

Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Attendance:

Mayor:	Roy Smith, Jr.
Council Members:	Dolly Franklin Eric T. Butler Ann D. Seymour
Absent Council Members:	Nathan Jones, Medical J. Calvin Chiles, Medical Alvin L. Jennings, Illness/death in Family
Staff Present:	Police Chief J.R. Jones Fire Chief Mike Barron Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney
Staff Absent:	Attorney John D. Compton, III
Media Present:	None
Other Guests:	Charles Jennings, McCormick County Council Chair

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present to the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council for March 11, 2014, the meeting being 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 March 7, 2014. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on March 7, 2014. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on March 7, 2014. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on March 9, 2014.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mayor Smith welcomed all in attendance to the regular, monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council stating a joint meeting of the McCormick County Council and the McCormick Town Council had been held prior to the meeting, beginning at 6:15 pm. He stated that there were several absences, Council Member Mr. Jones, health issues, Council Member Mr. Chiles, health issues and in the hospital for observation, and Council Member Mr. Jennings who had family illness with pending death.

Invocation: Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to give the Invocation. Council Member Mr. Butler did so, asking for mercy, grace, love, kindness, and faithfulness for the day, and for guidance for doing the right thing in governing the Town's meeting.

Mayor Smith stated it was customary, prior to the meeting, to have a business pick of the

month to show appreciation to local businesses, and called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to make the selection. Council Member Mr. Butler selected “**McCormick Helping Hands**”. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to this business.

Mayor Smith then **called the meeting to order** at approximately 7:08 pm.

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. Approval of Agenda as Written

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the agenda as published and called for a motion to approve the agenda as written. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

4. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith then opened, and called for any, General Public Comments at approximately 7:10 pm.

Mayor Smith stated that Jeff Shacker who was with the Municipal Association was present and called upon Mr. Shacker to speak to Council.

Mr. Shacker thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to attend the meeting. He stated he was one of two Field Service Managers for the Municipal Association. He stated he was formerly the City Manager of Newberry and had served in various positions with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

Mr. Shacker provided a power point presentation of the Hospitality Tax Program. In his presentation, he stated this tax could be an additional revenue source for the Town, the tax's uses being to promote tourism in the community and, under certain circumstances, to offset general fund operations. He stated the Hospitality Tax may not exceed 2% of sales from meals and beverages; certain other items, such as deli items in a food store, and caterers could be taxed, along with motels and hotels. Certain other restrictions would apply to the amount of hospitality tax received, with larger cities and town receiving \$900,000 or more in revenue having a greater accountability as to use. He stated McCormick would probably not fall into that category. He stated in order to participate in the program, the Town would have to adopt, by a positive majority, an ordinance, with all members of council supporting the Ordinance. He gave references to State Code, Title 6, Chapters 5 and 7 for information regarding the formation of the program. Certain uses in the General Fund Operations, he stated, would include police and fire protection, historic and recreation facilities improvements, highways, roads and bridges improvements, ads and promotions for tourism, with the tax being strictly for tourism based projects and operations. Surrounding towns and cities participating in the program, he stated, included Abbeville and Greenwood, with Greenwood having a project pay as go basis which seemed to work well for Greenwood. He stated in McCormick the revenue received would probably be 50% restricted – to be used for tourism related purposes, and 50% operations – to be used for general fund operations.

Mr. Shacker concluded his presentation and thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to attend and speak to Council on the Hospitality Tax.

Calling for additional General Public Comments and receiving none, Mayor Smith closed the General Public Comments section of the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM.

5. Regular Town Council Business Items:

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of Council for February 18, and called for action regarding same. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to approve the Minutes as written, said motion duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Bills** for February, along with a copy of the Receivables Report and called for any questions. No questions were offered, and Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to pay the Bills in the usual manner, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Franklin, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Financial Statement** for February and called for action regarding same. Council Member Mrs. Seymour 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 Members Mr. Butler and unanimously approved.

6. Legislation

Under Legislation, Mayor Smith stated there were **no Ordinances, Resolutions or Proclamations** to be considered.

7. Reports

Moving to Reports, Mayor Smith called upon Chief Jones to give the **Police** Department Report for February.

In reporting activity for February, Chief Jones reported monthly activity as follows: Collisions Investigated 3; Traffic Offenses 6; Arrests 8; Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) 17; and Calls for Service 375.

Chief Jones stated he was working with School officials in the development of an evacuation plan. He stated a mock drill was being planned to evacuate elementary through 12th grade, to two evacuation locations the old high school and the Methodist Church in Town. He stated he was working also with the Resource Officer at the School and others to address traffic and other issues which could develop. After the mock drill, he stated an evaluation of the plan would be held to assess the success of it and to work on any issues or problems arising from the evacuation.

Mayor Smith asked Chief Jones to speak to Council regarding the recent fire and death of a resident.

Chief Jones stated in working that incident, all agencies involved had done a good job. He stated the Police Department was assisted by the County. He stated he especially wanted to recognize Deputy Brock and Major Willis who did an outstanding job, going into the residence to search for anyone inside the residence. He stated he had a greater appreciation also for the Fire Department in their handling of the situation and risking their lives. He stated the Fire Department needed to be commended. He stated tragically the incident did result in a death.

Mayor Smith called for any questions from Council for Chief Jones and receiving none, he thanked Chief Jones for his report and called upon Fire Chief Mike Barron to give the **Fire Report** for February.

Chief Barron stated, due to lack of rain, brush fire activity had increased and for the month of February, he reported activity as follows:

City calls 7; 1-structure; 2-alarm; 3-miscellaneous; County calls: 1-automotive; 2-structure; 3-brush; and 1 training event for a total of 13 calls.

In support of Chief Jones' comments regarding the recent fire and death, Chief Barron stated that each department had its own responsibilities and that he was impressed as to how everyone worked together, knew what to do, and things seemed to flow well, with no confusion.

Under events, Chief Barron stated he was requesting a motion from Council to accept Samantha Coker for membership into the Town Fire Department on a probationary period. He stated Samantha was the daughter of Robert Gable, was a student at Piedmont Tech, and had been with the Plum Branch Fire Department for two years. He stated she was an excellent candidate, being eager to learn and working well with the other members of the Department.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to approve the request of the Fire Chief to accept Samantha Coker for membership into the Town Fire Department, on a probationary period, with the motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Chief Barron stated that yearly joint training for the year had begun and the testing would include flow drills, one being next month in the Food Lion area.

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

Mrs. McKinney reported as follows for the **Clerk/Treasurer's** additional report:

Purchases of goods and services: 6% local; 5% out of town, 5% for personal services, contracted services 18% and note payment on the fire truck at 66%.

Upcoming Events listed included work on the FY 14/15 Budget for the General Fund. Mrs. McKinney stated that a Budget Workshop would be held on March 20 and asked Council Members to note the time beginning at 6:30 pm. No filings or publications were listed and for meetings, Mrs. McKinney reported two staff meetings and attendance at the Clerk's meeting held at Upper Savannah on February 20. Under Safety, Mrs. McKinney reported that the fire extinguisher inspections were completed on February 6, and building inspections would be held later in March or early April.

Reporting from the **Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's** report, Mrs. McKinney reported as follows:

Business licenses: new – 4 and 23 renewals

Building Permit Coordinations: 1-new for the concession stand/restrooms at the American Legion Ball Field

Zoning Issues: None

Background Checks: 3 for employment, 2 for apartment and 1 Other

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 57; Police Department - 38; Fire Department – 1; for a total of 96.

Meetings Attended: Clerk;s Meeting on February 20, and Visitor's Council on February 25

New Businesses started in Town: Fast Point at 201 North Mine Street, new owners, and Bryant Henderson, Car Wash, at 106 Carolina Street.

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

8. Old Business

Under Old Business, Mayor Smith stated Council had received information for the filing of their Ethics Statements, stating the deadline for filing had been changed, it now being March 30. He stated failure to file would result in a penalty of \$100 per day. He also stated that notation had been made reminding Council Members in Districts 1, 3 and 5 to file their Campaign Disclosure Statements, those Council Members having no opposition in seeking re-election to Council.

9. New Business

Under New Business, Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the draft FY 14/15 General Fund Operating Budget. He stated the Budget Workshop would be held on March 20 and asked that everyone bring their booklets with them to that Workshop.

10. Information Items

Under information items, Mayor Smith stated no items were listed and he did not have any items to report.

He did state that he had attended the Rural Summit in Sumter, Mr. Jennings having also attended that summit. He called upon Mr. Jennings to speak to Council about the student who had received an award. Mr. Jennings stated that Jasmine Callaham, a junior who was attending Middle College, had received the Department of Commerce Award and a \$500 scholarship. Mr. Jennings stated that this young lady had a 4.66 GPA and had scored over 1400 on the SAT.

Mayor Smith stated he would invite the young lady to one of the Town's council meetings.

Mayor Smith stated that Lindsay Graham had been in McCormick for a meet and greet, and he had attended that event at the Barn.

Executive Session: Mayor Smith called for a motion to go into executive session for contract negotiations for a timber sale and personnel discussion. Council Member Mr. Butler offered the motion, duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Seymour, and unanimously approved.

Upon motion to return to regular session by Council Member Seymour, duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Franklin, and unanimously approved, Mayor Smith called for any action regarding executive session discussions.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to accept the contract negotiations with Thompson Forest Consultants for the sale of timber at the old landfill site, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Franklin and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith reported no discussion had been held with regard to personnel.

Discussion began with the question of the Witcherman property, it being stated that the matter was in the Magistrate Court for a court date. Council Members were reminded that no discussion could be held on a non-published item.

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11. Adjournment

Calling for any other business to come before Council and receiving none, Mayor Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion, with Council Members Mr. Butler and Mrs. Franklin giving second. Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at approximately 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M03112014

