BLUFFTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2010

Mayor Sulka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Brown, Hamilton, Mitchell and Raymond. Town Manager Barrett, Assistant Town Managers Freeman, Fletcher and Orlando and Town Attorney Finger were also in attendance.

Pledge to the Flag and invocation was given.

Adoption of Agenda:
Mitchell moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Hamilton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes:
Raymond moved to adopt the minutes of February 9, 2010 as presented. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:
Jimmy McIntire, 90 Big Bluff Drive, stated his concerns on why the Town did not pursue the scenic highway designation for Hwy. 46. The residents should have been informed on why the designation did not happen. He also complained about being investigated by the Police Department on a regular basis for asking hard questions to Town Staff.
Cora Green/Pastor Pearlie Harvey representing "Community First", stated they need funds and a building to be able to continue their programs.
Maureen Richards, Executive Director of the Heyward House, gave an overview of the 2009 Heyward House Visitor Statistics.
Shere Colborn, complained that the tree trimming company damaged her property with bushes not being protected from falling limbs. They also cut trees that should not have been cut.
Sharon Brown, 160 Buck Island Road, thanked the Police Department for following up on the Twin Oaks complaint. She inquired on the status on the Wellstone abandoned building. She was told that final reading would be held tonight for the Unsafe, Uninhabited Buildings/Structures Ordinance that would enable the Town to enforce such issues. She also stated her concerns for the Bluffton Middle School not having sidewalks. Council was in consensus and is still pursing funds for this project.

Communications from Mayor and Council:
Mayor Sulka announced the following:

a. Sam Bennett died. He played a major part in establishing Eagles' Field and should be honored in some way.
b. She attended the first Senior Scholars Banquet. Fifty outstanding students from all over the County attended.
c. Attended a ribbon cutting on Saturday for the new skate park located at Buckwalter Park.
d. The Farmers Market will reopen on Thursday.

Presentations, Recognitions and Celebrations:

a. Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation – Mayor Sulka read the proclamation which was accepted by Board Member Nancy Pinkerton.
b. Census Day Proclamation – Mayor Sulka read the proclamation which was accepted by Mayor Pro Tempore Hamilton.
c. Career Criminals Team – Solicitor Duffie Stone gave an overview of the progress made by the Career Criminals Team to target repeat offenders with a 90% conviction rate. He requested for the Town to continue the funding of $30,000 toward this initiative.
d. Volunteers in Medicine, Inc. (VIM) – Jennifer Brown stated they were not affiliated with the Volunteers in Medicine on Hilton Head. She requested Council's support in assisting with finding a building and funds. VIM will serve people who work and live in Bluffton who do not have insurance.

Public Hearing and Priorities Determined:

a. Annual Needs and Assessment of Town's Priorities:

Public hearing began at 6:45 p.m.
Lowcountry Council of Governments Community & Economic Director Michelle Knight gave an overview of the SC CDBG Program that is designed to provide assistance to units of local governments in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income (LMI). Knight stated that language translations were available for those needing assistance, and Officer Hebda was at the meeting to provide such services. She also requested for those who had not signed the public hearing sign-in sheet to do so on the way out. (continued on next page)

Public Hearing and Priorities Determined – Continued:

i. Public comments – There were none.

Public hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

ii. Consideration of Town's Priorities of Community Needs:

Hamilton moved to rank and may also be revised if needed the Town's Priorities as follows: 1) Sewer & Water in BIS area; 2) Drainage; 3) Affordable Housing; and 4) Pedestrian Safety. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

a. Police – Chief McAllister was available for questions and comments.
b. Finance/Administration – Freeman was available for questions and comments.
c. Engineering – Fletcher was available for questions and comments. He gave an overview of the Verdier Cove Drainage Basin's summary findings and recommendations. He also gave an update on the Building and Grounds Facilities that will be located at the Oscar J. Frazier Park.
d. Growth Management – Orlando was available for questions and comments. He discussed the March 20th's May River Cleanup. The aggregated cost of the Affordable Housing program was requested.
e. Human Resources – Hershey was available for questions and comments.

Special Events Ordinance – Final Reading:

Malone stated Staff made the recommended revisions to the proposed ordinance. **Raymond moved to have final reading to adopt the Special Events Ordinance. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Amendment to the Town of Bluffton Municipal Code, Chapter 5, Article 9, Unsafe, Uninhabited Buildings and Structures – Final Reading:

Hodge stated the amendment will include additional requirements and procedures for the abatement of unsafe, uninhabited buildings and structures by alteration, repair, rehabilitation demolition or removal. **Brown moved to have final reading to adopt the Amendment to the Town of Bluffton Municipal Code, Chapter 5, Article 9, Unsafe, Uninhabited Buildings and Structures. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Beaufort County Stormwater Utility Board Staff Appointee:
Rhodes stated the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility Board is responsible for advising municipal councils on matters related to the Stormwater Utility. Staff is recommending John Carmack for an ex-officio member of the Board as he is very experienced in stormwater, construction, and contract management. The Board will work to fulfill the 2011 goals of stormwater issues. **Hamilton moved to appoint John Carmack for a term of four years to the Beaufort County Stormwater Utility Board. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Town of Bluffton Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee Appointments:
Carmack stated the Committee will objectively evaluate the Town's water quality monitoring programs, statistically evaluate data and describe the trends they exhibit, and provide technical guidance for further studies and courses of action. Appointing this committee will formalize the Town's partnership with federal, state and non-governmental organizations, providing access to experts in the fields of water quality monitoring, analysis, and ecological modeling.
Mitchell moved to appoint the following organizations to the Town of Bluffton Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee: 1) National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration – Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research; 2) SC Department of Natural resources – Marine Resources Research Institute; 3) SC Department of Health & Environmental Control – Environmental Quality Control, Region 8; 4) United States Geological Survey – SC Water Science Center; 5) Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4; 6) Clemson University – Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology & Forest Service; 7) National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration – Cooperative Oxford Laboratory; 8) Lowcountry Institute; 9) SC Department of Health & Environmental Control – Environmental Quality Control, Region 8; 10) University of South Carolina – Department of Environmental Health Services; 11) SC Department of Natural Resources – Marine Resources Research Institute; and 12) University of South Carolina Beaufort – Environmental Health Science. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tulifinny Proposed Annexation, Information Only:
Orlando and Tulifnny's Chief Financial Officer Frank Concino gave an overview. The property consists of a 43.1 acre site located along the southern side SC Hwy. 46, south of Hwy. 46/SC Hwy. 170 roundabout. The property is located within the Town's Future Annexation Area. The properties to the west of the subject property are within the Jones Estate Development Agreement and are incorporated within the New Riverside Concept Plan. The property currently contains a commercial equestrian center, dormitory building, classrooms, maintenance facility, and several other structures. The Applicant has expressed a desire to open a private facility to help teenage girls who have lost direction in life and need help. There was consensus for Staff to proceed with proposed annexation.

Town Manager's Report:
Barrett, on Council's recommendations to have one meeting a month requested Council to set the Council Meeting April date. It was the consensus of Council to schedule the meeting for April 6th.

Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority (BJWSA) Board of Directors Appointment:
Michael Bell, Town of Bluffton's Representative on BJWSA Board of Directors, stated his term would soon expired. He requested Council to reappoint him, if they wish. **Hamilton moved to amend the agenda to add the appointment of the BJWSA Board of Directors' appointment. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Hamilton moved to reappoint Michael Bell as the Town of Bluffton's representative on the BJWSA Board of Directors for a term of six years. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:
There were none.

Executive Session:

a. Contractual Matters – Land Acquisition
b. Committee Appointments – Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals Committee

Brown moved for Council to go into executive session to discuss Contractual Matters and Committee Appointments. Hamilton seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Council entered into executive session at 8:20 p.m.

Action from the Result of Executive Session:
Mayor Sulka called the meeting back to order at 8:38 p.m. and announced no votes were taken.
Brown moved for the Town to purchase 48 Wharf Street, 50 Wharf Street, and Parcel 307 and donate 51 Wharf Street for the construction of six "green" cottages as a part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant. Mitchell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mitchell moved to reappoint Paul Miller, Matt Hoffmeier and Randy Jeffcoat for a four year term on the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals Committee. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Mayor

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Town Clerk