



Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Philip T. Glennon Center – Council Chambers
15077 Molokai Drive, Tega Cay, SC
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor George Sheppard, Mayor Pro Tempore David O'Neal, Dottie Hersey, Ryan Richard and Jennifer Stalford. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Charlie Funderburk, City Manager; Police Chief Steve Parker, Fire Chief Scott Szymanski; Sylvia Szymanski, Municipal Clerk and City Attorney Bob McCleave

The Press was duly notified of the meeting.

Mayor George Sheppard called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and noted it was a Regular City Council meeting. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

MOTION

Councilmember Richard motioned to table Item 2 on the Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Hersey and approved unanimously.

ITEM 1 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- A. Police Chief Parker recognized Sgt. Rob Burns, Mike Peak and Sue Maner for their assistance with the Tega Cay Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Mike Peek, with the State Fraternal Order of Police, was commended for his assistance in getting \$4,000 donated to the Tega Cay Polar Plunge. Chief Parker and Mayor Sheppard presented the SC Special Olympics a \$24,571 check.

ITEM 2 OATH OF OFFICE

TABLED.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Gene Esarove, 3081 Point Clear Drive, commented that people have been driving on his property for the last eight months and made a request to have the area repaired.

ITEM 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no changes to the 1/17/17 minutes and they were approved.

ITEM 5 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Coyote Management Update

City Manager Funderburk presented Andrew Cole of Song Dog Wildlife Management who updated Council on his findings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Gene Esarove, 3081 Point Clear Drive, asked about the cost of the trap. They are \$209/dozen.
2. Zachary Smith, 1838 Chestnut Hill Drive, asked about what happens after coyotes are off-site. Mr. Cole answered that the end result was disposal of nuisance animal.
3. Walt Krasinski, 943 Knob Creek Lane, asked when the coyotes were caught. They were caught on separate days.
4. Barbara Whelan, 1006 Knob Creek Lane asked about keystone species. Red wolf was the keystone wild canine, plus black bear and Eastern cougar.

ITEM 6 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Qualifications for Tega Cay Forever Foundation Board Members

City Manager Funderburk asked for input from Council on qualifications. Councilmember Stalford asked about by-laws and agenda responsibilities. City Manager Funderburk noted the secretary would be responsible for the by-laws. Agendas would be prepared by the chair and staff.

Councilmember Stalford wanted that info noted so new members were aware of the assistance available. She also asked that these members be familiar with not for profit because those financials are different. She wants background checks performed and an orientation provided so the members understand the rules. She would like to see these members have Directors & Officers Liability Insurance to protect themselves as well as staff. Councilmember Hersey noted that as partners, the treasurer or board acts as fiduciaries with decision making powers and potentially lots of money. City Manager Funderburk reiterated this would be a supporting organization to the City. He asked for continued ideas from Council.

ITEM 7 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Funderburk congratulated the following staff members on their recent accomplishments: Lt./EMT Dan Wilkins- TCFD Firefighter of the Year | Senior Eng. Chris Reid- Newport VFD Firefighter of the Year | Lt. Kenny Sallenger- Flint Hill VFD Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Sallenger & Lt. Blackwelder, also recently achieved their National EMT certifications- with this, our Fire Department will be assisting on EMT calls within 30 days. The City had a meeting with Duke Energy and Campco together on Catawba Park. Duke Energy is further along in their FERC permitting process with their recreation management plan and it may be late spring or early summer. The City cannot disturb anything on their property until their Recreation Management Plan is approved which could be in May. By waiting until May, the City could save \$500,000-\$750,000 by creating a 3-foot elevation instead of 6-foot. The city attorney is working with the Duke Lease Agreement and the Springs Lease Agreement. Mayors' Cup Golf Tournament is March 24 at noon. Sign up now until March 18. The following committees have openings: BOZA-3 openings, Building Codes Appeals Board-3 openings; Planning Commission-4 openings; Storm Water 6 openings. This is a city known for its volunteers and we ask that you consider volunteering for a committee. There is some training needed for Planning and Zoning Committees and while some committees meet once or twice a month, some meet only once or twice a year. Applications are on our website. Council was updated on Hubert Graham Way which is scheduled to open May 11 due to an issue with washout where the bridge is. The sidewalk along Gold Hill Road that was removed should be going in soon. The 6 to 10 week delay was caused by utility relocation on the gas line feeding to the peninsula. Regarding Catawba Park, LEED principles are being used for recreation open space, it will not be LEED certified, but the landscape architect and the Campco engineers are using LEED best management practices in the design work. The city could keep bid alternates for consideration if the Tega Cay Forever Foundation were to achieve its fundraising goals. One example was the initial talks around storm water and using drainage swells and rain gardens instead of excavating and putting infrastructure in the ground. They look to incorporating those as they continue the design portions.

ITEM 8 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ITEM 9 COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sheppard congratulated Mayor Pro Tem O'Neal on graduating from the Municipal Association Elected Officials Institute.

Councilmember Richard mentioned to those at home that there were no helicopters, no news vans, and no protesters here for coyotes. Council looks to the opinion of the citizens and go in the direction expected of Council. There is zero doubt that is what Council did. Thanks to Song Dogs for coming out.

Councilmember Stalford noted that although her core values are against acting on the coyotes, as an elected official, she serves everyone. She felt this was the best decision because there is the possibility of coyotes being too comfortable in the area, not being afraid of humans, and she knew of someone whose dog was attacked while it was walked on a leash. The National Wildlife Control Training Program's website has a checklist 1-8 indicating the more boxes checked off, the more there is a

concern and potential problem in a community. Tega Cay has seven of the eight boxes checked off. April 22 is the Spring Pick Me Up and is a great way for the community to come together. The Beautification Committee has many workdays planned. Check their Facebook page. If those workdays don't work for you, send a message and other dates can be offered.

Councilmember Hersey indicated her decision on the coyotes was not based on the safety of the citizens or animals, obviously people come first at all times. Her decision was based on information from DNR and some personal research. Her concerns were liability from the traps, disturbing the ecological balance when the dominant pair are removed, and the rest multiply. She was concerned the City might be creating a bigger problem. From a humane perspective, she doesn't like to see anything trapped or killed. It was a hard decision and Council is sensitive to it and the facts. Council wants to support the City and the people who live in it and to preserve the environment we live in. A year ago deer complaints were up, not coyotes, perhaps next it will be red foxes. Hopefully this resolves the problem and it won't need to be addressed again.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Neal made no comments.

Mayor Sheppard reiterated that based on phone calls including one at 12:30 am on a Thursday, he was unsure if there is a problem. Some residents had an issue with deer. DNR came and counted the deer, and the City does not have a deer issue. Now it's coyotes. The City spent an unbudgeted \$1400, but Council voted on it to see if there was a coyote problem. Based on the fact that only 4 coyotes were caught, I don't believe we do. There is a business license bill before the state house. Columbia wants to go away from Hometown Rule which was once voted on and now they want to take over the business license bill and that affects our budget to \$700,000 over the next two years. Other local mayors will get together regarding this. Our representatives Gary Simrill, Tommy Pope and Raye Felder, Ralph Norman has resigned his seat, but the other representatives are confused and don't understand the impact. If it goes through, Tega Cay will have to increase taxes. The increased taxes will be 7 mils. Average cost of a mil is \$55,000 per York County. However, the state Legislature won't allow the City to do an increase of 7 mils because they tell us how much the City can increase the mils based on the CPI and the population. If this goes through and the City cannot do the mil increase, the City may not be able to hire firefighters or police officers. The City of Clemson passed a resolution two days ago which they are sending to their legislation. A resolution will be on the next agenda. An example of this would be that Wal-Mart, which based out of Arkansas, will not have to pay the full price of a business license anymore, they would get a 25% exemption because they are based out of Arkansas. But, Danny's Pizza, Tega Cay Deli, Fresh Greco, etc., would have to pay 100%. This new business license legislation would support the big guy and hurt small business. The small businesses are members of our community.

ITEM 10 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
MOTION

Councilmember Hersey motioned to enter into Executive Session for Discussion of Contractual Matters as it Pertains to the Sale of City-owned Properties TMS# 643-12-01-060, 643-12-01-061, and 643-12-01-062, seconded by Councilmember Stalford and approved unanimously.

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. and exited at 7:46 p.m. Only those items on the agenda were discussed and no votes were taken other than to return to open session.

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

There being no further business, Councilmember Hersey motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem O'Neal and approved unanimously.

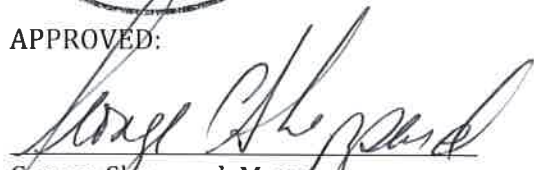


The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sylvia Szymanski, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:


George Sheppard, Mayor

APPROVAL DATE: March 20, 2017