

**Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
McCormick One Stop Conference Room, 109 W. Augusta St., McCormick, SC**

Attendance:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

Council Members Present: Calvin Chiles
Eric T. Butler
Alvin Jennings
Ann Seymour

Council Members Absent: Dolly Franklin
Nathan Jones

Staff Present: Police Chief J.R. Jones
Police Major W.D. Willis
Fire Chief Mike Barron
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney

Staff Absent: Town Attorney, John D. Compton, III

News Media: **Damian Dominguez, The Index-Journal**

Other Guests: Junior Firefighters: Zariya Lagroon, Brianna Collins, Joseph Barron,
Volunteer Firefighter Candidates: George Lewis, Jay Gray, Kelly Jordan
Family & Guests
Shawn Tarpeck, County Branding Initiative
Dara Harrison, Natisha Remis, Stacy Blair,
Tashun Battle, Community Residents
Donn Lee
Dr. Cleo F. Richardson, Superintendent
McCormick School District

Public Notification:

News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail on January 6 and 8, 2016. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on January 8, 2016. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on January 8, 2016. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on January 8, 2016.

1. Call to Order

At approximately 7:00 pm, Mayor Smith called to order the McCormick Town Council's regular scheduled meeting for January 12, 2016.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked all present to stand and offer the Pledge of Allegiance; all did so in a patriotic manner.

Mayor Smith stated it was customary, prior to the meeting, to pick a business of the month. Mayor Smith asked Council Member Mr. Butler to make the selection. Council Member Mr. Butler selected “**McCormick Car Wash**” as business pick for the month of January. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to the business.

3. Invocation

Mayor Smith called for Council Member Mr. Butler to offer the invocation; Council Member Mr. Butler did so, first giving thanks for a great day, one of opportunity to come together in service to the community; as well as seeking direction and guidance in conducting the business of the Town, and prayers of healing for those who were ill, for the bereaved, and for Town Clerk/Treasurer’s mother, Bernice Holloway.

4. Approval of Agenda as Written

Mayor Smith called any discussion regarding the Agenda as Written and receiving none, called for a motion to approve the agenda as written; Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered the motion, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles, and unanimously approved.

Swearing in of the McCormick Fire Department’s First Group of Junior Firefighters: Zariya Lagroon, Brianna Collins, and Joseph Barron

Mayor Smith called the Junior Firefighter’s forward and the oath was given.

Mayor Smith stated this was a special group of young people who had stepped up to the plate to serve the community, and he felt they would make a difference. He stated the role they had accepted would be one which would give them an opportunity to grow in to.

One other Junior Firefighter, Kelly Martin, would be sworn in at a later date.

5. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith called the General Public Comments agenda item opened for public comments at approximately 7:08 pm.

Mayor Smith then called upon Dr. Cleo F. Richardson, Superintendent, McCormick Public Schools and welcomed him to the McCormick Community and the Town Council meeting.

Dr. Richardson stated he was honored to be in McCormick; he gave background of serving in education at the State level, and in several districts. He stated that he was familiar with McCormick through his association with Curtis Prince and Dr. Arlene Prince. He stated that exciting things were happening in the School District and he looked forward to working with the Board until someone was appointed as Superintendent, as he was serving only in the interim. He handed out information sheets on “Profile of the South Carolina Graduate”, the “Blooms Taxonomy”, and the “Tap – the system for Teacher and Student Achievement” to Council for their review. He stated his objective was for the students to learn and get better every day, to have efficient and effective teachers, to continue training for them, to provide safety for all, and to be good stewards of the resources of the School. He stated his vision

was to work together, move forward, plan and assess all aspects of education, and to provide and seek outreach of and to the community. He encouraged Council to visit the Schools and to see the great things being done. He thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to attend the meeting.

Mayor Smith called for any questions for Dr. Richardson and receiving none, he thanked him for his attendance and offered the support of the Town.

Calling for, and no further comments being offered, Mayor Smith closed the General Public Comments 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 December 8, 2015 for review prior to the meeting and called for any discussion or action regarding the Minutes as presented.

Council Member Mr. Chiles made a motion that the Minutes stand approved as written, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Jennings, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received, for review prior to the meeting, a copy of the **Bills** for December and called for any discussion or action regarding the Bills.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion that the Bills 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 December for review prior to the meeting, and called for any discussion or action regarding same.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion that the Financial Statement be received as information, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

7. Legislation

Mayor Smith stated under Legislation, Council had received copies of several Ordinances, a Resolution, and a Proclamation for review:

O2015-12-08-01 – Ordinance to Amend Section 31.10 – Employees Not to Offer for Election (inconsistency with Ordinance and Employee Handbook) – second reading/adoption

Mayor Smith stated second reading/adoption was needed and called for a motion from Council.

Council Member Mr. Chiles made a motion to give second reading/adoption to Ordinance 2015-12-08-01, said motion being duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

O2015-12-08-02 Ordinance to Appropriate Additional Funds to the FY 15/16 Town General Operating Budget to include various projects, building improvements, and equipment purchase – second reading/adoption

Mayor Smith stated second reading/adoption was needed and called for a motion from Council.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered a motion to give second reading/adoption to Ordinance 2015-12-08-02, said motion being duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Butler and unanimously approved.

R-2016-01-01 – 2016 Safety Policy Statement

Mayor Smith asked Town Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney to speak to Council regarding this Resolution.

Mrs. McKinney stated that the Town had, as a part of its insurances through the SCMIT and SCMIRF programs through the Municipal Association, a Safety Committee consisting of the Mayor, the Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as herself, and a part of that Safety Program was the adoption of a Safety Policy and Management Letter which called for a safe and hazard free work place.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign, with the Town Clerk/Treasurer attesting, the Resolution to adopt the 2016 Safety Policy Statement.

Proclamation – Arthur Banks

Mayor Smith stated he had presented this Proclamation in recognition of Mr. Bank’s birthday celebration which his family had requested. He stated Mr. Banks was Chairman of the Senior Citizens Council.

Mayor Smith then moved to Reports.

8. Reports

Mayor Smith called upon Chief Jones to give the **Police** Department Report for the month of December. Chief Jones stated he would be reporting the month of December and the year-end report:

December	Year End 2015
Collisions Investigated - 8	49
Traffic Offenses – 8	127
Arrests – 14	112
Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) – 18	245
Calls for Service – 360	3761

For events for December, Chief Jones listed the Christmas Tree lighting event and the annual Christmas parade.

Chief Jones stated Council, at last meeting, had requested a demonstration of the body camera that the Department was considering to purchase due to the recent passage of the body camera regulation for all law enforcement officers. He called upon Major Willis.

Major Willis passed the body camera to council for inspection and review. He stated, as

mandated by the State, that the Department had adopted a policy which had been approved, and was now working to get the body cameras in place for each officer. He stated the model shown was from Digital Ally, the company that the Department had worked with in the past for the video cameras and other equipment. He stated that the Stated would be offering grant funds to offset the costs and he would be seeking reimbursement. He stated that the officer would have a choice of chest or point of view model and the camera came with changeable batteries. He stated that Digital Ally was also offering the software package. He stated that he would be obtaining an external hard drive for storage of data in-house. He stated the camera was auto activated – blue lights on – camera on. Discussion of storage data and length of storage was held, and it was stated that the data could be held for 14 days and then deleted, but in sensitive cases, the data could be kept indefinitely. Price of the cameras would be approximately \$6,000 for the seven cameras, one for each officer, it was reported.

Mayor Smith thanked Chief Jones and Major Willis and moved to the **Fire Report** and called upon Fire Chief Barron.

Chief Barron, stated that December was an average month. He reported the following activity:

Automotive – 1

Structure Fires – 2

Misc/Alarms - 4

Brush – 2

Miscellaneous - 1

For a total of 10 calls.

Under Notes, Chief Barron listed:

Congratulations to students of the first class of the 1700 series program. All seven class members completed the SC 1701 Basic Fire & Emergency Responder Certification.

Chief Barron also asked that Council consider a motion to approve membership of the following recruits:

Jr. Firefighters: Brianna Collins, Zariya Lagroon, Kelly Martin, and Joseph Barron

Volunteer Firefighters: George Lewis, Jay Gray, and Kelly Jordan.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to approve the membership as requested, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles and unanimously approved.

Chief Barron reminded Council of the invitation to attend the Annual Fire Supper to be held on January 15, at Hickory Knob, at 7 pm in the Bordeaux Room.

Chief Barron reported that testing compliances were being continually held in the Department, hose, ladder and fitness.

Mayor Smith thanked Chief Barron and then called for the **Clerk/Treasurer's and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's** report.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Additional Report to Council:

Purchases of goods and services:

10% local; 17% out of town; 28% for personal services, contracted services 45%

Continuing/Upcoming Events listed included:

2016 Risk Management Services Self-Assessment – February 11
Safety Meeting 4th Qtr 2015 (to be held in Jan.Feb.Mar.-1st Qtr. 2016)
Filing of Annual Reports, including OSHA Form 300
ADA Filing Requirements & Certification (April)
Fair Housing Resolution (April)

Filings:

None

Publications:

Zoning Ad for Amendment to Zoning Table I for the Log Cabin building/area
Ads for Holiday Greetings
Election Ad for General Election in April

Zoning:

No requests for classification

Meetings:

None

Mrs. McKinney stated that she had also given the Mayor and Council year end employment forms which she would need to be returned, as well as the annual Report on Contracts.

In giving the Deputy Town Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney reported:

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's report:

Business licenses: 2 – new; (contractors)

Building Permit Coordination: 9-for repairs

Zoning Issues: None

Background Checks: 4 - Employment; 3 – Apartment; 1 - Other

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 58; Police Department - 44; Fire Department – 2; for a total of 104

Meetings attended: 12/15 – Cornerstone's Open House

New Businesses started in Town: None

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve all reports as given.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to approve all reports as given, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles, and unanimously approved.

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated under Old Business Council had received a copy of the 2016 Budget Schedule and for information, financials had been given to the department heads on January 4, with their estimates of department budget requests to be returned by February 1.

10. New Business

Under New Business, Mayor Smith stated Council had received information on the annual request for donation for Relay for Life. He asked the Town Clerk/Treasurer what was the previous year's amount to which she replied \$750.00.

He also reminded Council to be aware of the SEI filing requirement, information having been given in the Council's packages. Council had also received information regarding the resignation of Mrs. Dara Harrison from the Elections Commission. Mayor Smith thanked Mrs. Harrison for her service on that Commission, she being in attendance. Mayor Smith stated that Council had been made aware also of the need for repairs at the Dorn House.

Mayor Smith gave some history on the house, it having been given to the Town, been on and off the market and even had been offered back to the Reeder Foundation. He stated that the house was in need of repairs, and asked Council to consider options for this property and bring back to the next meeting for further discussion.

Council Member Seymour asked if there were grant funds that would help. It was stated that there were preservation funds that could be sought, but a plan with design and specs, a budget, and other items would be needed in order to apply. It was also stated that there were funds on hand in the capital account for repairs to the House. It was also stated that the Town may want to consider the Historic Preservation Trust to see if they would accept the property. Zoning of the property was discussed, it being stated that the House was in a residential zone with limited use.

Mayor Smith called for additional information to come to Council.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour stated she wanted to thank Council and all others who had supported her during the loss of her son.

Calling for and receiving no further business to come before Council, Mayor Smith offered Comments:

Branding Initiative – attended by Dr. Richardson, himself, and Council Members, Mr. Chiles and Mr. Butler; he stated that safety of the community was being offered as one selling point; several meetings to be held, with the final meeting on Thursday, the 14, at 6 pm

Events – Mayor Smith reported the MLK Ceremony on January 17 at the McCormick Middle School, and the Annual Prayer Breakfast on February 13 at the Senior Center

Mayor Smith stated there appeared to be a conflict with regard to the Elected Officials meeting planned for January 21 and that would possibly be canceled and held along with the Prayer Breakfast.

11. Adjournment

Mayor Smith stated that if there was no further business to come before Council, a motion to adjourn was needed.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered the motion to adjourn, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Council adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Town Clerk/Treasurer

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