

**TOWN OF RAVENEL
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
5:45 P.M.**

The Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Ravenel was held Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 5:45 p.m. at 5962 Highway 165, Ravenel, South Carolina. The following members of Council were present: Robert Cochran, Jim Rodgers, Jr., W. Buckey Waters (Mayor Pro Tem), Terry Wilkinson, and Mayor Stephen Tumbleston who presided. LaJuanda Brown and Andrea Gail Farnior were absent. Also, in attendance were Town Administrator and Planner Mike Hemmer, Clerk-Treasurer Tammy Wood, and Code Inspector and Facilities Manager Jason Moffitt.

The media and public were duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

Public Hearing for the Golden Grove Development Agreement – 2nd Amendment:

This Public Hearing was called to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present to conduct business.

There were no Public Comments.

This Public Hearing closed at 5:47 p.m.

Regular Meeting Agenda:

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Tumbleston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present to conduct business.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Tumbleston.

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

a. Swearing-In Ceremony

Before the meeting, incumbent Mayor Stephen Tumbleston, Councilmember Jim Rodgers, Jr., Councilmember W. Buckey Waters, and newly elected Councilmember Cora Lee Singleton were sworn into office by The Honorable Magistrate Sheryl M. Perry.

b. January Town Council Meeting

In January, the Town Council will appoint a new Mayor Pro Tem.

c. Does anyone wish to speak during item #11 – Public Comments?

None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Recusals/Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 31, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the October 31, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. November 28, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Wilkinson made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Waters. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC STATEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS (5 MINUTES)

a. Statement forms submitted prior to meeting

None.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND OFFICERS

a. Town Attorney

None.

b. Charleston County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Brandon Wade reported offenses that occurred in Town over the last month that resulted in citations, arrests, and/or ongoing investigations. He encouraged Town officials, staff, and residents to contact him with any questions or concerns.

c. Clerk-Treasurer

Ms. Wood provided Council with the November 2023 General and Sewer Fund Financial Reports.

The Municipal Association of South Carolina will be hosting the annual Hometown Legislative Action Day event in Columbia on February 6, 2024. Councilmembers should contact Ms. Wood if interested in attending.

d. Town Administrator and Planner

Mr. Hemmer shared information from his report provided to the Council. He discussed information regarding the submission of a legislative grant for the purpose of renovations at the Old E.B. Ellington School Site, recent correspondences with Dominion Energy and SCDOT, and reporting requirements from the South Carolina Ethics Board. To date, 126 Zoning Permits have been issued.

e. Town Code Inspector and Facilities Manager

Mr. Moffitt provided Councilmembers with a copy of his report on pending enforcement cases, information regarding repairs and upgrades at Town facilities, and the status of work order requests submitted to Charleston County and SCDOT.

8. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. Sewer Advisory Board

No recent meetings.

b. Planning & Zoning Commission

i. Recent Meeting: December 7, 2023

Two rezonings were originally scheduled, but one withdrew prior to the meeting. There was a Public Hearing for the rezoning of property at 4278 and 4292 Savannah Highway from Agricultural Residential (AR) to General Business (GB). Nearby residents attended to express their opposition to the request. Commissioners recommended denial of the rezoning; however, the developer withdrew the request the following day. Site Plans for East Coast Hydraulics and Parson’s Tax Office were approved.

ii. Upcoming Meeting: January 4, 2024

Rezoning Request for TMS #: 188-00-00-116 located off Drayton Street from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Residential Three (R-3).

Two seats (Chairman Jerry Jackson and Vice-Chair Laurie Infinger) on the Commission have expired. Mr. Jackson will not be seeking reappointment. Ballots completed by the Council unanimously reappointed Laurie Infinger and newly appointed Commissioner Jim O’Gallagher.

c. Board of Zoning Appeals

i. Recent Meeting: December 12, 2023

Board members approved a Special Exception Use with restrictions for an electrical contractor in a General Business zoned district.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 18-23 (Business License Classes for 2024)

Amending the Business License Ordinance of the Town of Ravenel to update the class schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 18-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 19-23 (Golden Grove Development Agreement – 2nd Amendment)

An ordinance approving the second amendment to the Golden Grove Development Agreement.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 19-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution 2023-09 (SCPRT Funding)

A resolution for the allocation of South Carolina Parks, Recreations, and Tourism funding from South Carolina Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

Councilmember Wilkinson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodgers. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

None.

12. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 30-4-70(A)(1), discussion of employment issues.

Councilmember Waters made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:18 p.m.; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodgers. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Waters made a motion to return to Open Session at 6:51 p.m.; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

14. ACTION/S AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Resolution 2023-10 (Wage Adjustments for 2024)

A resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Ravenel, South Carolina, to adjust the compensation of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Waters made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.



Mayor Stephen Tumbleston

LaJuanda Brown

Robert Cochran

Jim Rodgers, Jr.

Cora Lee Singleton

W. Buckey Waters

Terry Wilkinson

Minutes transcribed from tape and respectfully submitted by: Mikayla White, Clerk-Receptionist