

**TOWN OF IRMO
PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 20, 2022**

The Irmo Town Council held a public hearing and a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 in the Municipal Building. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Mayor Pro Tem Danielson, Councilmen Busch, 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, Finance Director & Municipal Clerk; Mrs. Mia Wilkins, Director of Economic Development & Communications; Mr. Whitt Cline, Public Services Director, and Mr. Will Edwards, Town Attorney.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, September 16, 2022 to meet FOIA requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Walker called the public hearing to order at 7:03 p.m. and asked if anyone was present to speak on:

ORD 22-30 TO ZONE TMS# R03303-02-02 & R03302-01-01 ON DUTCH FORK ROAD AS GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG):

No one spoke; therefore, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

ORD 22-31 TO REZONE TMS# R03203-03-01 FROM FRINGE AGRICULTURAL (FA) TO OFFICE COMMERCIAL(CO):

The following spoke at the public hearing:

Mr. David Brock - 10 Hickory Hall – Requested for Council to defer this item until after the meeting with the Ricefield Plantation neighborhood.
Mr. Brad Everhart – 10 Morningstar Court - Opposed
Mr. Lex Tweed – 111 Saratoga Road - Opposed
Mr. Steve Oden – 104 Emerald Oaks Way - Opposed
Ms. Lisa Jurgensen – 6 Jahue Court - Opposed
Mr. Wayne Meyer – 213 Blue Ridge Circle – Opposed
Mr. Dan Smith – 206 Livingston Way – Opposed
Mr. Todd Gibson – 101 Hickory Hall Lane - Opposed
Mr. Srini Gudapati – 1305 Leamington Circle - Opposed
Mr. Scott Lesniewski – 305 Emerald Oaks Way - Opposed
Ms. Lynn Richards – Ricefield Plantation - Opposed

Mayor Walker closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. and Mr. Danielson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the August 16, 2022 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the September 6, 2022 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

REPORT OF STANDING:

A. Administrative Briefing – Mr. Dennis previously furnished a written briefing to Town Council and had no additional information for Council.

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

Classics Barbershop – 7949 Broad River Road
Achieve Behavioral Health SC – 108 Oak Park Drive
Zen Skin, LLC – 7001 St. Andrews Road
The Pink Broom – 7821 St. Andrews Road
Abundant Graze, LLC – 107 N. Royal Tower Drive
Wright's Trucking, LLC – 104 Whitby Court

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Mayor Walker and Council announced the September 2022 Small Business of the Month was awarded to Studio 3P.

B. Mayor Walker and Council presented Corporal Charles Black and Patrolman Vincent Silano the Life Saving Award.

C. Community Connections:

1. Mayor Walker requested that Tara Heil speak on the recent building fire. She explained the situation and wanted to recognize Ms. Chanique Hayes and Ms. Nicole Hayes.

2. Dr. Waldman announced that Lexington/Richland School District Five is having a Literacy Night on September 29, 2022 from 5:30 – 7:00 at Irmo Elementary School.

3. Dr. Waldman announced that there will be a District Five School Board Candidates Forum for Richland County Candidates on Monday, October 3, 2022 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the CATS, and one for the Lexington County Candidates on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Irmo Middle School.

4. Dr. Waldman mentioned that there is a “Parents Night Out” event for “Shatter the Myth” on Tuesday, October 25th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Dutch Fork Middle School.

D. School Showcase:

1. Principal Julius Scott of Dutch Fork Elementary School of Environmental Sciences could not attend the meeting and will be rescheduled later.

E. Mrs. Marie Ryan of the Skatepark Committee mentioned that the new design is almost completed, and they are continuing to fundraise. They let everyone know that they appreciate and are taking all types of donations including shoes, food, and clothing.

F. Mayor Walker recognized Mr. Sean Madden as the September 2022 Artist of the Month and stated that his artwork is on display in the lobby of Town Hall.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS:

Mr. Wayne Meyer – 213 Blue Indigo Circle - addressed Council on unanimous voting
Mr. Brandon Graybill – Developer - addressed Council item “B” under Unfinished Business
Ms. Lynn Richards – 207 Emerald Oaks Way - addressed Council item “B” under Unfinished Business
Mr. Chris Clark, 9 Hickory Hall Court - addressed Council item “C” under New Business
Mr. Christian Wall, 404 Avrett Way - addressed Council item “B” under Unfinished Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 22-30 TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY ASSIGNING A GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) ZONING DESIGNATION TO TMS# R03303-02-02 AND R03302-01-01 AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT (MD) ZONING DESIGNATION TO A PORTION (+/- 15 ACRES) OF TMS# R03303-01-01 (PLANNING COMMISSION).

Mr. Danielson made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker clarified his understanding of the zoning for all three areas. 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.

B. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 22-31 TO REZONE A PORTION OF TMS# R03203-03-01 (+/- 8.94 ACRES) FROM FRINGE AGRICULTURAL (FA) TO OFFICE COMMERCIAL (CO) (PLANNING COMMISSION):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker explained that Mr. Graybill has applied with Richland County to divide the property and explained that it will take some time to be assigned new tax map numbers. Mayor Walker made a motion to allow the developer time to divide the property until October 18, 2022 and Mr. Sickinger seconded it.

Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “No”, Mr. Danielson voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was 4 to 1 with Mr. Busch voting in opposition.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 22-32 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-66 – VOTING REQUIREMENTS (SICKINGER):

Mr. Sickinger made a motion for approval and Mr. Danielson seconded it. Mr. Busch confirmed his understanding that if a Council Member abstains from voting, that member will be out of order. 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 22-33 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 3, SECTION 2-95 – DEATH OF ORDINANCE; REINTRODUCTION (WALDMAN):

Dr. Waldman made a motion for approval and Mayor Walker seconded it. Dr. Waldman clarified that this ordinance would change the language from three readings to two readings as reflected in the previous Ordinance 20-19. 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.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 22-34 TO AMEND APPENDIX A – ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE 6, SECTION 6-1.3, SUBSECTION 11 (PLANNING COMMISSION):

Mr. Sickinger made a motion for approval and Mayor Walker seconded it. Mr. Sickinger explained that this will require bike racks provided by large retail commercial buildings that generate foot traffic and eliminate bottlenecks. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “No”, Mr. Danielson voted “No”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was approved 3 to 2 with Mr. Busch & Mr. Danielson voted in opposition.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 22-35 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 8 BY ADDING ARTICLE III – CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS (STAFF):

Mr. Danielson made a motion for approval and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mr. Danielson stated this ordinance will create a board to hear appeals of building codes as required by 2018 version of the International Building Code. Mayor Walker voiced his concerns about letting only in town residents serve on the board. Dr. Waldman clarified who could be on the board, which includes both in town and out of town residents. 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 OF RESOLUTION 22-03 AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT BANKING BUSINESS (STAFF):

Mr. Sickinger made a motion for approval and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mr. Dennis explained that an updated resolution was needed to set up a new bank account for the new Court system.

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. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-04 ADOPTING THE TOWN SAFETY POLICY (STAFF):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker explained that this is done yearly to reflect policies on maintaining a safe work environment. 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. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-05 ADOPTING THE ALL-NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN FROM THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (STAFF):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Dennis explained this will adopt the All-Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan which was prepared by the Central Midlands Council of Governments (COG). 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.

G. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-06 TO APPLY FOR A HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 WITH A 15% (\$3,750) LOCAL MATCH (STAFF):

Mayor Walker explained that this grant will be used to purchase signage, landscaping, and other items to improve the town’s major streets and roads. 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.

H. APPROVAL TO RATIFY CONTRACT WITH CUSTOM AUDIO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,250 TO PROVIDE SOUND, PRODUCTION, AND LIGHTING AT THE OKRA STRUT (OKRA STRUT COMMISSION):

Dr. Waldman made a motion for approval and Mr. Danielson seconded it. There was no discussion. Therefore, 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.

I. APPROVAL TO AWARD ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDS TO LAKE MURRAY COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,988, IRMO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,050, IRMO OKRA STRUT FESTIVAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 AND THE GREATER IRMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 (ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Dr. Waldman seconded it. Dr. Waldman stated that she was at the meeting where the Accommodation Tax Committee discussed this item at length, and believes Council should approve the committee's recommendations. 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.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS:

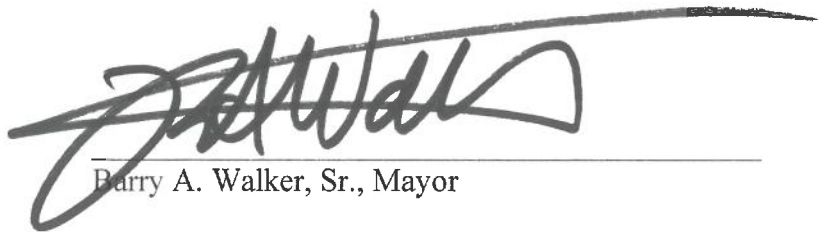
Mr. Mark Passmore, Irmo Event Committee – explained that they are fully funded for Music Fest Event on October 15, 2022. However, they still need security, sanitation, and staffing to help at the event. Mr. Sickinger confirmed with Chief Dale that he is working on getting some police officers to work the event. Mr. Passmore ended by stating that he wants Council to consider being a platinum sponsor. After a brief conversation, Council agreed that Mr. Dennis is allowed discretionary spending and they have turned the decision over to Mr. Dennis.

Mr. Martin Friday – wanted to let Council know that he appreciates Mr. Tucker and Mr. Dennis help.

DISCUSSION: None

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 8:47 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk