

Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Attendance:

Members Present:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

Council Members:

Dolly P. Franklin
John C. (Cliff) Long
James C. (Calvin) Chiles
Eric T. Butler
Jesse E. (JE) Johnson
Ann Seymour

Staff Present:

Police Chief J.R. Jones
Fire Chief Mike Barron
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney
Attorney John D. Compton, III

Staff Absent:

Administrator David Krumwiede

Media Present:

Russell Cox, The Index Journal

Visitors:

Shaaron Kohl, Representative, TOT
Jeffrey Calliham

The regular, monthly meeting of Town Council for February 14, 2012, was held at the One Stop Conference Room, 109 W. Augusta Street, Town of McCormick. News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail and fax on February 10, 2012. All other parties who had requested notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail, or mail on February 10 and February 11, 2012. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on February 11, 2012.

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1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mayor Smith welcomed all present to the regular, monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council, stating he hoped everyone had a happy Valentine Day.

Mayor Smith stated that Administrator Krumwiede would not be present, Mr. Krumwiede attending the Municipal Association's Legislative Action Day in Columbia.

Mayor Smith stated it was custom prior to council meetings to recognize a local business as business pick of the month. He asked Council Member Long to select a business, and Family Dollar was chosen as business pick of the month for February. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to Family Dollar.

Mayor Smith then called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked all present to stand and give the Pledge of Allegiance; all present proceeded to do so in a humble, patriotic manner.

3. Invocation

Mayor Smith called for Council Member Butler to give the invocation. Council Member Butler did so, asking that the assembly be governed accordingly and for a good meeting with right decisions being made for all.

4. Approval of Agenda as Written

Mayor Smith stated Council had the published agenda for review prior to the meeting and called for action regarding the published agenda. Council Member Long made a motion that the Agenda be approved as written, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Butler and unanimously approved.

5. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith stated under General Public Comments, in honor of Black History Month, that James T. Wideman was to be recognized. He stated that Mr. Wideman could not be present due to illness. Mayor Smith then called upon Shaaron Kohl.

Mrs. Kohl thanked Council for allowing her to be on the agenda. She stated she was present representing the Planning Committee for Thunder Over Thurmond. She stated that the Committee felt that with the event being held out in the County that it would be good to have an event in Town to get more visitors in Town to shop and eat at the downtown restaurants. She stated she had made a request for a yard sale event and thanked Mayor Smith for the prompt response and approval for the event. She stated that she would be working with the Town as the event neared the date - July 6 and 7.

Discussion was held as to the event, any zoning issues connected, and other Town's having similar events, Calhoun Falls being one Town who has the event annually. Questions were raised as to the letter provided to Mrs. Kohl; it was stated the letter addressed certain zoning issues such as traffic congestion, length of the event and nuisances. Mrs. Kohl stated that she hoped to have signs made so that the event would be contained to the event area. The other item in the letter was with regard to roll cart/trash containers, the Committee asking that these be provided during the event. Mrs. Kohl stated that she hoped that the event would be successful and possibly become an annual event for the Town.

Mayor Smith thanked Mrs. Kohl for her comments and called for any questions. None being received, Mayor Smith then called for further comments under the General Public Comments section. None were offered, and he closed this section of the meeting.

6. Regular Town Council Business Items

Council Members had received in their agenda packages for review prior to the meeting copies of the Minutes of the January 10 Regular Meeting of Council, January's Bills (with Receivables Report), and January's Financial Statement.

Mayor Smith called for action of Council regarding the Minutes. Council Member Chiles made a motion that the Minutes stand approved as written, motion duly seconded by Council Members Johnson and Butler and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith called for action of Council regarding the Bills. Council Member Chiles made a motion that the Bills be paid in the usual manner, motion duly seconded by Council Member Long and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith called for action of Council regarding the Financial Statement. Council Member Long made a motion for the Financial Statement to be received as information, motion duly seconded by Council Member Chiles and unanimously approved.

7. Legislation

Under legislation, Council had received some copies of two Proclamations, one for the Municipal Association's Legislative Agenda and another for Mr. Wideman.

Mayor Smith stated the Municipal Association annually adopted a Legislative Agenda to keep track of bills being considered; items to be worked on during the year; with the Municipal Association sending this out to all the towns and cities in the State asking them to adopt a proclamation in support of their agenda.

Mayor Smith again stated that in honor of Mr. Wideman's 90th birthday, he had issued a proclamation and had presented it to Mr. Wideman for his many accomplishments.

8. Reports

Moving to Reports, Mayor Smith recognized Chief Jones of the Police Department.

Chief Jones, giving his monthly reports for January, offered the following data: Traffic collisions-three; 37-Traffic citations; eight-civil arrests; 21-Incident Reports; and 705 calls for service.

Chief Jones stated that he had met with DOT representatives with regard to a speed issue in the vicinity of Chestnut Ridge Road. He stated that a resident had stated that there was not a speed limit sign posted. He stated that the sign had now been posted, and that one had also been posted in the vicinity of the old Fast Point. He stated that a gentleman had been hit and had gotten hurt at the Fast Point area.

Mayor Smith stated that he wanted to compliment Chief Jones, his Department, as well as the County Sheriff's Department and all officers involved in the recent collaborative effort and drug arrest made in Town.

Chief Jones stated that the investigation evolved over several months, and that all officers and agencies involved did an outstanding job.

Recognizing Fire Chief Mike Barron, Chief Barron stated that January was a light month, and reported for the month of January as follows:

One call in the Town which was a structure fire due to the resident frying chicken and leaving it unattended; in the County, the Fire Chief reported one structure fire; three auto/extractions; one brush; and one miscellaneous, such as a tree down. Total calls for January being seven. Other notes included the 2011 calls which were 110. Fire Chief Barron stated that the Department had also participated in twelve community events. He stated that 64% of the total calls for 2011 were outside town limits. He reported that the Department would be having the annual health screens in March. He reported that the Department had recently received a \$2,000.00 donation from an anonymous sponsor.

Chief Barron then turned to the False Alarm Fire Ordinance, giving copies of a proposed draft to Council. He stated that he would like for Council to review the ordinance as it addressed fees to be assessed for violations. He stated that the first call, of course, would be free, and that the Department would work with the alarm provider too correct. He stated the Ordinance was a draft and further discussion could be had at the March meeting of Council.

Chief Barron stated he had sent in the budget request for the Department to the County and had requested the sum of some \$65,000.00 for the upcoming budget year. He stated that this equated to \$986.00, the average cost of fire calls for the county outside town limits. He stated with all things being considered, he felt that fire services should come first, and in making the request, the funding would be for possibly a full time

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employee, future recruits, maintenance and costs of equipment. He stated that it was becoming difficult to recruit fireman and one program, the Junior Explorer's Program, could be started in hopes of getting young people, 11th and 12th graders, interested in fire fighting as a possible career. He stated that the basic fire service training would be offered, the students would attend the Academy, and would be fully sanctioned as a firefighter, and hopefully stay in the McCormick area.

Mayor Smith asked Chief Barron about a recently held seminar at Hickory Knob. Chief Barron stated that the State Firefighters Association had held this two-day event and it centered on leadership training focusing on cohesiveness and providing much needed services to the community.

Further discussion was held as to the request for county funding, it being stated that this year's appropriation was only \$8,500.00 which was the same for all departments. It was stated that the county's funding was a donation and that the fire department's funding was not a line item in the county's budget. Discussion continued as to the percentage of calls in the town and in the county - 64% being in the county. Question was raised as to the calculation of the \$65,000.00 funding request for the county. Chief Barron stated again this was based on the total budget for the fire department from the Town, the cost of maintenance of equipment, fuel costs, and cost per fire call.

Mayor Smith thanked Chief Barron for his report and other information and called upon the Town Clerk/Treasurer for her report.

Recognizing the Town Clerk/Treasurer, Mrs. McKinney stated that Council had received in their packages, the additional report as well as a copy of the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's report. She stated that her report showed the breakdown of costs/goods and services/personnel and contracted services, and meetings attended. She reviewed both reports with Council, reporting for the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer regarding the issuance of business licenses and permit coordinating; zoning issues, background checks and visitors to Town Hall, Election Packets given out, and meetings attend. Mrs. McKinney stated that the Mayor had requested that a visitor's log be kept for Town Hall, and the total visitors to Town Hall for the month of January was 111.

Mayor Smith asked if Mr. Krumwiede had left a report for Council, and Mrs. McKinney stated that he had not. Mayor Smith stated that his report could be given in March.

Mayor Smith then called upon Attorney Compton.

Attorney Compton reported on the False Alarm Fire Ordinance, stating the Ordinance was proper, fairly streamlined with no overly complicated issues. He stated that the ordinance was one for proper control of, and fee assessments for, false fire alarms. He stated the ordinance as patterned after one for another city. He stated changes had been made to the fee schedule, the first incident, of course, being at no assessment,
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with additional assessments following thereafter. He stated that the time limit had also been changed from 30 days to one year which would give time for the measurement, a look back period, for correction and remedy.

As to the Memorandum of Understanding of the Town and County as to recreation services, Attorney Compton reported that he would be tweaking the original to reflect certain changes which had come to light regarding indemnification. Comments were given as to joint ventures between entities and liability of each in the event of any occurrences. Attorney Compton stated that the funding was that of block grant funds which were to be used for recreation services. Attorney Compton stated it was up to the Town as to what it was willing to do and that there was no agreement until all parties had signed off on such documents. He stated that the amended copy could be reviewed, possibly in an executive session, at the March meeting. He requested that until such time as approved the document be considered confidential with discussions only in executive sessions as they were deemed contractual in nature.

Mayor Smith thanked Attorney Compton for his report and stated that he would like to have a motion to approve all reports as given. Council Member Long made the motion, with motion being duly seconded by Council Member Johnson, and unanimously approved.

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated under Old Business, there were three items, as reminders, the April 3, General Election Schedule, the filing of Ethics Statements for 2012, and the Budget Schedule. He stated a budget workshop would be held.

Mayor Smith called for other Old Business to come before Council. None was offered.

10. New Business

Under New Business, Mayor Smith called attention to the filing of W-4 forms and other personnel documents. He stated that Council should have also received his letter regarding the Grounds Maintenance Contract and Audit Contract, both needing renewal.

He stated that both of these contractions had done a good job for the Town and he recommended renewing the contracts for additional terms.

Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney stated that letters would be sent to each contractor regarding renewals and any additional information required. She stated that contract documents and other information would be given at the March meeting of Council.

11. Information Items

Mayor Smith stated there were no items under Information, but did want to give certain events, the Relay for Life; Mayor Smith stated that this was with regard to the Town having its own team; the Spring Bonanza on April 21, the Town's new website, which would go live in the next week, and in his opinion, looked really well, and a Blood Drive, February 17, sponsored by Michelle's Pizza.

Mayor Smith stated that he wanted to recognize a guest, Jeffrey Calliham. He asked Mr. Calliham if he wished to address Council. Mr. Calliham stated he was present hoping to have some closure as to the Dorn House and his starting a business there which would bring jobs to the town and county.

Mayor Smith stated the matter was still being discussed and that an answer could be given soon.

Lastly, Mayor Smith stated that he had received a letter from the CPW with regard to seeking funding for infrastructure improvements through the CDBG program. It was stated that for CPW to seek grant funding or loans, that a letter of request had to be made to the Town first. It was stated that the CPW would serve as a sub-recipient of any grant funding and that all costs and services would be borne by the CPW. The CPW, on its own, could not apply for grant funding or for any loans.

Upon recommendation for CPW to apply for this funding, a motion was duly given by Council Member Seymour, the motion being duly seconded by Council Member Butler, and unanimously approved.

With no further business to be conducted, Mayor Smith called for adjournment.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Smith's motion to adjourn was duly seconded by all present and unanimously approved.

Council adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Town Clerk/Treasurer

File: M02142012

