

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

**Present:** Mayor John McMeekin; Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman; Janice Bartell-Prather, Danny Miller, Jae Burroughs, Council Members; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Patti Davis, Town Clerk.

**Absent:** Scott Elliott.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on September 6, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. at the Winnsboro Women's Club. In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and four hundred ninety-two other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McMeekin called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**2. INVOCATION**

Council Member Burroughs led the invocation.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell-Prather and Council Member Burroughs, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell-Prather, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022, the Finance Committee Meeting minutes of August 16, 2022, and the Special Meeting minutes of August 30, 2022. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.**

No one signed to speak. Mayor McMeekin read a thank you card from Mrs. Debra McDaniel.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**7. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**A.** Ms. Artellia Shaw, Central Midlands COG, Family Caregiver Support Program. Ms. Shaw stated she is here tonight to discuss the Seniors Raising Children Program. The census showed that Fairfield County was not being represented, and Ms. Shaw then reached out to Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, who invited her to the Council meeting to present the information. The program is geared toward seniors age 55 or older who are raising their grandchildren. The only requirement is a telephone assessment and documentation showing that they have custody of the grandchildren. Financial assistance is provided through this program to defray the costs and covers things such as back to school shopping (\$250 per child for Wal-Mart, Burlington and Target and then \$150 in the fall); after school activities; memberships such as the zoo, museum, YMCA; school related costs such as school fees, prom/homecoming tickets, graduation costs, SAT/ACT fees, college applications fees and extracurricular activity costs. The program does not assist with homecoming or prom attire. Ms. Shaw would like to see more applicants from the Fairfield County area. Mayor McMeekin stated he appreciates what she is doing, and Ms. Shaw stated she will reach out to him at the next COG board meeting.

## **8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. Ongoing Projects**

- Update Concerning Interim Police Chief - Mr. Taylor introduced Kevin Lawrence, who will be serving as the Town's Interim Public Safety Director over Police and Fire. There will be a process of advertising for a permanent Public Safety Director in the near future. Mr. Lawrence stated he appreciates this opportunity. His background includes growing up in Washington D.C. and then moving to Aiken, SC. He went to Silver Bluff High School, Charleston Southern University and started his law enforcement career with Aiken County Sheriff's Office. From there, he went to a town similar to Winnsboro but not quite as large, New Ellington right outside the Savannah River site. He worked his way up to Sergeant with the New Ellington Police Department. He then had an opportunity to join Richland County, and this is where he received the majority of his law enforcement knowledge and career. His time with Richland included the U.S. Marshall's Task Force, Fugitive Team, Extradition Team, Internal Affairs, Public Information Officer and Investigations

to include burglary, homicide and cold cases. He came to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office to follow his mentor and friend, Sheriff Will Montgomery. He arrived on a Monday, qualified for his firearm and has been in narcotics ever since. Mr. Lawrence stated he is looking forward to working with everyone at the Police Department. A meeting has been scheduled to establish goals as he is wanting everyone to succeed. He plans to build on the seed that Chief Seibles planted. He sees great things coming from the Police Department and the Town. He currently has the title of Interim, but he is speaking into existence the fact that he looks forward to being the Town's next Police Chief. Mr. Lawrence stated his email is in the process of being set up, and Mr. Taylor has his contact information. He will be stopping to talk around Town, and he looks forward to working with Council and building the Town back to where it needs to be. Mayor McMeekin stated he appreciates Mr. Lawrence coming to the Town and believes he will do an awesome job.

- AMI – Nothing new to report.
- Armory – Some final finish work is being done, and the building is being booked with the public being very interested.
- Grant Applications – The Town's grant application is being completed, and steps have been taken to assist the County with their application. The Town may also qualify for several other grants that are currently available. One possible grant has a relatively large pot of funding (\$55M) for stormwater. Mr. Taylor believes a grant application can be created to assist with Fortune Springs Park. A lot of the problems in the park that have undermined the existing hard scape is drainage. He has spoken with some engineers concerning this potential and will be trying to craft a grant application to go after some of this funding to help improve Fortune Springs Park. Also, the Municipal Association has reached out to us concerning a small funding opportunity (\$25,000) for downtown revitalization. It is small and has no match with not a lot of strings attached other than having to use it for downtown revitalization, such as choosing a building for improvements to be done.
- Code Enforcement – Mr. Taylor reported that two houses have been brought down. Mayor McMeekin, Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman and Mr. Taylor were in attendance for one structure coming down, and the other structure was brought down the next day.
- Comprehensive Plan: Nothing new to report.
- Redistricting: Nothing new to report.
- Utility Expansions: Nothing new to report except that the Town is still in the planning process with looking at routes and how to get to Ridgeway.

- Ordinance Review and Update – This work is continuing with the Town Attorney to bring the ordinances in line. Mr. Elliott is out sick tonight, but this work should be moving forward in the near future.
- DHEC Consent Order - It was known that this would be forthcoming. For a number of years, the Town has not been in compliance with DHEC on a couple of issues with the sewer plant. Primarily, the plant does not have a backup generator and has not had one in a long while. The lack of a generator along with the filter system problems have thrown the plant out of compliance, and DHEC has decided that these problems need to be brought in line. The Town has a grant for the generator (\$640,000), and this has been received. DHEC has given a \$3,000 fine for not having these things in place and has requested they be rectified by the end of next month, which is not at all feasible. There is a lead time on the generator of 15 months. The filter system is a similar situation as the generator and has been out of compliance for a number of years. Engineers are now looking at this, which will probably have a price tag of a little over \$1M to fix. This will also take some time, and grants will be applied for to hopefully cover this cost. Even though the filter system is not in compliance, the Town is still meeting all of the discharge limits. So, the system is not where it should be; however, the discharge is where it needs to be. A response has been sent to DHEC with a more feasible timeline.

Council Member Miller inquired on the AMI program, and Mr. Taylor stated many of the meters were delivered in the last 2-3 weeks. Blythewood is completed, and the meters are being installed slowly heading this way. Mr. Taylor believes the antennas are in place. Mayor McMeekin stated he spoke with Sloan Griffin of the Blythewood Town Council, and he stated his complaints are down about 98%. He was very appreciative, and Blythewood is very happy with the meters. Mr. Taylor agreed that complaints in Blythewood have gone to almost zero. The process will slow down now because the concentrated area in Blythewood was only water meters. Now, headed in this direction, there will be electric, water and sewer meters. Council Member Miller also inquired concerning code enforcement with abandoned cars. Mayor McMeekin also stated there was a new hire in code enforcement. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated he has spoken with Mr. Clauson concerning strengthening the code enforcement laws, and until this is done, not much more can be accomplished. Mr. Taylor agreed that until the ordinances are changed, these cases just get stuck in the court system and is a long, drug out process. Municipalities, unlike counties, can put

ordinances in place to essentially circumvent the court. Therefore, the Town can say that something must be done in a certain amount of time, and after proper notice if it is not done, the Town could then move forward. Anything that is done can be charged back to the homeowner as a tax lien on the property.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**


**A.** Memorandum of Agreement for the Detention of Juveniles. This item will be tabled until the next meeting since Mr. Elliott is not present. Mr. Clauson stated this is an annual agreement.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)**

No executive session needed since Mr. Elliott is not present.

**13. ADJOURN**

At 6:35 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATTI L. DAVIS  
TOWN CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN MCMEEKIN  
MAYOR