

**TOWN OF IRMO  
INAUGURATION CEREMONY &  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2021**

The Irmo Town Council held an inauguration and a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 in the Municipal Building. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Councilmen Busch, Danielson, Sickinger, and Councilwoman Waldman. Others present were Mr. Courtney Dennis, Town Administrator; Mr. Rodney Tucker, Assistant 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, December 3, 2021 to meet FOIA requirements.

**INAUGURATION CEREMONY**

**1. SWEARING IN OF BILL DANIELSON AS IRMO COUNCIL MEMBER:**

Mr. Danielson was administered the Oath of Office by Mrs. Peggy Danielson.

**2. SWEARING IN OF BARBARA WALDMAN AS IRMO COUNCIL MEMBER:**

Dr. Waldman was administered the Oath of Office by Judge Becky Adams.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and Mr. Evan Blair along with Troop 48 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Walker gave the Invocation.

**1. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE:**

Mayor Walker nominated Mr. Sickinger and Dr. Waldman seconded it. Mr. Busch nominated Mr. Danielson and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Sickinger received 2 votes and Mr. Danielson received 3 votes. Therefore, Mr. Danielson was appointed as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL CLERK.:**

Mayor Walker nominated Mrs. Renee Caviness as the Municipal Clerk. Mr. Sickinger seconded it and the vote to appoint Mrs. Renee Caviness was unanimous.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY.:**

Mayor Walker nominated Mr. Jake Moore of the Moore Bradley, Myers Law Firm. Mr. Sickinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Walker informed Council that Mr. Danielson will sign checks. Mayor Walker mentioned that Council will need to select a representative that will attend the Council of Government's meetings.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mayor Walker asked if any changes need to be made and Dr. Waldman requested “Reclused” be changed to “recused” in two instances in item “C” under “New Business”. The vote for approval as amended was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Dennis furnished a written briefing to Town Council and stated that Chief Dale gave everyone a copy of the November Police Report.

B. Mr. Sickinger welcomed the following new businesses to the Town of Irmo:

- Irmo Storage, LLC. – 7949 Broad River Road
- The Right Touch Landscaping – 597 Compass Rose Way

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor Walker and Council presented the December 2021 Small Business of the Month award to Zaxby’s.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS (Agenda Items IX and X Only): None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 21-13 TO ANNEX RICHLAND COUNTY TAX PARCEL # R03203-01-26 (7.70 ACRES) ON SALEM CHURCH ROAD NEAR MUSKRAT RUN NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY LINDA DUFFIE (STAFF):**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve in title only and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

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

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker stated this item is no longer needed and is being addressed in item “G”. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “No”, Mr. Danielson voted “No”, Mr. Sickinger voted “No”, Dr. Waldman voted “No”, and Mayor Walker voted “No”. The vote failed unanimously.

**C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 21-07 PROVIDING A PROGRAM FEE FOR THE MASC RETAIL RECRUITMENT TRAINING PROGRAM (STAFF):**

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

**D. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE LEXINGTON COUNTY TAX PARCEL 001925-01-015 AND RICHLAND COUNTY TAX PARCEL #R03911-03-45 DEPICTED AS 9.81 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450,000 PLUS \$5,000 IN CLOSING COSTS (MAYOR):**

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker stated this property is near the Community Park of Irmo and will allow for expansion of the park. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Yes", Mr. Danielson voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes", Dr. Waldman voted "Yes", and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote for approval was unanimous.

**E. APPOINTMENTS TO THE OKRA STRUT COMMISSION - 2 OPENINGS (STAFF):**

Mayor Walker stated that the Okra Strut Commission recommended Ms. Kimberly Snipes and Mr. John Lindower. He made a motion to reappoint Mr. John Lindower and appoint Ms. Kimberly Snipes. Dr. Waldman seconded the motion. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Yes", Mr. Danielson voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes", Dr. Waldman voted "Yes", and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote for approval was unanimous.

**F. APPOINTMENTS TO THE IRMO FUTURE GROWTH CORPORATION – 2 OPENINGS (DANIELSON):**

Mr. Danielson stated the Irmo Future Growth Commission has three openings. However, it was decided to appoint for two open positions at this time and appoint for the third position after the December meeting. He stated that they recommend Ms. Kalyan Monroe and Mr. Scott Moseley be appointed.

Mayor Walker nominated Ms. Kalyan Monroe, Mr. Scott Moseley, and Ms. Marsha Clark and it was not seconded. Therefore, the motion failed.

Mr. Danielson made a motion to appoint Mr. Scott Moseley and Ms. Kalyan Monroe with the stipulation that within seven business days they will complete the application. Mr. Busch seconded it and the vote for approval was unanimous.

Mayor Walker nominated Ms. Marsha Clark and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Both Mr. Sickinger and Mr. Busch want an opportunity to evaluate the additional candidates and allow the Irmo Future Growth Corporation an opportunity to evaluate them. Therefore, the vote failed 1 to 4 with Mr. Busch, Mr. Sickinger, Dr. Waldman, and Mr. Danielsson in opposition.

**G. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF IRMO AND GRACE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING FOR USE OF DIGITAL SIGN LOCATED AT 1150 LAKE MURRAY BOULEVARD (MAYOR):**

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Busch stated this is a legal sign and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not needed. Mayor Walker explained that this MOU allows the Town of Irmo with advertising rights. Dr. Waldman suggested that the language in the MOU should be modified so that there is no reference to the sign being non-conforming.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to amend to strike through the following paragraph on the Memorandum of Understanding:

“The Town acknowledges that this sign recently became non-conforming with the changes to the Irmo Town Code in 2020 and will acknowledge through a Resolution the designation of the digital sign located at 1150 Lake Murray boulevard as a non-conforming sign pursuant to the Town of Irmo Zoning Ordinance.” Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote on the amended: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval as amended was unanimous.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote to approve the amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was unanimous.

#### PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

Ms. Jessica Carswell, owner of TFA Cafe, stated the Irmo Holiday Market will be at Steve Padgett’s Honda of Columbia on December 11, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mr. Gerald Meetze suggested that Council should consider creating an Architectural Review Board for Commercial Building.

Mrs. Marie Ryan of the Friarsgate Committee stated they are having this event at the afterschool program which is located at 220 North Royal Tower this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. They have already donated skateboards, helmets, and pads for the free event. They also have received additional donations including materials from Lowe’s (West Columbia) and a \$50.00 gift card from Academy Sports to purchase more helmets. This event is being held so that the kids at the afterschool program can get acclimated to skateboarding since the program will be close to the Rawls Creek Skate Park. There will also be skaters there to train the kids on safety.

#### DISCUSSION:

##### A. CLEANING RETENTION PONDS BY ALLOWING GOATS TO EAT VEGETATION (MAYOR):

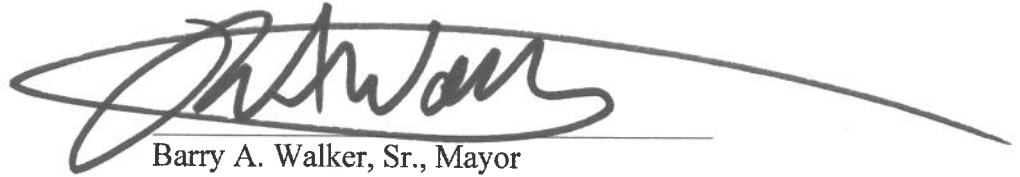
Mayor Walker explained that he had been approached by a citizen who gave a suggestion to rent goats to clean the vegetation around detention ponds. There was a brief conversation regarding the contamination to the water by the goats. The discussion ended with Mr. Cline stating that he will setup a meeting with the Lexington County Stormwater Consortium and Council to discuss all options.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

##### A. PERSONNEL ISSUE – DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY (DANIELSON):

Mayor Walker made a motion to go into executive session to discuss appointment of Town Attorney and Mr. Danielson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously; therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Dennis, and Mr. Moore, went into executive session at 8:17 p.m. Mayor Walker called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m. and stated that no votes were taken.

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 8:46 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk