

**TOWN OF IRMO**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 15, 2022**

The Irmo Town Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 in the Municipal Building. Council Members in attendance were Mayor Walker, Councilmen Busch, Sickinger, and Councilwoman Waldman. Others present were Mr. Courtney Dennis, 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. Mayor Pro Tem Danielson was absent.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, November 11, 2022 to meet FOIA requirements.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Sickinger led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the October 18, 2022 minutes and Mr. Busch seconded it. The vote for approval was unanimous.

Mr. Sickinger made a motion to approve the November 1, 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. He added that next week is short due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and requested Council to send their agenda items as soon as possible.

B. New In-Town Businesses - None

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Mayor Walker and Council awarded the November 2022 Small Business of the Month to Elite Personal Training.

B. Mr. Todd Highsmith of Highsmith & Highsmith, LLC gave a brief presentation on the FY21/22 Audit Report. He informed Council that the audit of the Town's financial statements as of June 30, 2022 has been completed and stated they are in compliance with Federal and State Statues. Mr. Highsmith reviewed the financial statement with Council and answered their questions.

C. Mr. John Lindower, Okra Strut Chairman, thanked Council for their support and gave a summary of the 2022 Okra Strut. He ended the presentation by stating that it was a very successful event.

#### D. Presentation by TFA Café' on the Irmo Holiday Market

Mayor Walker asked Ms. Jessica Carswell, owner of TFA Cafe, to give a brief proposal on the Irmo Holiday Market that she is organizing. Ms. Carswell discussed the event and stated that she would like to host the event at Community Park of Irmo on December 10, 2022. She ended her proposal by asking the Council to support the event by giving \$5,000 to help with expenses, volunteering, and with advertising. Mayor Walker thanked Ms. Carswell and let her know that Council would not meet again until after the event and encouraged Ms. Carswell to contact the Irmo Events Committee for support in the future.

#### E. School Showcase:

1. Principal Shannon Fincannon of Irmo Elementary School informed Council on several recent celebrations which included a veterans drive thru parade, Ms. Nicole Bishop receiving the WLTX Teacher of the week and Ms. Kristin Bowman is the winner of the Bright Ideas Grant for her students. Ms. Fincannon informed Council Irmo Elementary School is the only school in District 5 with the 4K EXCEL Tuition Based Program and has been pleased with Irmo Police partnership that provides a Student Resource Officer at the school. Ms. Taylor Thigpen and Ms. Katie Wiggs spoke about their non-profit SC Career Kids Program.

#### F. Community Connections:

1. Dr. Waldman announced several Events:
  - a. Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Harbison Community Center
  - b. Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at the Harbison Community Center
  - c. The Irmo High School Center for the Arts Theatre will be performing "Backstage" from Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, November 19, 2022
  - d. Irmo High School Art is accepting Patrons in support of the program. For more information contact Irmo High School
  - e. The TRI-District Arts Consortium (Tri-Dac) is taking nominations of current and rising 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students until Friday, January 16, 2023. For more information visit Tri-Dac.org
  - f. Mary's Mobile Market will be held at the Community Park of Irmo on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
  - g. Irmo Christmas Tree Lightening will be held on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m.
  - h. Coffee with a Cop will be on November 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Starbucks at 1245 Lake Murray Blvd.

G. Mayor Walker recognized Sharon Funderburk as the November 2022 Artist of the Month and stated that her artwork is on display in the lobby of Town Hall.

H. Mayor Walker asked Mr. Jim Smith, Owner of Christian Brothers, to speak to Council. Mr. Smith stated that there is a single-entry access with a median/traffic island that impedes his business and raises safety concerns for their customers. He is requesting that Council talk with SCDOT to make an alternate entry/exit or another appropriate change to the area to improve business access and customer safety.

PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 22-36 TO AMEND THE IRMO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 14-171 – SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT (SICKINGER):

Mr. Sickinger made a motion for approval and Mr. Busch seconded it. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch 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 22-37 TO ANNEX RICHLAND COUNTY TAX PARCEL# R03303-01-03 AT 1194 DUTCH FORK ROAD NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY SAVAGE REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. (STAFF):

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

B. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT TO HENLEY’S CONSTRUCTION CO, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,900 FOR FENCING AT THE RAWLS CREEK PARK (STAFF):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Sickinger stated that there are five bids to install fencing. He explained that this bid was the lowest bid and received glowing marks from their references. Dr. Waldman had noticed in several bids that some mentioned square versus round posts and confirmed with Mr. Dennis that either type would work with the special locking gate system. Mr. Busch verified that the bid includes materials, and the fences will be used to fence the dog areas at Rawls Creek Park. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

C. APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE CHRISTMAS BONUS PROGRAM TO \$1,500 FOR FY22/23 (MAYOR):

Mayor Walker made a motion for approval and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mr. Sickinger stated that this will come out of the ARP Funds. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted “Yes”, Mr. Sickinger voted “Yes”, Dr. Waldman voted “Yes”, and Mayor Walker voted “Yes”. The vote for approval was unanimous.

D. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE SCDPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,600 FOR REPLACEMENT TASERS FOR OFFICER (POLICE DEPARTMENT):

Mayor Walker made a motion to approve, and Mr. Sickinger seconded it. Mayor Walker explained that this is a 90/10% grant that will replace twenty-seven (27) tasers. He stated that the current tasers are over 20 years old and will become obsolete at some point because the companies that make the tasers go out of business. Therefore, it is difficult to find replacement cartridges.

Dr. Waldman confirmed her understanding that the Town would only be responsible for \$4,860 due to the 90/10% grant. 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. APPOINTMENT TO THE IRMO PLANNING COMMISSION – 1 OPENING (STAFF):**

Mayor Walker stated that Mr. Ed Wadelington, has applied for another term. He made a motion to appoint Mr. Wadelington and Mr. Sickinger seconded the motion. Mr. Sickinger to a moment to encourage citizens to apply to the boards and commission so they can be part of the process. Mayor Walker called upon Mrs. Caviness for a rollcall vote: Mr. Busch voted "Yes", Mr. Sickinger voted "Yes", Dr. Waldman voted "Yes", and Mayor Walker voted "Yes". The vote for approval was unanimous.

#### **F. APPROVAL FOR AND IMMEDIATE BAN BY THE TOWN OF IRMO, ITS COMMISSIONS, SUBSIDIARIES, OR FINANCIALLY RELATED ENTITIES, FROM USING TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO BUY BACK GUNS AND REALLOCATES THE PREVIOUSLY EARMARKED \$25,000 FROM NOVEMBER 2022 TO THE ACQUISITION OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR THE IRMO POLICE DEPARTMENT (DANIELSON):**

Mayor Walker stated that since Mr. Danielson is absent and this was his item, he would like to give Mr. Danielson an opportunity to explain his position on this topic. Therefore, the Mayor Walker stated that Council should not approve this item at this time. He made a motion for approval, and no one seconded the motion. Therefore, the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS: None

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **A. Discussion on ARPA funding Distribution (Mayor):**

Mayor Walker opened the discussion by stating that the Town has already received the second tranche of ARP Funds and wants Council to consider setting side \$400,000 for grants and use some of the ARP money to setup a camera system throughout the Town of Irmo to help the Irmo Police Department with providing security. Mr. Sickinger wants to use some of the funds to work on developing a downtown area on Mosley Street. Mr. Busch wants Council to discuss this item during a workshop but believes some should be saved for a rainy day. Dr. Waldman stated that she believes Council needs to consider long-term investments like developing a downtown and security. The conversation ended with Mayor Walker requesting that this item be put on the next Council Workshop.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A. Legal: Receipt of legal advice regarding pending litigation §30-4-70 (a) (1):


Mr. Sickinger made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding pending litigation and Mr. Busch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously; therefore, the Mayor, Council, Mr. Dennis, and Mr. Edwards, went into executive session at 8:11 p.m. Mayor Walker called the meeting back to order at 8:25 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 8:26 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk