

**Town of McCormick, SC  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014**

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

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**Attendance:**

**Mayor:** Roy Smith, Jr.

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

**Council Members Absent:** J. Calvin Chiles

**Staff Present:** Police Chief J.R. Jones  
Fire Chief Mike Barron  
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sandra McKinney  
Deputy Town Clerk/Treasurer Judy Foster  
Attorney John D. Compton, III

**Media Present:** Colin Riddle, The Index-Journal

**Other Guests:** Charles Jennings, Chair, McCormick County  
Council & County Council Members  
Bernie Hamby and Byron Thompson  
Charles Hegler, Chairman, McCormick CPW  
& Kenny Green, Engineer  
Reverend Gary DeBerry, McCormick First  
Baptist Church with Derrick Battle  
& Lateria Ellerbee, Inspiration of  
Hope Program  
Donn Lee  
Furman Partain, Candidate for Fire  
Department

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**Mayor's Welcome & Comments:**

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone present to the McCormick Town Council Meeting for the month of December. 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 "**Aaron Watson**" as business pick for the month of December. Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to send a Certificate of Appreciation to them.

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**Public Notification:**

News Media had been notified of the meeting by e-mail and fax on December 4, 2014. All other parties requesting notification had received notice either by fax, e-mail or

correspondence on December 4, 2014. Agenda Packages were delivered to Council Members on December 5, 2014. Public notice posting was to the Town's Kiosk outside of the Town Hall area on December 5, 2014.

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### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Smith called to order, at approximately 7:10 pm, the McCormick Town Council's regularly scheduled meeting for December 9, 2014, stating that a fire services meeting conducted by the McCormick County Council had been held previous to this regular meeting.

### **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 a great day and a great gather, and asking for direction and guidance of the meeting, and that it be to everyone's liking.

### **4. Approval of Agenda as Written**

Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda as written; Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered the motion, said motion duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Jones and Mr. Jennings, and unanimously approved.

### **5. General Public Comments**

Mayor Smith called for any further questions from the floor regarding the previously held fire service meeting by McCormick County Council; Charles Jennings, Chair, and Council Members Mr. Hamby and Mr. Thompson being in attendance. No further questions were presented.

Mayor Smith called upon Mr. Charles Hegler, Chairman, McCormick CPW and Mr. Kenny Green, the CPW's Engineer, to give Town Council an update on CPW's plans to build a new water plant.

Mr. Kenny Green, Engineer spoke to Council commenting that CPW was seeking a grant/loan package from USDA-RDA to build a new water plant on the site across from the present plant. He stated that the Town would be the recipient and that CPW would be the sub recipient of the approximately 10.3 million grant/loan proceeds. Mr. Green gave some history of the present plant and the many upgrades over the years since 1925, stating that CPW was to the point that no further upgrades could be made and a new plant was needed. He stated that due to age of the present plant and the many limitations with it, that even with a 2.6 mgd capacity, the plant could not produce that amount which caused problems during peak periods, summer months, fire service calls, and so forth.

Discussion and questions centered on increase in rates to offset loan repayments, time to build new plant, being two years out, applying for general obligation bonds versus seeking the loan/grant package, and who would be responsible for repayment.

It was stated that there would be no questions that rates would need to be increased, as

taxes could not be used to repay the loan, that the construction would be done in phases, seeking of loan/grant, design and bid of project, then actual construction, and there had not been any release of general obligation bonds, the loan/grant process being the better way to fund the project, with lower rates and fees.

Discussion was had with regard to the County purchasing water from CPW, and the necessity of the County to continue to buy water from CPW, passing on increased costs to its customer base. It was stated that the County also purchased water from Calhoun Falls whether the County used the water or not.

Mayor Smith stated his concern of future management in that new commissioners may not know the process and Mr. Hegler stated the plant would go on whether he or the other commissioners were there or not, who was managing CPW would not make a difference.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for their comments. He then called upon Reverend Gary DeBerry, Pastor of the McCormick First Baptist Church.

Reverend DeBerry thanked the Town and Council for their partnership in the use of the old Piedmont Tech building. Reverend DeBerry stated the Church had an opportunity to partner with Inspiration of Hope and its program, "Dare to be Kings and Queens", and was asking that Council allow, under its lease with the Church, this additional program which would benefit the children of the community.

Derrick Battle and Lateria Ellerbee were also in attendance, with Mr. Battle speaking of the program and its enhancements and betterment in the lives of children as well as the whole family. He stated he had relatives in the Plum Branch area and spent summers in McCormick. He stated that he was a licensed therapist, and along with school teachers and other staff hoped to be able to bring the Inspiration of Hope program to the McCormick Community. Mr. Battle stated the program was state funded, had a staff of about 13, seven of which would be community residents. Ms. Rashonna Dennis would be working at the center, she having worked in Atlanta, with the Boys & Girls Club, and being originally from McCormick. He stated that volunteers from the community would also be welcomed.

Reverend DeBerry spoke of the Church's strong desire to reach out to the children of the community by way of these type of programs and stated that the Church wished to approach all areas of a child's life including the spiritual. He stated he understood the clause in the Town's lease of "subleasing", but stated that the Church would still be the lessee under the lease, with the program being presented being sponsored by the Church.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour offered a motion that the permission be given to the First Baptist Church to work in conjunction with the Inspiration of Hope program to be offered at the Log Cabin, said motion being duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Butler and Mr. Jones, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith closed the public comments section of the meeting at approximately 7:30 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 November 11, 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 November, along with a copy of the Receivables Report and called for any questions. 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 Members Mr. Butler and Mr. Jones, and unanimously approved.

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

## **7. Legislation**

Mayor Smith stated there were no items under Ordinances and Resolutions, with Council receiving a copy of the Proclamation for William "Bill" Bruce, Fireman, deceased.

Fire Chief Mike Barron asked that Council delay action until January so that he could have a family member present and presentation made at that time.

Mayor Smith then moved on to Reports.

## **8. Reports**

Mayor Smith called upon Police Chief J.R. Jones to give the **Police** Department Report for the month of November.

Chief Jones reported activity as follows:  
Collisions Investigated 5;  
Traffic Offenses 4;  
Arrests 5;  
Overall Offenses (Incident Reports filed) 16;  
Calls for Service 462.

Chief Jones stated no events were listed, but he was pleased to report that Officer Young had been released and would be returning to full duty. He stated that Officer Young had broken his foot the first day of training at the Academy. Chief Jones stated that Officer Young's next training date would be January 26. Chief Jones stated he, the Mayor, and Major Willis had conducted interviews for the open position, and a candidate had been selected. He stated that he hoped to have the candidate at the January Council meeting and was trying to get the Academy training lined up, but did not have a start date.

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

Chief Barron stated that November had been slightly busier than the previous report and reported:

City calls 5; 1-automotive; 2-structure; 1-brush; 1 miscellaneous

County calls 3; 1-automotive; 2-structure

Total calls for service in November being 8 calls. He stated the 2 structure fires in Town had been severe, with a lot of damage.

Under Notes, Chief Barron reported:

His attendance at the various county fire meetings, with two additional meetings to be scheduled, the purpose of the meetings being to look at the different department's needs. He also reported that the auto extrication training was continuing.

Discussion then was had as to retention and recruitment of members. He stated he had one candidate present, Furman Pertain, who, along with possible 4 other candidates would be presented to Council in January. He stated that he had 2 firemen who would be coming off of the roster. He stated that this would put the number of volunteers at 18 members.

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

Mrs. McKinney reported as follows:

Purchases of goods and services: 6% local; 18% out of town, 18% for personal services, contracted services at 58%.

Continuing/Upcoming Events listed included

Report on Contracts due in January

Various holiday activities included the Parade on December 13 at 4 pm followed by activities in the MACK Park

Kindergarten Classes of approximately 90 students would tour the Police & Fire Departments on December 12

Considerations for 2015 submitted to Council in November

Christmas Holidays for Town Hall, December 24, 25, and 26

Work on FY 15/16 Town General Fund Budget Operating Budget, Budget Calendar presented

Mrs. McKinney reported no filings or publications.

For meetings attended, Mrs. McKinney reported two staff meetings on November 3 and 27; meeting with Rick Green, USCOG, regarding grant opportunities for the Town on November 11, and attendance at the Risk Management Meeting in Columbia on November 13.

A discussion was held regarding BB&T credit card services for Town Hall customers. It was stated that there were less than two or three requests for per month for payment by credit card for certain services. It was felt that the costs – \$35.00 per month to the Bank – would be just an added expense and the amount charged to the customer for use would not offset the costs.

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

Business licenses: new – 3; for construction and 2 renewals

Building Permit Coordination: 6-for repairs

Zoning Issues: None

Background Checks: 1-Apartment

Visitor's Log: Town Hall - 60; Police Department - 25; Fire Department – 4; for a total of 89.

Meetings Attended: Staff Meetings – November 3 & 27; Chamber Breakfast – November 4.

No new business were started in Town.

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 Members Mr. Butler and Mr. Jones, 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.

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

### **10. New Business**

Mayor Smith stated under New Business was the consideration to give a donation to Relay of Life in the amount of \$750.00. He stated in the past the Town had given \$500, but since this was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Relay for Life, he felt a donation of \$750.00 was appropriate.

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to give a donation of \$750.00 to Relay for Life; said motion being duly seconded by Council Members Mr. Butler and Mr. Jones, and unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session – Section 30-4-70 (2); Consideration of Contract Negotiations for: Solid Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance Services.**

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made a motion to enter into the executive session, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Butler, and unanimously approved.

Return to Regular Session:

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

Mayor Smith announced that discussion of contract negotiations for solid waste services and grounds maintenance services had been held with no action being needed due to discussions.

### **11. Information Items**

Mayor Smith stated Council Member Mr. Chiles recently had knee surgery and would be out for some time. Mayor Smith also stated the parade would be held on Saturday, December 13, at 4 pm.

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

adjournment.

**12. Adjournment**

Council Member Mrs. Seymour made the motion to adjourn, with Council Members Mr. Butler and Mr. Jones giving second. Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at approximately 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sandra McKinney  
Clerk/Treasurer

File: M12092014

