

**TOWN OF IRMO  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Mayor Pro Tem Condom, Councilmen Busch, Danielson and Sickinger. Others present were Mr. Courtney Dennis, Town Administrator, Police Chief Bobby Dale, Mrs. Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk and Mr. Jake Moore, Town Attorney.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, September 17, 2021 to meet FOIA requirements.

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the August 16, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded it. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the August 17, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the September 07, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded. Mayor Walker verified his understanding that the Irmo Grant Program was added to website and the removal of the Irmo Future Growth Corporation Non-Profit Grant and Business Loan Program. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

**REPORT OF STANDING:**

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Dennis furnished a written briefing to Town Council in their packets and had nothing to add at this time.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:  
DK Nails and Spa – 1100 Dutch Fork Road  
Qutis Esthetic Parlor – 7534 Woodrow Street  
Joshua Renzulli (Computer IT) – 268 East Dean Road

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Mayor Walker and Council presented the September 2021 Small Business of the Month award to Discount Tire of Irmo.

- B. Mayor Walker stated he received a letter Lexington Medical Center stating they have an increase in Covid-19 cases. Therefore, they will offer limited services at the Lexington Medical Center on St. Andrew so they can repurpose staff to meet the demands of care for Covid-19 cases. They also will encourage everyone to wear a mask.
- C. Mayor Walker requested for the Irmo Future Growth Corporation to release the list of businesses that received the grant and how much they received. Mr. Danielson explained that the Irmo Future Growth Corporation is a non-profit organization and is not required by law to release information on the recipients of the small business grants.

**PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:**

Ms. Mary Kennerly, Irmo International Festival, addressed Council on item “C” under New Business

Ms. Jenne Bennet addressed Council on item “H” under New Business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 21-09 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 8, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE II – TECHNICAL CODES (BUSCH):**

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

**B. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 21-10 TO REZONE PROPERTY ON MUSKRAT RUN ROAD AS SHOWN ON RICHLAND COUNTY TMS#03202-01 LOTS (S) 16 AND 17 NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY CLIFTON HALL FROM GENERAL RESIDENTIAL (RG) TO FRINGE AGRICULTURE (FA) (STAFF):**

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Busch made a motion to defer to October 19, 2021 due to the request from the owner and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Aye”, Mrs. Condom voted “Aye”, Mr. Danielson voted “Aye”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Aye” and Mayor Walker voted “Aye”. The vote for approval to defer to October 19, 2021 was unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 21-11 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 10, BUSINESSES; ARTICLE II, LICENSES PURSUANT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA BUSINESS LICENSE TAX STANDARDIZATION ACT (2020 ACT NO. 176) (STAFF):**

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve and Mr. Danielson seconded it. Mr. Danielson explained this will standardize the Irmo business license tax to the standards of the Business License Tax Standardization Act.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote for approval was unanimous.

**B. RATIFICATION OF RESOLUTION 21-03 DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES AND CONTACT PERSONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (MAYOR):**

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. After a short discussion, Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve was unanimous.

**C. APPROVAL TO AWARD ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDS TO LAKE MURRAY COUNTRY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,795 AND THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000 (ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE):**

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mayor Walker made a motion to amend to earmark \$2,500 of \$32,795 to the Lake Murray Country "Visit SC" publication and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote for approval to amend was unanimous.

Mr. Busch voiced concerns to giving more to Lake Murray Country than asked. Mr. Busch made a motion to consider dividing the \$32,795 and giving some to the Irmo Okra Strut and the Irmo Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Danielson seconded it. Mr. Danielson stated that he is not in favor of giving Lake Murray Country more than they requested but does not necessarily want to go against the committee. Mr. Sickinger agrees and clarified his understanding that they are awarding \$25,000 to Lake Murray Country, \$5,295 to the Irmo Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Walker understands but believes they should go with the recommendation of the Accommodation Tax Committee.

Mr. Danielson made a motion that \$10,000 from the Hospitality Tax be awarded to the Irmo Chamber of Commerce. After some discussion, he withdrew his motion and requested this to be added to the October 19, 2021 Council's agenda for approval.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Nye". The vote for approval was approved 4 to 1 with Mayor Walker voting in opposition. Then, Mayor Walker stated that \$9,000 to the International Festival, \$5,295 to the Irmo Chamber of Commerce, and \$27,500 to Lake Murray Country with \$2,500 to be designating for an ad in the "Visit SC" Regional Visitor's Magazine.

**D. APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH AAA WELL DRILLING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,163.81 TO CONSTRUCT A WELL AT THE RAWLS CREEK PARK. (STAFF):**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Sickinger explained that this will give supply water to the Rawls Creek Park. Mr. Danielson asked if this is the lowest bid and Mr. Dennis stated this was the only bid. Mayor Walker confirmed with Mr. Cline that this company has dug wells for the Town in the past. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote for approval was unanimous.

**E. APPROVAL TO AWARD THE OKRA STRUT \$20,000 FROM THE ABC SPECIAL FUND. (MAYOR):**

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condon seconded it. Mayor Walker stated these funds are restricted and must be used on tourist related items. Mr. Lindower, Irmo Okra Sturt Commission, explained that these funds are included in the current budget. He continued to explain the cost of the expenses has increased. At that point, Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve was unanimous.

**F. APPROVAL TO CREATE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR POSITION IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT. (SICKINGER):**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mayor Walker seconded it. Mr. Sickinger explained the person would work to recruit business and promote the Town of Irmo as well as releasing official messages to the residents. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve was unanimous.

**G. APPROVAL TO RATIFY A CONTRACT WITH GAFFNEY LEWIS, LLC. (STAFF):**

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mr. Danielson seconded it. Mayor Walker stated the firm was asked to investigate a hostile working environment due to comments made from Mr. Brown, Retired Town Administrator. He then clarified his understanding that Mr. Brown is only coming into the office as needed for the purpose of consulting with Mr. Dennis. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve was unanimous.

**H. APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TOWN OF IRMO AND INVESTORS REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT TMS# 002799-01-001 LOCATED AT 6354 ST. ANDREWS ROAD LEXINGTON COUNTY (DANIELSON):**

Mr. Danielson made a motion to approve and Mayor Walker seconded it. Mr. Danielson wants Mr. Moore to investigate as to whether the Town should partner with others to develop the property located on St. Andrews Road and create parking for the greenway and believes this project will help grow the Town. Mr. Sickinger then added that the Town would annex the property into the Town of Irmo. Mayor Walker explained that the Irmo Future Growth Corporation should take on this project instead of spending Town funds.

Mr. Sickinger stated in the past, Council directed the attorney and administrator to go after properties that are outside the Town limits and is not out of the norm. Mr. Busch is in favor of looking into it into the partnership. Mrs. Condom believes this is part of long term plan and this partnership could start the Town's long term plans. She further explained the developers need the buy in from the Town of Irmo in order for this to be a successful project. Mr. Danielson stated that he believes the Town Attorney may work on this with no cost to the Town. Mr. Sickinger called the question and it was seconded by Mr. Busch. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve the question called was unanimous.

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

**I. APPROVAL TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 107 LAKE MURRAY BOULEVARD, LEXINGTON COUNTY TMS#001925-03-009 (MAYOR):**

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

**J. APPROVAL TO RATIFY A CONTRACT WITH SISTER HAZEL FOR THIS YEAR'S OKRA STRUT. (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):**

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. After a short discussion, Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Aye", Mrs. Condom voted "Aye", Mr. Danielson voted "Aye", Mr. Sickinger voted "Aye" and Mayor Walker voted "Aye". The vote to approve was unanimous.

**PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:**

Mr. Jake Moore introduced Council to Ms. Callee Jumper, Attorney, who will help him with day to day items that may arise for the Town of Irmo.

Ms. Allison Hewitt addressed Council to give an update on the proposed Sport's Tourism Center.

Ms. Jenne Bennet addressed Council regarding the upcoming election.

**DISCUSSION:**

A. COVID procedures during the 2021 Okra Strut (Mayor): Mayor Walker called on Mr. Lindower to explain their Covid procedures for the Okra Strut event which will include both vendors and volunteers be masked as well as requesting citizens to wear a mask. He stated that hand sanitation units will be throughout the park and they are increasing the number of hand-washing stations also.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Walker made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two contractual matters concerning a digital sign and negotiation of purchase of property; and it passed 4 to 1 with Mr. Sickinger voting in opposition. Therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Jumper, went into executive session at 8:37 p.m. Mayor Walker called the meeting back to order at 8:52 p.m. and stated that no votes were taken while in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mrs. Condom made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk