

Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
McCormick One Stop Conference Room, 109 W. Augusta St., McCormick, SC

Attendance:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

Council Members: Dolly Franklin
Nathan Jones
J. Calvin Chiles
Eric T. Butler
Alvin Jennings
Ann D. Seymour

Staff Present: Major W.D. Willis
Assistant Fire Chief Johnny Deason
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney

Staff Absent: Attorney John D. Compton, III

Media Present: None

Other Guests: Rachel and Matthew Dailey
and Gary Recktenwald
Martin and Terry Bailey
Jackie Brown
Andrea Mann
Ursula Henderson
John Roche

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present to the McCormick Town Council Meeting for the month of June. He stated that it was customary, prior to the meeting, to pick a business of the month. Mayor Smith asked Council Member Jones to make the selection. Council Member Jones selected State Farm Insurance Agency as business pick for the month of June. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to State Farm.

News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail on June 6, 2014. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on June 6, 2014. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on June 6, 2014. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on June 6, 2014. No requests for general public comments had been received.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Mayor Smith called to order the monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council for June and opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm.

2. Invocation

Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to give the Invocation. Council Member Mr. Butler did so, asking for guidance and governance of the meeting, as was with the previous meeting, and that all things be done in His presence in governing the Town's business.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith stated Mr. William Adams was to be present and recognized for improvements to his property on Pine Street Extension, but he had called and stated that he would not be able to attend. Mayor Smith then opened and called for any General Public Comments at approximately 7:03 pm. No general public comments were offered, and Mayor Smith closed this section of the meeting at approximately 7:03 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 May 13, 2014, and called for action regarding same. Council Member Mr. Chiles 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 May, 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. Chiles, and unanimously approved.

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

7. 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 second reading and adoption to Ordinance 2014-07-01, General Fund Operating Budget, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, 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 upon Attorney Compton to address Council, and Attorney Compton stated that he felt that there was compliance with federal regulations for the use being proposed. He stated that this was an extension of the zoning ordinance to allow for the use. He recommended that the draft be amended as to Item F, using the word may instead of shall and that a nuisance provision be added to address complaints. He stated by adding the nuisance provision, it would allow due process for both sides in the event that there were complaints and a request for the business license to be forfeited. Mayor Smith then called upon the Town Clerk/Treasurer who spoke to the customary home occupation section of the Zoning Ordinance regarding business licenses. Mrs. McKinney reviewed the criteria for a business to be located in a residential zone under customary home occupation stating that the use was in compliance with all the criteria.

Mayor Smith thanked the Town Attorney and Town Clerk/Treasurer and called for action by Council.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered a motion to allow first reading to Ordinance 2014-06-01, with the amendments called for by the Town Attorney. Council Member Mr. Chiles duly seconded the motion, with stated amendments, with all Council Members voting affirmatively for first reading with amendments.

Mayor Smith also stated Council had received a Proclamation for Mental Health Month. He stated he had attended the Mental Health Cook-off, the 7th annual event, which was hosted by Mrs. Linda Kidd for the local Mental Health group.

8. Reports

Moving to Reports, Mayor Smith called upon Major Willis to give the **Police** Department Report for May.

Major Willis reported as follows:

Collisions Investigated 4; Traffic Offenses 10; Arrests 7; Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) 28; and Calls for Service 245.

Mayor Smith asked Major Willis to report on the grant recently approved for the Police Department. Major Willis stated this was a grant for a new fully marked/equipped patrol unit at a cost of \$39,000. He stated the matching amount would be 10% or \$3,900. He stated the Ford Crown Vics were being phased out and the new unit would possibly be an Escape or an Explorer.

Council Member Seymour stated that she noted that the calls for service had greatly drop over the past several months.

Major Willis stated this was due to the Police Department taking a proactive approach in the community, with people being more open in reporting situations. He stated during the summer activity will increase. He reported there had been a rash of break ins in the last two months, with 12 of the break ins dealing with only flat screen TV's being taken. He stated the Department was working diligently to solve these cases and that some evidence in one had recently been sent to SLED for analysis of DNA.

Council Member Chiles asked if there had been any arrests.

Major Willis stated no, but three previous cases had been cleared which were done by juveniles, one juvenile being at DJJ and one being placed on probation and possibly would wind up at DJJ.

Major Willis stated the MO for these break ins were that the perpetrator would break in the back door or window and look for flat screen TV's. He stated that they were not interested in money, jewelry or other items.

Council Member Chiles asked what he could legally do if someone was breaking into his house.

Major Willis stated that he could do whatever is necessary to defend himself and his home.

Andrea Mann, resident of Calvert Street, stated there had been two in her area and asked for added patrols.

Major Willis stated that patrols had been stepped up and that the Reserve Officer had come out to personally patrol the area.

Matthew Dailey stated that he also had been a victim but wanted to state that he had been impressed with the Police Department in responding quickly to his break in.

Mayor Smith asked if any of the residences involved had a house alarm system.

Major Willis stated no, that some residences were empty, vacant, and some residents were out of town.

Mayor Smith stated that the Town had recently passed a no texting ban in Town and stated this was now being considered statewide.

Major Willis stated that the bill was on the Governor's desk, but he was not sure if she had signed it into law. He stated this bill would target at risk youths.

Major Willis stated that citizens needed to be aware of their surrounds and notify the Police Department of any strange occurrences. He also stated that serial numbers for TV's and other items should be recorded. He stated the Police Department also had a "house check" that residents could sign up for.

Mayor Smith stated that the Police Department also had resident's keys.

Major Willis stated if residents were going to be out of town, they could drop off a key to the Police Department and the officers would perform property checks.

Mayor Smith called upon Assistant Fire Chief Deason to give the **Fire** Report for May.

Assistant Chief Deason reported as follows:

City calls 3; 1-automotive; 1 miscellaneous; and 1 brush; County calls 8; 3-automotive; 1-structure; 1-miscellaneous; 3-brush. Total calls for service in May being 11 calls.

Under Notes, Assistant Chief Deason reported several members were attending the yearly training conference in Myrtle Beach, and joint training for summer operations had begun, the first training being with Troy for pump operations on June 26.

Mayor Smith thanked Assistant Chief Deason and called for the Clerk/Treasurer's and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's report.

Mrs. McKinney reported as follow:

Purchases of goods and services: 7% local; 11% out of town, 6% for personal services, contracted services at 21% and the purchase of a patrol unit at 61%.

Upcoming Events listed included Building Inspections for 2014, Safety Meeting for second quarter of 2014, upcoming Insurance Assessment Review (June/July), and the Municipal Association's Annual Meeting being held in Charleston on July 10-13.

Mrs. McKinney reported no required filings or publications.

For meetings attended, she reported several staff meetings, the County Strategic Plan Vision meeting on May 6, and the Auditors were in on May 23 to begin the audit of the FY 13/14 budget.

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

Business licenses: new – 7 and 8 renewals, 6 contractors – 1-in town.

Building Permit Coordination Requests: 1-new (sign); 7-for repairs.

Background Checks: 4 for employment, 4 for apartment

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 85; Police Department - 50; Fire Department – 3; for a total of 138.

Meetings Attended: Staff Meetings on May 5, 12, 20, & 27.

New Businesses in Town: ASA Fireworks, located corner of 378/28, seasonal – 30 days in summer for July 4 and 30 days in winter for New Year's Eve.

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. Butler, 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 request from the MACK for funding of \$2,500 for window replacement. He stated that he would need a motion with regard to this request.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour asked if the funds were available in the budget.

Mrs. McKinney stated that funding would be available in the FY 14/15 budget under general capital reserve at \$5,000 and the MACK reserve at \$2,000.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion to approve the \$2,500 funding request, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Executive Session: FOIA; Contract Negotiations – Section 30-4-70 (2)

Mayor Smith called for a motion for executive session as published.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion for executive session, duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler and unanimously approved.

Upon return to regular session, Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to return to open session, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith then called for any action of council regarding the executive session discussion.

Council Member Mr. Butler offered a motion to amend the FY 14/15 General Fund Operating Budget previously adopted to include the increase in the contracted services fee for the Town Attorney. Council Member Mrs. Seymour duly seconded the motion, with council unanimously approving.

11. Information Items

Mayor Smith stated there were no items Under Information, but wanted to mention the Humane Society event on June 13.

Mayor Smith called for any other items to come before council.

Council Member Mr. Chiles asked about the grounds maintenance contractor and if his contract covered the Gold Mine Park.

It was stated that the grounds maintenance contract did cover the Gold Mine Park and parking area.

Council Member Chiles stated that he had a person in his district to comment on the condition of the park and it needing attention.

It was stated that the contractor had had several illnesses in his family and he was in town trying to catch up in all areas covered by his contract.

Council Member Chiles also stated that Mr. New, resident next to the rear of the Park, has requested that the tree limbs hanging over the fence be trimmed.

Mayor Smith stated that Brown's Tree Surgeons were in removing a tree that had fallen in the park and he had asked that they look at trimming the tree limbs.

12. 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 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M06102014

