate Mrs. Debbie Turbeville and Mr. Waites seconded. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Mr. Pouliot made a motion to reappoint Mr. Clint Scofield and Mr. Walker seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Mr. George Glassmeyer, 100 Denbeck Road, addressed Council on items "I" and "J" under "New Business" and requested they look at contracting with Lexington County to house the Richland County prisoners for the Town.

DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion of Town Court System (Mayor):

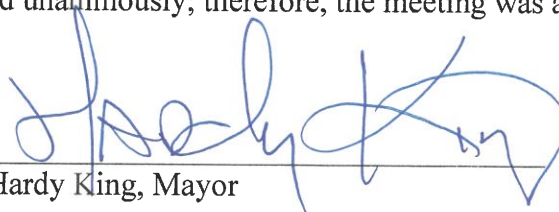
Mayor King explained that Mr. Brown researched the possibility of doing away with the Town's Municipal Court. He explained that Town ordinances will not be tried by magistrate court, and the Town would still need to have a municipal court. He also explained the expenses would increase and there would be no revenue to cover some of those expenses due to the cases being heard by the county. He also stated that officers and residents will be all over the place in the county like Pelion, Batesburg-Leesville, Chapin or wherever the case was on the county docket. This would take police officers off the road due to being in court. It would also increase overtime pay and additional officers would be needed to cover the Irmo streets while other officers are in court. It was decided that this is not something Council wanted to pursue.

B. Discussion on Municipal Judge Salary (Mayor):

Mayor King stated that the Town paid the previous Judge \$36,000 a year for being the full-time judge. If the Town wanted to contract with a Magistrate Judge at \$36,000, the Town would pay the judge \$28,135 and \$7,864 to pay for their benefits. He wanted Council to know this because it would decrease salary for the Judge to \$28,135.

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 9:25 p.m.



Hardy King, Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Clerk/Treasurer

