

**Town of McCormick, SC
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2014**

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

Attendance:

Mayor: Roy Smith, Jr.

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

Council Members Absent: Dolly Franklin

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: None

Mayor's Welcome & Comments:

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present to the McCormick Town Council Meeting for the month of October. He 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 "**Evelyn's Florist**" as business pick for the month of October. 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 October 8 & 10, 2014. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or correspondence on October 10, 2014. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on October 10, 2014. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on October 10, 2014. No requests for general public comments had been received.

Mayor Smith stated the Town Attorney would not be in attendance due to a stomach bug, and asked regarding Council Member Mrs. Franklin's health. Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney stated Council Member Mrs. Franklin had indicated her attendance, but due to the in climate weather, she was not in attendance. Mrs. McKinney reported that she was recovering at home and was still having some discomfort.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Smith **called** the monthly meeting of the McCormick Town Council for October to **order** at approximately 7:01 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. Invocation

Mayor Smith called upon Council Member Mr. Butler to give the Invocation. Council Member Mr. Butler did so, giving thanks for a great day, asking that right decisions be made, and for the wrapping of arms around Attorney Compton and Council Member Mrs. Franklin to give them release, relief and healing in their sickness.

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 Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the published agenda, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Jones, and unanimously approved.

Presentation of FY 13/14 Audit – Toni McKinley, McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC

Mayor Smith welcomed and called upon Mrs. McKinley to give this presentation to Council.

Mrs. McKinley reported a favorable, unmodified, clean opinion for the Town. She stated the audit had been conducted under generally accepted accounting principles. She reviewed in detail the Management’s Responsibilities and the Auditor’s Responsibilities in giving her opinion. She stated that the Town used the modified fund method of accounting, reviewed the various schedules in the audit, and called Council’s attention to the change in net position of \$136,316 – favorable change in net position. Schedules reviewed were the various Balance Sheets, the Income Statement, and the Budget and Actual section of the Audit. She reported the new regulations for GASB 68 which would call for the Town to book, in 2015, the costs for pension liability for all employees under the Retirement System. She stated actuaries with the Retirement System would be working with all towns and cities to prepare this information and that this would affect the change in net position of the Town. She commended the Mayor and Council for staying within budget, and she also commended the Departments in keeping within their departmental budgets which resulted in the overall favorable position.

Mayor Smith called for any comments or questions and receiving none, Mrs. McKinley was thanked and excused from the meeting.

5. General Public Comments

No requests having been received for general public comments, Mayor Smith called for any

and receiving no comments, continued with the agenda as published. Mayor Smith closed the public comments section of the meeting at approximately 7:25 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 September 9, 2014 and called for action regarding the Minutes as presented. 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 September, along with a copy of the Receivables Report and called for any questions. Council Member Mrs. Seymour asked questions regarding the payment to Maxwellton Motors and King of Carts. It was stated that the Maxwellton Motors payment of \$9,400.00 was for the truck in the maintenance department, and the \$4,274.75 payment to King of Carts was for a golf cart in the Police Department. Discussion was held as to the understanding that a golf cart would be rented by the Police Department for use. Mayor Smith stated that the Police Chief had approached him with regard to the sale of timber at the range, the proceeds of the sale being some \$34,000. Mayor Smith stated that the Chief had requested that certain improvements be made at the range including the purchase of a golf cart, thus the payment to King of Carts. Chief Jones stated that in addition to the golf cart, other improvements would be made – a storage building located on site to store equipment. Chief Jones stated that the County would be assisting in some of the improvements in that the County also used the range. Discussion continued with regard to other shooting ranges in the area for private use. It was stated that one was still located on Highway 283 that could be used.

Calling for further questions regarding the Bills, and receiving none, Mayor Smith called for a motion to pay the bills in the usual manner.

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

Mayor Smith stated Council had received a copy of the **Financial Statement** for September and called for 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. Chiles and unanimously approved.

7. Legislation

Mayor Smith stated there were no items under Ordinances and Resolutions, with Council receiving copies of several Proclamations and a Letter of Welcome. Mayor Smith stated the Proclamation for 1st Sgt. Kevin Corbin had been requested by Colonel Leverette; 1st Sgt. Corbin having served in the JROTC and was now leaving. Mayor Smith stated the Proclamation “Let’s Talk Month” had been requested and called for parents to discuss openly and honestly with their children about relationships and sexuality; Mayor Smith stated the Welcome Letter to the Brigham-Smith Family had been requested upon the occasion of their family reunion being held in McCormick.

8. Reports

Moving to Reports, Mayor Smith called upon Police Chief J.R. Jones to give the **Police Department Report** for the month of September.

Chief Jones reported activity as follows:
Collisions Investigated 4;
Traffic Offenses 8;
Arrests 7;
Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) 17;
Calls for Service 504.

Chief Jones had listed as events the Gold Rush Parade Day and activities. Chief Jones stated that National Night Out would be held on Saturday, October 18 from 4 to 7 pm in the MACK Park. He reported that the golf cart was ready for pickup, and Major Willis would be picking it up on October 15. Chief Jones reported that Officer Young had started the Academy on October 12, and as a part of the initial training, a fit test was performed. He stated in performing this fit test, Officer Young passed the test, but also broke his foot. Chief Jones stated that Officer Young was not at the Academy and would be out for approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Chief Jones stated that interviews for the vacant position were scheduled for October 16 for 4 candidates who had responded, all 4 being uncertified.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour asked Chief Jones if he had the document she had requested. Chief Jones handed out a draft take home car policy. He asked Council if they would look over the draft and consider it as one way to provide an incentive and possibly help retain officers.

Mayor Smith stated that he had met with the Sheriff on the matter of contracting with deputies to assist the Town. He stated that he had also talked to Abbeville's City Manager and related that Abbeville had 3 open positions and even with them having a take home car policy, Abbeville recently loss officers to Greenwood.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney asked if she could speak and relayed a request from Attorney Compton with regard to the special duty assignment contract to hold this matter until he could be present and discuss the contract with them.

Mayor Smith stated he had been crystal clear regarding the take home car policy and stated that in the past police officers had been given a bonus of \$2,500, and recently an officer was given a \$1,700 raise, all in efforts to retain the police officers. He stated with a take home car policy in place, this still would not solve the issue of officers leaving the Town. He stated that Chief Jones needed to be on an even playing field.

Council Member Mr. Butler stated that Council should move forward with the other reports, and possibly discussion could continue in an executive session regarding these issues.

Mayor Smith stated he would give Chief Barron's **Fire Report** since he had to leave for a fire.

City calls 2; 1-automotive; 1-structure;
County calls 3; 1-automotive; 3-structure;
Total calls for service in September being 4 calls.

Under Notes, Chief Barron listed:

Yearly service testing continues for all emergency equipment and Auto Extrication training to be held in October.

Mayor Smith stated if Council had questions regarding the Fire Report, he would relay them to the Fire Chief.

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

Mrs. McKinney stated that she wished to apologize to Council for any comments she had made which may have been taken as offensive in giving her comments when called to do so at the last council meeting.

She then reported as follows:

Purchases of goods and services: 4% local; 14% out of town, 9% for personal services, contracted services at 44% and an equipment purchase at 29%.

Continuing/Upcoming Events listed included Safety Meeting for Fourth Qtr., 2014, the Audit Process for FY 13/14 General Fund, which had been recently held, with copies of the audit being due to several reporting agencies by October 31, and the filing of the Third Quarter Payroll Reports for the third quarter (September 30).

Under Filings, Mrs. McKinney reported there were no filings.

Under Publications, Mrs. McKinney reported the publication of the police officer's position in the McCormick Messenger. She also stated that the position was being published through the Municipal Association which is state wide.

For meetings, Mrs. McKinney listed her attendance at the Major Employer's Meeting on September 30. She stated that Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. Foster had also attended in that she works with the business licenses for businesses locating in Town. Mrs. McKinney also reported two staff meetings being held on September 8 and 15.

Mrs. McKinney also asked if Council would consider a Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month for October. She stated that she had just received this information and Mayor Smith had signed the Proclamation. She asked for all Council Member's to sign in support of this dreaded disease that affects the young and old alike. She stated that she had recently loss a relative to this disease. Council Members signed off on the Proclamation.

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

Business licenses: new – 3; 2 contractor; and 1 construction; 2 renewals

Building Permit Coordination: 4-for repairs

Zoning Issues: None

Background Checks: 1-Employment; 5-Apartment; and 1-Other

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 52; Police Department - 50; Fire Department – 0 for a total of 102.

Meetings Attended: National Night out – September 15 and 29; Major Employer's Meeting on September 30, and; Staff Meetings on September 8 and 15.

The Deputy Clerk/Treasurer had reported two new Businesses in Town:

Above & Beyond and Asholan's, both being beauty salons, Asholan's to open in November.

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. Butler, and unanimously approved.

9. Old Business

Mayor Smith stated there were no items listed as Old Business and called for any to come before Council.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour asked with regard to the lease with the Church for the Log Cabin and who was responsible for the grounds.

Mayor Smith stated that this was an executive session item, it being a lease. It was stated that this was allowed in open session, it being a current lease available to the public.

Mayor Smith stated that the Church was responsible for the utilities and cutting the grass.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour stated she meant who was to cut the shrubbery as there was a dead tree that needed to be removed, and trees were growing up in the botanical garden area.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Mrs. McKinney stated that the Town's Ground Maintenance contractor was working his way into that area to cut the shrubbery and take out the trees in the garden. She stated that one tree had already been removed.

No further old business being offered, Mayor Smith moved to New Business.

10. New Business

Mayor Smith stated there were no items listed as New Business and called for any to come before Council. No New Business was offered.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion for an **Executive Session**, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles, and unanimously approved.

Executive Session

Pursuant to FOIA, Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) Discussion of Contractual Matters for: Grounds Maintenance and Trash Collection

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

From discussions in executive session regarding the Town's Grounds Maintenance Contract and the Trash Collection Contract, Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion for Mayor Smith to proceed with contract negotiations with both contractors, said motion was duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Chiles and unanimously approved.

11. Information Items

Mayor Smith stated there were no items Under Information and reminded everyone about the National Night Out event.

Council Member Mr. Chiles stated he wanted to comment, and said that we are all different people, and it is not what we say, but how we say it. He stated that this goes to creditability and creditability goes a long way. He stated he felt that no apologies were necessary.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour thanked the Clerk/Treasurer for her job in working in different positions, especially the finances of the Town in light of the recent report of a favorable audit.

It was stated that all should work for the benefit and betterment of the citizens of the Town.

Mayor Smith called for any other items to come before council and receiving none, he adjourned the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion to adjourn, with Council Member Mr. Butler giving second. Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at approximately 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M10142014

