

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

Present: Chairman Demetrius Chatman; Mayor John McMeekin; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Assistant Town Managers Chris Clauson and Kathy Belton; Patti L. Davis, Town Clerk.

The Finance Committee met on November 1, 2022, at 5:45 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

Chairman Chatman called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried.***

3. PRESENTATIONS

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Public Funds: Debra McDaniel – Community Thanksgiving Dinner (750.00). Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman to approve the request. Mayor McMeekin stated there are funds available in the contingency fund to meet this request. Chairman Chatman stated Mrs. McDaniel does this event every year and also turns in the receipts. Mayor McMeekin agreed that she does a good job. ***The motion carried.***

B. Request of Action: Trip Peak, Director Gas, Water and Sewer Department – Request to Purchase Unbudgeted Item – Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab Truck from State Surplus (\$25,000.00). Mr. Peak stated he is requesting to replace one of the department's vehicles. He had requested vehicles in the budget as a capital expenditure. He currently has one vehicle with 299,000 miles and another with 315,000 miles. The latter also has no heat

and is basically falling apart. Mr. Peak and Mr. Clauson visited State Surplus recently and found a 2018 RAM 4WD truck already equipped with the flashing lights, crew cab and towing package. Utility boxes could be added. Mr. Taylor further stated there were a lot of vehicles from Border Patrol available earlier for good prices at State Surplus. There is also a chance this vehicle might not still be available, and if it is not available, Mr. Taylor is requesting that Council approve a similar purchase on another vehicle. Motion made by Chairman Chatman, seconded by Mayor McMeekin, to approve the request. ***The motion carried.***

- C.** Request of Action: Kathy Belton, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director – Request for Additional Allocation of Funds. Mrs. Belton stated she is requesting an additional allocation of funds in connection with employee appreciation as is done each year. Some options were provided to the Committee for bonus amounts of \$1,500 and \$2,000. There is an overage in the account for SCORBET (SC Other Retirement Benefits Employer Trust), and these funds can be redirected to fund this request. The reason why this is overstated is from one year to the next, an appraisal is done, and there is no way of knowing how it will turn out. This is based on the number of years an employee has to retire, the age, etc. The amount of \$144,000 is already allocated in the budget for this item. Mr. Taylor stated basically there are three options: (1) \$115,000 that is already in the budget for \$1,000, then (2) \$1,500 option which would mean around \$12,000 additional would be needed, and finally (3) \$2,000 option which would mean another \$63,000 would be needed. Chairman Chatman stated the SCORBET funds are already in the bank, so it would only require transferring the additional amount needed to this line item. Mayor McMeekin inquired if the SCORBET was part of the planning of the budget. Mr. Taylor stated it is in the budget and is a flexible number because it can go up or down. It includes SCMIT (SC Municipal Insurance Trust) and SCMIRF (SC Municipal Insurance Risk Financing Fund), one being property and the other health/retirees. If there is a good experience factor with property, the Town would get money back. Mayor McMeekin inquired if we are trying to do \$1,426 per employee or \$1,500 and Chairman Chatman stated we are trying to go with the \$2,000 with part-time increased to \$1,000 which would be the need for the additional \$63,723.49. Mayor McMeekin stated he has been approached by a citizen being concerned over the bonuses, which has him on edge. The Town also has a lot of things to be done in the departments. Mr. Taylor agreed, including a pump that will have to be replaced in the near future that was not budgeted. Mayor McMeekin stated he is more concerned about getting the cost of living up for the Town's employees for next year. Chairman Chatman stated the

salary study was done, and he felt it mainly focused on the high-level people. He did not feel it concentrated on the lower paid employees. In addition, the school district is giving their bonus every year. Mayor McMeekin stated three years ago the Town was doing \$1,000 bonuses which then increased in recent years due to COVID, and now he has people coming to his house to discuss this. He will vote for what is in the budget this time with also taking care of what is needed for the Town and then gear up to increase salaries. Chairman Chatman stated this was said last year. The salary study was done and no salaries were increased. This is why he is looking at the bonus right now because of increasing prices. Mayor McMeekin stated the Town also found itself in a precarious position with the auditor, and we have so many things to spend money on. The Town employees certainly deserve to be paid well, but again, he has citizens coming to his house to discuss this matter. Chairman Chatman understands this, but the Town has some departments that are not fully staffed, and the Chief has a difficult time finding officers. He feels we have to do for the employees now. Mayor McMeekin does recall in 2020 the police were given a bonus at the end of the year. Once the budget is appropriated, he is not comfortable with this change right now. Chairman Chatman stated he is comfortable with it since the SCORBET is over budget and the money is there. Once the salaries are more in line, bonuses would not be needed, but the employees need to be taken care of now. Mrs. Belton stated she only wanted to present the options to the Committee to determine how to move forward. Motion made by Chairman Chatman to approve the request of \$2,000 for 77 full-time employees and \$1,000 for 11 part-time employees. The motion failed with Chairman Chatman voting aye and Mayor McMeekin voting nay.

5. OLD BUSINESS

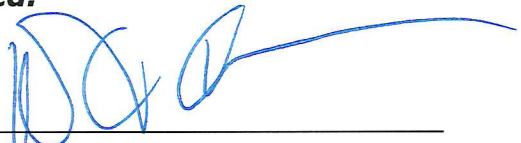
None.

6. ADJOURN

At 6:02 p.m., it was moved by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to adjourn. ***The motion carried.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK



DEMETRIUS CHATMAN
CHAIRMAN