

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

Attendance:

Members Present:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

Council Members: Dolly P. Franklin
James C. (Calvin) Chiles
Eric T. Butler
Jesse E. (JE) Johnson
Ann Seymour

Staff Present:

Major W.D. Willis
Fire Chief Mike Barron
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney
Administrator David Krumwiede
Attorney John D. Compton, III

Media Present:

None Present

Visitor's:

Anne Barron, Chamber Representing Gold
Rush, Ann Stiles and Dot Bandy

The regular, monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council for **August 14, 2012**, was held at the McCormick One Stop's Conference Room, 109 W. Augusta Street, Town of McCormick, SC at 7:00 PM. News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail on August 8 and 9, 2012. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on August 8 and 9, 2012. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on August 9, 2012. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on August 9, 2012.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mayor Smith welcomed all present to the regular, monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council, at approximately 7:03 pm.

Mayor Smith stated that it was customary, prior to the meeting, that a business be picked as business of the month. He asked Attorney Compton to do the drawing, and Attorney Compton drew **7 Daffodils** as business pick of the month for August. Mayor Smith asked that they be sent a Certificate of Appreciation for having their business in Town.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked everyone present to stand and offer the Pledge of Allegiance. All in attendance did so in a humble, patriotic manner.

3. Invocation

Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to give the invocation. Council Member Mr. Butler did so giving thanks for a good day, with many opportunities, and for good decisions to be made in taking care of the Town's business.

4. Approval of Agenda as Written

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the Agenda as written. Council Member Mr. Chiles made the motion, duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler with the motion being unanimously approved.

5. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith opened the General Public Comments section of the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm and called for any public comments. He then called upon Anne Barron to address Council.

Mrs. Barron, with the Chamber, along with Ann Stiles and Dot Bandy and representing Gold Rush, were in attendance. Mrs. Barron spoke to Council regarding the 35th anniversary of Gold Rush, handed out a flyer with the proposed activities for the day, and stated that WJBF, Channel 6 out of Augusta would be in that day from noon until the 6 o'clock news time to do another Hometown segment. Mrs. Barron also gave information as to the sponsorship and ads that were being gathered for the event, stating this was where some of the funds went as some were concerned about funds being spent. Mrs. Barron thanked the Town for its participation over the years. She stated that sanitation for the event would be taken care of again this year by the Big Red Fanatics and that Fannie Kate's would be opened and the Dorn House for tours. Mrs. Barron stated that the Chamber had a Face Book page with a link to Gold Rush and that Justina Lagroon, summer intern at the Chamber, had helped with running the site which had over 17,000 hits.

Mayor Smith stated that the Town appreciated the Chamber's efforts in promoting the Town, and thanked her for the recent letter of appreciation to the Town.

Mrs. Barron stated that last year's Gold Rush had competed with a lot of other events going on at the same time and attendance was not as expected. She stated she hoped for better attendance this year as it was the 35th anniversary.

Mayor Smith asked if Channel 6 had a list of the local officials. Mrs. Barron stated that they had a schedule of who's who already and would be using it for possible interviews.

Mayor Smith closed the General Public Comments section at approximately 7:15 pm.

6. Regular Town Council Business Items:

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of Council for July 10, and called for action regarding same. Council Member Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes as written, motion duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Seymour and unanimously approved.

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Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Bills** for July, along with a copy of the Receivables report and called for any questions. Council Member Mr. Chiles made a motion for the Bills to be paid in the usual manner, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Financial Statement** for July and called for action regarding same. Council Member Mr. Chiles made a motion that the Financial Statement be received as information and recorded as part of the Minutes, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Butler and unanimously approved.

7. Legislation

Under Legislation, Mayor Smith stated that one Proclamation had been presented to Willie Joe and Ada Perrin for the impact that the Perrin's had had on the community. He stated that the Perrin's were honored with a supper at their Church, and he had attended that celebration and presented the Proclamation.

8. Reports

Moving to Reports, Mayor Smith called upon Major William D. Willis of the Police Department, Chief Jones being on leave.

Major Willis reported activity for the month of July as follows:

Traffic Collisions 1; Traffic Offenses 21; Arrests 24; Overall Offenses 31 (Incident Reports filed) and Calls for Service 560.

Major Willis stated that it had been a busy summer month and that the Officers had been working steady. He stated one position had been filled, but the department remained busy as usual.

Mayor Smith thanked Major Willis, and called upon Fire Chief Mike Barron for the Fire Report.

Chief Barron reported the following activity for July: City calls: 1-Automotive; 2-Structure; total for city 3; County Response Area: 4-Automotive; 1-Brush Fire; Total Calls for service in July 8 calls; with average firefighter response at 4.

Under Notes, Chief Barron reported the Department had missed three known calls for service; one firefighter had resigned due to job relocation, and the County transitioning to narrow band radio signal (Fire Department radios).

Chief Barron also handed out a flyer to the Mayor and Council Members with information regarding volunteer fire services, low numbers of volunteers, and the service finding itself in trouble due to the low number of volunteers and lack of response in answering fire calls.

Chief Barron stated that he was finding that the volunteer firemen were "call shopping" meaning they were selecting calls to respond to. He stated that the volunteer who worked a full time job during the day could not just leave his full time job and respond to any and all calls especially ones out of town – Sandy Branch or Plum Branch. As noted, Chief Barron

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stated he had lost another fireman, due to job relocation, which brought his number down to 13 firemen.

In discussing the radio transitioning, Chief Barron stated that this was a FCC requirement and the County was going to narrow band radios which the County did supply to the Department, but that the trucks would have to be equipped with amps and he would be approaching the County to see if those costs would be covered. He stated that the amps would allow the trucks to have ample power in communicating with dispatch – 911.

Mayor Smith asked if another community meeting was scheduled. Chief Barron stated that he was looking at having another meeting around September 1 at the Library.

Mayor Smith asked about the County fundign and what amount was in the County's budget. It was stated that the County was giving the same amount as it had in the past year, \$8,250.00.

Chier Barron stated that the county did not fund Bethia this year.

Council Member Mr. Chiles asked about the three missed calls. He expressed his concern over this and stated that he felt the Mayor should call for a workshop to address the fire department status only. He stated that this is something that could not be taken lightly. He expressed his opionion that the Town should have a full time fire department with one or two firemen. It was stated that a fire truck can't roll with just one fireman, two had to be on board before the truck could roll.

Mayor Smith stated that he shared Council Member Mr. Chiles' concern, thoughts, and would be talking to Chief Barron more at length, would set a date and time for a workshop and would get the information to Council Members.

Discussion continued on the subject of a full time department and possible salary/benefit amounts, number of firemen to be at station, with other concerns to be addressed.

Council Member Mr. Chiles asked if any of the missed calls were false alarm calls, in that the Town had passed a False Alarm Fire Ordinance recently. None fo the missed calls were for false alarms.

Council Member Mr. Chiles stated he felt the Town had a great volunteer fire department and he felt that the Town needed to tune up what we have.

Chief Barron stated that with a recent fire which was handled by Plum Branch that the departmetns responding worked together professionally to handle the structure call. He stated that the call was a total loss, but had not resulted in any fatality. He stated these type calls were called by the firemen "saving wood".

Mayor Smith asked the percentage of calls in the County.

Chief Barron stated that last year the percentage of County calls was 67%, many calls being

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in the County versus the City.

Mayor Smith thanked Chief Barron and called for the Clerk/Treasurer's Report.

Mrs. McKinney reported as follows:

Purchase of property, goods and services: 18% local, 20% out of town, 25% for personal services and 39% for contracted services. She reported one staff meeting held during the month, as well as meeting with the Town's auditors. She stated that the Auditors were in on July 27 to do final work and hopefully a draft of the FY 11/12 audit would be available in the next week. Reporting the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's report, Mrs. McKinney gave the following information:

Business Licenses: new: 6; renewals 13; 2 new businesses in town and 4 contractors; the two new businesses being Short Cuts, Etc. and The Hang Out.

Building Permit Coordinations: 7 for repairs

Zoning Issues: one for classification

Background Checks: employment: 6; apartment: 2

Visitor's Log: 123 total visitors; 68 for Town Hall; 52 for Police Department; and 3 for the Fire Department

Meetings Attended: National Night Out and Planning and Zoning training.

Mayor Smith stated that he had assigned Mrs. Foster a new position – Events Coordinator for the Town and she would be working with agencies/organizations and would be attending meetings of these agencies/organizations who wanted to hold events in Town.

Mayor Smith called Administrator Krumwiede for his report, and Administrator Krumwiede stated he didn't have anything to report at this time.

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve all reports as given. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion, motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Johnson. and unanimously approved.

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated there were no items under Old Business, and called for any from Council. None were offered.

10. New Business

Under New Business, Mayor Smith stated that Council had a request of the Clerk/Treasurer to pay Inter Agency funding requests in eight checks versus 32. Council had been given a listing of the Inter Agency funding requests and a copy of the Accommodation tax revenue received \$39,492.22.

Council Member Mr. Chiles stated he had reviewed the amounts, and stated that it looked like there would be a shortage. After a review of the request and the payment to Inter Agencies, it was noted that there would be a balance of some \$12,292.22 left in Accommodation tax funding for use to fund other agencies, requests, etc. It was stated that the \$15,000.00 for Recreation would not be paid at this time.

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Mayor Smith stated that he was still working on a draft MOU and would be getting that to Council, the Attorney and the Administrator when completed.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour stated that she thought that this had been replaced with the line item in the budget.

Mayor Smith stated that even with the line item in the budget, the MOU would back up the line item.

Attorney Compton stated that he would like to advise Council that he had sent a letter to the Mayor, regarding the auditors request of any pending litigation for the Town. He stated that there were no findings, no pending litigation at this time.

11. Information Items

Mayor Smith stated no items were listed. He stated that he was setting up times and dates to address the overgrown properties in Town and would be meeting with property owners. He asked Council to be aware of the following happenings in Town:

National Night Out – MACK Park – 6 to 9 pm, August 30
Gold Rush – September 15
Town Election – August 28
and the John de la Howe Gold Tournament.

Mayor Smith called for nay other items to come before Council.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Smith, offering the motion for adjournment, accepted the second of Council Member Mr. Buter, and Council's unanimous approval.

Council adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

