

Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Attendance:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

Council Members: Nathan Jones
J. Calvin Chiles
Eric T. Butler
Ann D. Seymour

Council Members Absent: Dolly Franklin
Alvin Jennings

Staff Present: Police Chief J.R. Jones
Fire Chief Mike Barron
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney
Deputy Town Clerk/Treasurer Judy Foster

Staff Absent: Attorney John D. Compton, III

Media Present: None

Other Guests: Christine Lee, resident of Virginia Street

Public Hearing Attendees: Lists Attached

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present, the largest number in attendance since he had become Mayor, to the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council for May 13, 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. Mayor Smith welcomed the Daileys, residents of New York, who were planning to move to McCormick in June.

News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail on May 6, 2014. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on May 5 and 6, 2014. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on May 8, 2014. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on May 8, 2014. Public Hearing notices had been published in the McCormick Messenger as required by law. No requests for general public comments had been received.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mayor Smith welcomed all in attendance to the regular, monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council at approximately 7:02 pm.

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. Jones to make the selection. Council Member Mr. Jones selected "**Lewis Chiropractic**". Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to this business.

Invocation: Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to give the Invocation. Council Member Mr. Butler did so, being thankful for a great day, the large gathering, and the opportunity to conduct business for the Town, seeking guidance in governing the Town's business.

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 any questions regarding same. No discussion or questions having been given, Mayor Smith called for a motion regarding the approval of the agenda as written. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to approve the published agenda, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council Members Mrs. Franklin and Mr. Jennings were absent, Mr. Jennings having called stating he would be out of Town.

4. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith then opened, and called for any, General Public Comments at approximately 7:05 pm. No general public comments were offered, and Mayor Smith closed this section of the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2014/2015 TOWN GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET – LEGISLATIVE ITEM A(1)

**Mayor Smith opened the public hearing to receive comments regarding the FY
2014/2015.**

No comments were offered.

PUBLIC HEARING: VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 614 E. AUGUSTA ST. - LEGISLATIVE ITEM A(2)

**Mayor Smith opened the public hearing to receive comments. Approximately 16 people
were present, sign in sheets being attached for reference.**

**Mayor Smith called upon Mr. Dailey to speak to Council regarding the request for the
variance.**

**Mr. Dailey stated that he and his family had purchased the residence at 614 East
Augusta Street and were hoping to move to McCormick in June. He stated that he and
his family had pocket beagles in their home in and were asking that they be allowed to
have sales of pocket beagles at their home. He stated that these were small dogs, not
annoying, and barking would not be an issue. He stated that they did not operate a
kennel. He stated that they had been selling pocket beagles for the past seven years,
that this was not disruptive in anyway, and felt that it would not be disruptive at their
home on East Augusta Street. He stated that he and his family wished to become part
of a nice community, not have a bad re pore with anyone, or to offend anyone, but were
asking that they be allowed to continue to able to sell their pocket beagles.**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for comment and approximately seven of the sixteen

attendees spoke in opposition to the variance, with the main objectives being offered ranging from nuisance problems , devaluation of property values, opening the door to allow for other businesses in a residential area, disclosure to anyone desiring to buy a home in the neighborhood that a business use was being allowed, how to control use once it was granted, how to reverse a decision of council once granted when complaints were received, who was going to monitor, compliance with state and federal laws, past complaints of business, and generally in granting the variance, it would not be in the best interest of the Town.

Attorney Compton asked that the Daileys provide him with copies of the federal and state regulations as well as permitting from their business and any issues or complaints received.

Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at proximately 7:40 pm thanking everyone for their comments.

6. Regular Town Council Business Items:

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Minutes** of the regular meeting of Council for April 8, 2014, 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 Mrs. Franklin, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Bills** for April, 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 Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Financial Statement** for April 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 Member Mr. Butler and unanimously approved.

6. Legislation

Under Legislation, Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of Ordinance No. 2014-07-01, the FY 2014/2015 General Fund Operating Budget and called for any discussion. Receiving none, he called for action from Council. Council Member Mr. Chiles made a motion to give first reading, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mrs. Seymour, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated Council had also received a draft copy of an ordinance, Ordinance No. 2014-06-01, pertaining to the variance request and public hearing previously held. He called for action from Council taking into consideration the various public comments having been made. Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion for the ordinance to be tabled asking that further investigation and consideration be given in light of the various public comments having been made. Council Member Mr. Butler duly seconded the motion to table, with the motion being unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated that he felt that tabling the motion was the right thing to do, stating that he would work with the Town Attorney in addressing the additional request made for supporting

documentation and the federal and state regulations.

Mayor Smith also stated Council had received a Proclamation for Peace Officer's Memorial Day, which is May 15.

8. Reports

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

Chief Jones reported as follows:

Collisions Investigated 5; Traffic Offenses 12; Arrests 15; Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) 38; and Calls for Service 440.

Chief Jones reported for events, that the "Drug Take Back Program" was a success with 10 pounds being collected. He reported the new patrol unit was in, and that he had recently attended training at the Criminal Justice Academy.

Mayor Smith called upon Fire Chief Barron to give the **Fire** Report for April.

Chief Barron reported as follows:

City calls 4; 1-structure; 1 miscellaneous; 2 brush; and for County calls 8; 2-automotive; 2-structure; 2-miscellaneous; 2-brush. Total calls for service in April being 12 calls.

Under Notes, Chief Barron reported firefighter support was given to the Augusta Burn Center, and the recent bicyclist event held in Town and joint training with other departments for summer operations would begin shortly.

Mayor Smith asked Chief Barron if he had been given any information as to the County's allocation in their budget. Chief Barron stated he had not received any news regarding the Fire Department's request.

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

Mrs. McKinney reported as follow:

Purchases of goods and services: 12% local; 19% out of town, 13% for personal services, contracted services 56%.

Upcoming Events listed included Building Inspections for 2014, Safety Meeting for second quarter of 2014, upcoming Insurance Assessment Review (June/July) audit work to begin on May 23 on the FY 13/14 GFO budget, and the Municipal Association's Annual Meeting. She stated that Council had received information regarding registration and housing in their agenda packages with specific dates for information to be received. She stated the Municipal Association would be calling the Town on either May 28 or 29 to get all attendee's registration information. Under filings, Mrs. McKinney reporting the filing of the first quarter payroll reports. Under Publications, she reported the publishing of the Fair Housing Resolution and ADA requirements, and the two public hearings previously held, all publications being in the McCormick Messenger. For meetings attended, she reported several staff meetings and a meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer on April 22.

Mayor Smith thanked Mrs. McKinney for her report, and called upon Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Judy Foster to give her report, stating that Mrs. Foster had recently graduated from the Clerk's school.

Mrs. Foster reported as follows:

Business licenses: new – 9 and 16 renewals, 2 new Town and 7 contractors.

Building Permit Coordinations: 1-new; 6-for repairs.

Zoning Issues: none

Background Checks: 3 for employment, 6 for apartment

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 69; Police Department - 51; Fire Department – 0; for a total of 120.

Meetings Attended: April 23 – Business License Class – Columbia; and April 28 – Major Employer's Meeting – Hickory Knob.

She reported the two new businesses in Town were the El Sombrero Mexican Grill at 222 South Main Street, and Murrell's Produce at the corner of Hwy 378/28.

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

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated no Old Business was listed.

10. New Business

Under New Business, Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the annual meeting information from the Municipal Association, the meeting to be held in Charleston – July 10-13.

10. Information Items

Under information items, Mayor Smith stated he had several dates:

The Mims Foundation Reunion/Parade on May 16-18; with a parade on the 17th at 10 am and an event in the MACK Park beginning at noon

Relay for Life Event – May 23 at the School Complex

The Gold Rush Pageant – June 21 – Savannah Lakes

Mental Health Cookoff on May 31 at the MACK

Mayor Smith also stated that he had requested that the CPW meet jointly with the Town and had scheduled that date for July 8, an hour before the regular council meeting.

Mayor Smith stated that the street signs in town were being replaced and the signs to Downtown had been repainted; he stated that the work had been done gradually and was also completed.

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 Member Mr. Butler giving second. Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at approximately 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M05132014