

**TOWN OF IRMO
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
March 1, 2022**

The Irmo Town Council held a Workshop on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in the Municipal Building. In attendance was Mayor Walker, Mayor Pro Tem Danielson, Councilmen Busch, Sickinger and Councilwoman Waldman. Others present were Mr. Courtney Dennis, Town Administrator; Police Chief Bobby Dale; Mrs. Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk; and Mr. Will Edwards, Town Attorney. Mr. Rodney Tucker, Assistant Town Administrator, was absent.

The agenda was published and posted on Friday, February 25, 2022 to meet FOIA requirements.

Mayor Walker called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. FY22/22 BUDGET (STAFF):

Mayor Walker opened the discussion, Mr. Dennis explained to Council the increases in expenses in the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 22/23. He further explained some of the additional items that has been added to the budget including a part-time position in Court, one position in the Public Works Department, and two positions in the Police Department including purchasing three vehicles. Council asked several questions regarding the increases in expenses and the Hospitality Tax, Police Vehicles and Solid Waste charges.

B. CREATION OF A TOWN FLAG (SICKINGER):

Mr. Sickinger would like to get the community involved to create a town flag. Mayor Walker added that the Town need a motto and to continue branding of the Town of Irmo. All of Council agreed and Mr. Sickinger agreed to lead this project.

C. DISCUSSION OF "SCHOOL MINUTE" (SICKINGER):

Mr. Sickinger received lots of good feedback from the community about the Irmo High School update on the last Town Council Meeting. He thought it would be a great idea to get representatives from the different local schools to give a brief update on their school events and upcoming programs. Dr. Waldman and the rest of Council agreed that this was a great idea. Dr. Waldman said she would take point on this item and will schedule representatives from each school in the area to give the "School Minute" once a month starting on the Tuesday, March 15, 2022 Council Meeting.

D. DISCUSSION OF REMAINING NON-PROFIT GRANT APPLICANTS (MAYOR):

Mayor Walker stated the Council has previously approved to award \$325,000 in grants of the \$500,000 Council allocated from the American Rescue Funds. He stated there were a couple of the non-profits who submitted grants but needed to give more information. The owners from both Soul to Soul and Build U gave a brief presentation requesting \$60,000 to pay for rent, insurance, and other supplies. Both groups decided to team up to share resources. They will offer services to at-risk students between the ages 6 to 18 where individuals could learn financial literacy, reading, and creating/recording their own music. The discussion ended with Mayor Walker suggesting they team up HeartEd Youth Zone.

E. DISCUSSION ON CRIMINAL VERSUS CIVIL CODE VIOLATIONS (SICKINGER)

Mr. Sickinger wants Council to consider making some of the Irmo code violations be civil versus criminal violations. Mr. Busch and Mr. Sickinger have an upcoming meeting with Code Enforcement. They will discuss and update Council on their findings.

F. DISCUSSION OF HIDDEN OAKS BRIDGE (MAYOR)

Mayor Walker wanted to know if Mr. Sickinger had figured out an alternative exit for the Hidden Oaks Community. Mr. Sickinger said he has not come up with an alternative exit. Mr. Cline stated that in case of emergency, Lexington County has portable bridges that could be used if something happened to the current bridge in Hidden Oaks.

G. OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Danielson wants Council to consider having a retreat using the DISC program. It would help Council foster a better relationship, work as a team, and learn more about their own and other Town Council member's personality traits.

It was stated that the Joint Use Agreements with Richland County for the Rawls Creek Park has been updated and approved.

Mr. Dennis reminded Council on several upcoming items:


1. Great Southern Homes will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 to present a new design and answer any questions from the community.
2. The non-profit grants will be presented at the Council Meeting on March 15, 2022
3. Lexington County has revised their animal ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further items to discuss, Mr. Sickinger made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Busch seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously; therefore, the workshop was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Barry A. Walker, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Renee Caviness, Municipal Clerk