

**Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

McCormick One Stop Conference Room, 109 W. Augusta St., McCormick, SC

Attendance:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

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

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: **Bradley Fuller, McCormick Messenger**

Other Guests: Anne Barron
Martina Peterson and Tomiko Tutt, on behalf
of the Kings & Queens Program of
McCormick
Officer Richard Young
Christopher E. Motes

Mayor's Welcome & Comments:

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present to the McCormick Town Council Meeting for the month of August. Mayor Smith stated it was customary, prior to the meeting, to pick a business of the month. Mayor Smith asked Council Member Mr. Jones to make the selection. Council Member Mr. Jones selected "**Huddle House**" as business pick for the month of August. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to them.

Public Notification:

News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail on August 5 & 6, 2015. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on August 6, 2015. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on August 6, 2015. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on August 6, 2015.

1. Call to Order

At approximately 7:01 pm, Mayor Smith called to order the McCormick Town Council's regularly scheduled meeting for August 11, 2015.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Invocation

Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to offer the invocation; Council Member Mr. Butler did so, giving thanks for the day, bringing everyone back to the Town's meeting, and seeking guidance and direction in the business affairs of the Town; offering glory and praise.

INTRODUCTION & OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW POLICE OFFICER – CHRISTOPHER E. MOTES

Mayor Smith called Mr. Motes forward and the Oath of Office was given. Officer Motes was welcomed as an officer for the McCormick Police Department.

Mr. Motes, asking if he would like to say a few words, stated that he was grateful to be in McCormick, was looking forward to being a part of the force, and would do the best of his ability and skill in performing his duties.

4. Approval of Agenda as Written

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda as written or any discussion; no discussion being offered, Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered the motion, said motion duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Jones and Mr. Chiles, and unanimously approved.

5. General Public Comments

Mayor Smith called the General Public Comments agenda item opened for public comments at approximately 7:03 pm. He called upon Ms. Martina Peterson to speak to Council, in the absence of Mr. Derrick Battle, who had requested to be on the agenda, regarding the Kings & Queens Program of McCormick.

Ms. Peterson stated she not only worked with the Kings & Queens program, but she also worked for GLEAMNS and Piedmont Tech. She stated presently 81 children were enrolled in the Program, the Program offering services of tutoring, education curriculum, therapeutic assistance, and physical activities, such as dance, football, and other outdoor activities. She stated the Program promoted self-sufficiency, not only for the children but for the family unit. If assistance was needed in a certain area, she stated she worked to find the necessary assistance for the family. She stated currently there were 15 employees in McCormick since the beginning of the Program last November.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour asked if there were other activities other than the basketball goals in the parking lot.

Ms. Peterson stated other activities were offered, the children having been taken to other

areas/fields to play, with a football camp recently being held. She stated that volleyball was also offered, but had little interest. She stated the Program tried to implement and expose the children to as many activities as possible.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour also asked if the Program had volunteers.

Ms. Peterson stated that recently the church had volunteers who came in and helped with bible studies.

Mayor Smith stated that the First Baptist Church initially implemented the Program as part of its ministry in the community. He stated he had heard nothing but positive comments regarding the program, and in talking with Mr. Charles Parnell, Mr. Parnell had stated he would like to see the Program continue.

Discussion was held as to the activities being offered - one on one tutoring, for example, which not only helped with educational issues, but with behavioral issues as well.

Council Member Mr. Chiles asked about state support; did the Program receive any type of state funding.

Ms. Peterson stated that those who were on Medicaid did offer some assistance through that Program.

Further discussion included age range of the children: 5 to 13 years of age; whether the Program offered job assistance to parents who were trying to find jobs, transportation, the School working with the Program to drop off children from the schools, and other positive benefits to the community.

To that end, positive benefits to the community, Ms. Peterson stated she had one of the parents present, and would like for her to speak to Council, and called forward Ms. Tomiko Tutt.

Ms. Tutt stated she was a resident of McCormick, had three children in the program, and was thoroughly pleased with the Program. She stated she worked two jobs, John de la Howe School and Self Regional Hospital, and the Program was essential to her, stating that her children attended the Program from after school until 7 pm. She stated her children have excelled in school as a benefit of the Program, one child going from below average grades to honor roll. She stated she sometimes has to work on weekends and was glad to have child care services at no cost provided so that she could work. She stated the Program is truly an asset for the community.

Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Peterson and Ms. Tutt for their comments.

Calling for additional comments to come to Council and none being offered, Mayor Smith closed the General Public Comments at approximately 7:10 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 14, 2015 for review prior to the meeting, and called for any discussion or

action regarding the Minutes as presented.

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

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

Council Member Mr. Butler made a motion that the bills be paid 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 July for review prior to the meeting and called for any discussion or action regarding same.

Mayor Smith called upon the Town Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney and asked her to explain the “subject to auditor’s adjustments” regarding the Financial Statement.

Mrs. McKinney stated that she was working with the auditors, they having been in that day, to prepare the audit report for the ending fiscal year. She stated that the adjusting journal entries would be provided by the auditors to reverse and accrue revenue and expenses that were received in the month of July.

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 the next item on the Agenda was Legislation and stated there was one Ordinances for review, O2015-09-01, no Resolutions or Proclamations.

Mayor Smith then moved to Reports.

8. Reports

Mayor Smith called upon Chief Jones to give the **Police** Department Report for the month of July. Chief Jones reported as follows:

Collisions Investigated 6
Traffic Offenses - 15
Arrests - 12
Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) – 26
Calls for Service - 205.

Chief Jones stated Council had just sworn in Officer Motes. Chief Jones stated Officer Motes was coming to the Town already certified, he having four years’ experience in law enforcement and would not have to attend the Academy which would save the Town some down time. He stated that he was looking forward to working with Officer Motes and from what he had seen he is a young man willing to work hard to catch on and make a difference.

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

Chief Barron, reporting fire calls being up, reported for July as follows:

Town Fire Calls:

Automotive – 6

Structure Fires – 2

Misc. – 1

Brush – 5

For a total of 14 calls for the Town, automotive and brush being the most active, with the one miscellaneous due to the recent storms.

Chief Barron noted that with his being able to offer the 1700 fire series training, not only to the Junior Firefighters, but now to adults, he had three existing members taking the training, and would be bringing two or three others to council in the next month or so who were also taking the training. He stated that he would be looking to the state for grant monies available to obtain the bunker gear needed for these individuals which was a cost savings to the Town.

Mayor Smith asked Chief Barron to speak to Officer Ricky Young at some point; Officer Young stated that he had already spoken to the Chief.

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

Town Clerk/Treasurer Report:

Purchases of goods and services:

8% local; 12% out of town; 22% for personal services, contracted services at 58%.

Continuing/Upcoming Events listed included:

Close FY 14/15 Budget Year; work with Auditors

Open FY 15/16 Budget Year; (work with Southern Software to close and open)

Annual Health Benefits at Work Conference in September

Annual Risk Management Meeting in November

Safety Meeting for 3rd Qtr. 2015 in September

Filing: Full Cost Disclosure Report for Trash Collection in September

Filings:

2nd Qtr. Payroll Reports

2016 SCMIT Workers Compensation Payroll Projections

Mrs. McKinney stated she had just finished the insurance assessment reviews on Monday for both the SCMIT and SCMIRF insurance programs, and the Town scored well enough again to be eligible for the 5% reduction in rates.

Publications:

None

Meetings:

Staff Meetings – July 13 & 28

Gold Rush/Chamber/ Initial Planning Meeting – July 21

Upper Savannah, CDBG Strategic Planning Meeting for 2016-2020 – July 28

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer's report:

Business licenses: 11 – new; 2 renewals

Building Permit Coordination: 12-for repairs

Zoning Issues: none

Background Checks: 7 - Employment; and 3 - Apartment

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 64; Police Department - 43; Fire Department – 0; for a total of 107

Meetings attended: Staff Meeting: July 13; Small Business Night – planning meeting: July 22

New Businesses started in Town: None.

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

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

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated there were no items to be considered under Old Business and called for any Old Business to come from Council; none was offered.

10. New Business

Mayor Smith stated there were no items to be considered under New Business and called for any New Business to come from Council; none was offered.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Smith stated there were three items to note under Mayor's Comments;

1. **Arrive Alive at 25** – a school program being offered to those students who drove their vehicles to school; he stated that he and Chief Jones had attended this meeting and the school was asking for donations to cover the cost of training; he stated that a donation of \$150.00 had been given from the town.
2. **FaceBook Calendar page for events**; he stated he felt this would be a great tool for the Town and community, the page already having over 300 likes; he stated that two school events had recently been posted, and not only events, he stated that if an alert was needed for accidents, or a chemical spill, or other hazards, a posting could be on his page; he stated that people would need to "like" the page in order to access the Town's FaceBook page.
3. **Beautification Project – Depot area and Main Street**; Mayor Smith stated that he was working with the landscaper to remove some trees (one being already removed in front of the MACK) and replace them with crepe myrtles; and to remove the pampas grass down below the Depot area toward South Main and to replant this area with more attractive trees and shrubbery.

Calling for other business to come before Council and receiving none, Mayor Smith called for adjournment.

12. Adjournment

Council Member Mr. Butler made the motion to adjourn, with Council Member Mr. Jones giving second, the motion to adjourn being unanimously approved.

Council adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M08112015

