

TOWN OF IRMO
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 19, 2021

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 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, and Mr. Jake Moore, Town Attorney. Mrs. Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk, was absent.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, October 15, 2021 to meet FOIA requirements.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Walker 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:

Mrs. Condom made a motion to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded it. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve the October 5, 2021 minutes and Mrs. Condom seconded. The vote for approval as submitted was unanimous.

Mr. Busch made a motion to approve the October 14, 2021 minutes and Mrs. Condom seconded. 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 took a moment to introduce Mr. Rodney Tucker as the new Assistant Town Administrator.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:
Jazzy Kidz – 7711 St. Andrews Road
Step Closer Solutions, LLC – 924 Friarsgate Boulevard

*** AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Danielson made a motion to defer item “J” under New Business until the November 16, 2021 Council Meeting and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor Walker and Council presented the October 2021 Small Business of the Month award to Ramco Framing and Design.

B. Mayor Walker stated the Midlands Leadership group is working on the entryways into the Columbia area and explained that Mr. Dennis had a conference call with the group. Mr. Dennis then explained that the group is working on a beautification project within a 10 mile radius of the State House to on entryways from I-77, I-26, and I-20. It is being funded by the State and stated that Irmo will be included on the project and the only cost to the Town would be to maintain the area. He will receive more information soon and will keep Council informed. They are looking to present design items to Council.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS (Agenda Items IX and X Only):

Ms. Marsha Clark addressed Council on item “B” under Consideration of Communications and item “A” under Unfinished Business.

Mr. Antonio Gates addressed Council on item “A” under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. 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. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Dennis stated that the owner requested that this item be withdrawn. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “No”, Mrs. Condom voted “No”, Mr. Danielson voted “No”, Mr. Sickinger voted “No” and Mayor Walker voted “No”. The vote for approval failed unanimously.

B. SECOND AND FINAL 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. Sickinger made a motion to approve and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 21-12 AMENDING THE IRMO TOWN CODE, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION DISTRIBUTING FUNDS TO NON-PROFITS AND BUSINESSES IN EXCESS OF \$10,000 (MAYOR):

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor Walker stated that he put this item on the agenda to address concerns surrounding the distributing of funds from the Town of Irmo. This will require that an expenditure report for any funds over \$10,000 must be given to Irmo Town Council or the Town Administrator within 30 days. Mrs. Condom stated that the Town has given funds in the past to other 501-3c such as the Arbor Day with no required reporting. She explained that money was given to the Irmo Future Growth Corporation to help Irmo Businesses during the Covid pandemic which Council unanimously approved. She continued to explain that there are no taxes in the Town of Irmo because of the Business License Tax and they needed help and it was handled correctly as required by law.

Mrs. Condom mentioned the personal financial cannot be given out. Mayor Walker stated that this Ordinance is not asking for financial records, but who was given money, how much they received and how did they qualify for the funds. Mrs. Condom stated that it was her understanding that the businesses had to use their personal checking account to stay open. Mr. Busch and Mr. Sickinger questioned the “detailed itemized” reporting and how it is a duplication for both Hospitality and Accommodation funding since they already report information. Mr. Sickinger also stated how ambiguous the language is in the ordinance by stating that Council or the Town Administrator could ask for the reporting as many times as wanted given authority to harass individuals regularly.

Mr. Sickinger called the question and Mrs. Condom seconded the motion. Mayor Walker then called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “No”. The vote to approve the call to question passed 4 to 1 with Mayor Walker voting in opposition.

Therefore, Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “No”, Mrs. Condom voted “No”, Mr. Danielson voted “No”, Mr. Sickinger voted “No” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval failed 1 to 4 with Mr. Busch, Mrs. Condom, Mr. Danielson, and Mr. Sickinger voting in opposition.

B. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 21-04 DIGITAL SIGN (MAYOR):

Mayor Walker made a motion to defer until the November 16, 2021 Council Meeting and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote to defer was unanimous.

C. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A WALKER 27HP RIDING MOWER FROM HILTON’S POWER EQUIPMENT UNDER STATE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,353.90 (STAFF)

Mr. Danielson made a motion to approve and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mr. Danielson called upon Mr. Cline to explain that this will replace a 2005 mower that has a blown motor making it inoperable. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

D. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A CATERPILLAR 415 BACKHOE LOADER FROM BLANCHARD MACHINERY UNDER STATE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,966 (STAFF):

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Cline stated this will replace the current 2004 Volvo Backhoe Loader. He added that replacement parts are no longer around which has caused issues. He further explained that it is a good piece of equipment and is being purchased from a dealership located in Irmo. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mrs. Condom voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes” and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

E. APPROVAL TO AWARD THE GREATER IRMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE \$20,000 FROM GENERAL FUND (DANIELSON):

Mr. Danielson made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Danielson stated that after the \$5,295 distribution they received from the Accommodation Tax, Council had discussed giving some additional money to the Chamber by other means due to all the things they do for the Town of Irmo. Mayor Walker stated that he would like to give the money from another account such as the Hospitality Tax Fund or the American Rescue Fund instead of the General Fund.

Mayor Walker made a motion to award the funds from Hospital Tax instead of the General Fund. Mr. Danielson seconded the motion. Mr. Sickinger clarified that this is an allowable expense since Hospitality Tax is restricted to tourism related activities. Mr. Busch stated that it was his understanding that \$10,000 was budgeted from General Fund for the Irmo Chamber and they would only be giving them an additional \$10,000 making it \$20,000 to the Irmo Chamber and not \$30,000. Mayor Walker explained that he understood they would give \$20,000 from Hospitality and \$10,000 from the General Fund making it a total of \$30,000 to the Irmo Chamber. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Yes", Mrs. Condom voted, "Yes", Mr. Danielson voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes" and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote for approval of the amendment was unanimous.

Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Yes", Mrs. Condom voted, "Yes", Mr. Danielson voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes" and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote to approve giving the Irmo Chamber of Commerce \$20,000 was unanimous.

F. APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS PROGRAM TO \$1,500 FOR FY21-22 (CONDOM):

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

G. APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A 10-YEAR BILLING CONTRACT WITH COST SAVING INCENTIVES BETWEEN DOMINION ENERGY AND THE TOWN OF IRMO TO CONVERT TWENTY-TWO (22) STREETLIGHTS FROM HID TO LED (STAFF):

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve and Mrs. Condom seconded it. Mr. Cline stated this will make the street brighter and save energy. Mr. Dennis added that there will be a notification system installed to automatically let Dominion Energy know when a light is out making it more efficient. Mr. Busch stated he is recusing himself from the vote because of a conflict of interest because he works for Dominion Energy. Mayor Walker called upon Mr. Dennis for a rollcall vote: Mrs. Condom voted "Yes", Mr. Danielson voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes" and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote for approval was unanimous.

H. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM SCDPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,300 FOR 5 NEW COMPUTERS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT (MAYOR):

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

I. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM SCDPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,400 TO REPLACE 12 POLICE RADIOS (MAYOR):

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

***DEFERRED J. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE IRMO FUTURE GROWTH CORPORATION (DANIELSON):**

SEE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Ms. Krista Baird, 1000 Hollowtree Court, addressed Council on sidewalks and bicycle lanes.
Ms. Marsha Clark, 1000 Hollowtree, addressed Council on funding reporting and safety, streetlights, and bicycle lanes
Ms. Katrina Javis, 213 Treyburn Circle, addressed Council Non-Profit Funds reporting
Mr. Greg Edmonds, 414 Zanark Drive, addressed Council on Non-Profit Funds
Mr. Christopher Davis, 213 Treyburn Circle, addressed Council Fund reporting

DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion on the Irmo Future Growth reporting (Mayor):

Mayor Walker stated the reporting has already been discussed and the rest of Council agreed to skip this discussion.


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 8:25 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk