



City Council Meeting Summary for November 9th, 2021

WORK SESSION

Staff from Elliot Davis presented the audit results for FY21. The City has made a strong financial recovery from COVID and finished FY21 with a sound fund balance.

The Public Safety Department reviewed specs and benefits of the X Series Zoll Monitor and the importance of purchasing this life saving equipment. This purchase (along with a Lucas Device and other emergency response equipment) is part of the City's progression to a full service emergency medical response capability.

Aaron Pope and Katie Gerling reviewed a proposal to implement a 90 day moratorium on new construction in the commercial district in light of the contemplated revisions to the commercial district zoning. The commercial district proposals will be reviewed by Council at the special work session on November 11th.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor awarded certificates to the winners of the Halloween costume and home decorating contests. He also reminded the audience of the **November 11th work session for Council to receive more information about the commercial rezoning proposals and the process for placing utilities underground.**

STAFF REPORTS

Katie Gerling presented a proposal to partner with a College of Charleston graduate student to study the regulation and implementation of living shorelines on Folly. This is an erosion control method for the marsh that was recently approved by the State.

Katie Gerling also presented a draft ordinance that would limit the number of internal kitchens

in new construction to one per dwelling unit. The goal is to prevent conversion of single units into duplexes post construction.

Aaron Pope presented a draft scope of work for a complete streets study of Arctic Avenue to identify changes needed to accommodate all users of the road. This is a long term planning item that was approved in the 2021 Strategic Plan Update.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Robert Barber presented change requests for a proposed Memorandum of Use that would allow the currently non-conforming Bowen's Island sign to be removed from the marsh and placed on City owned highland at the corner of Bowen's Island and Folly Roads.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Katie Gerling reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendations for Ordinances 029, 034, and 035. There were no changes recommended for 034 and 035. The PC did recommend changes for 029 (Tree Protection) which were later voted on as amendments.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Connor Sullivan proposed that the City revisit the prohibition on tattoo parlors that was put in place in the early 2000s.

Daryl Bonnette spoke against the development of 1020 East Erie and questioned the City's tree protection rules and stormwater guidelines for fill. She stressed the negative impacts to her mother's house at 1018 East Erie.

Ed Patillo spoke against the development of 1020 and the stormwater guidelines for fill. He stressed the negative impacts of the fill on the lot.

Mary Hadley Knapp spoke against the development of 1020 East Erie, in particular the effects of the fill and retaining wall on the flow of water from tidal surges and other flood events.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 30-21: This ordinance will require SCDMV registrations to be shown as proof of ownership for parking decals, require the registrations as proof of residency, and require residents to pay any outstanding parking tickets prior to receiving residential parking decals. Additionally, the revised ordinance will allow the vehicles of family members in the same household to count as personal vehicles of the person applying for the permit and require a lease of at least 90 days to show residency for renters. *The Ordinance Passed Second Reading.*

Ordinance 32-21: This ordinance rolled back the mil rate of the FY22 budget to account for increased property values assigned as a result of the latest five-year reassessment. *The Ordinance Passed Second Reading.*

Ordinance 33-21: This ordinance changes the rental registration date to be due on June 1 instead of February 1 to match the extension of the business license year from January 1 to May 1. *The Ordinance Passed Second Reading.*

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 29-21: This ordinance will create new tree protection rules to require mitigation for nonprotected species, further define construction protection measures for protected trees, and strengthen permit requirements. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading and Was Made Pending.*

Ordinance 34-21: This ordinance (paired with Ordinance 35-21) will close a potential loophole to prohibit non substantial improvements of existing structures to exceed the maximum square footage or create other types of non conformities. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading.*

Ordinance 35-21: This ordinance (paired with Ordinance 34-21) will close a potential loophole to prohibit non substantial improvements of existing structures to exceed the maximum square footage or create other types of non conformities. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading.*

Ordinance 36-21: This ordinance will repeal the City's business license ordinance and replace it with the new statewide standardized ordinance. Specific amendments and related changes to other sections of the code will be presented in December. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading.*

Ordinance 37-21: This ordinance will set attendance standards for Boards and Commissions to prevent unexcused absences. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading.*

Ordinance 38-21: This ordinance would remove small projects like fences, awnings, windows, and shingles from the DRB's review. *The Ordinance Failed. It will not advance.*

Ordinance 39-21: This ordinance will limit the number of kitchens in new construction to one per dwelling unit. *The Ordinance Was Remanded to the Planning Commission for Further Study.*

Ordinance 40-21: This ordinance will set a 90 day moratorium on new construction in the commercial districts. *The Ordinance Passed First Reading.*