

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

**Present:** Mayor John McMeekin; Mayor Pro-Tem Demetrius Chatman; Danny Miller (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Janice Bartell-Prather, Jae Burroughs, Council Members; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Scott Elliott, Town Attorney; Chris Clauson and Kathy Belton, Assistant Town Managers; Patti Davis, Town Clerk.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on November 15, 2022, at the Winnsboro Women's Club Building. 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 Bartell Prather led the invocation.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell-Prather, to approve the Finance Committee minutes of November 1, 2022, and the Regular Meeting minutes of November 1, 2022. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**A.** Proclamation Declaring December 2, 2022, as Arbor Day in the City of Winnsboro. Mr. Clauson stated Arbor Day in the State of South Carolina is the first Friday in December, so the Town is recognizing this. There will be some plantings scheduled on this day as well. In South Carolina, this is the ideal season for planting trees, and this is done to also encourage everyone to do this. It is also a requirement of the Tree City Program to recognize Arbor Day, and the Town has been a member of Tree City for 37 years. Council Member Bartell Prather inquired where the plantings will be done. Per Mr. Clauson, the Town has additional Crape Myrtles that may be planted around the Mt. Zion Walking Trail, and some street trees to fill in the vacant

spots will hopefully be secured. Mayor McMeekin stated it would be nice to replant some trees at Fortune Springs Park.

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

Mrs. Kathy Faulk signed to speak concerning the Animal Ordinance.

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**A.** Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 63: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing All Provisions of the Town of Winnsboro Code of Ordinances: Chapter 90 Animals; and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion made by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve Second and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 63. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

**A.** Ongoing Projects

- AMI - Mr. Taylor reported there is one benefit to the delay in the meter system. DHEC has a lead and copper requirement, and the crews were trying to figure out how to comply with this. The Town has to inspect every pipe to see if they meet the lead and copper rules issued by DHEC by 2024, which will require the workers to look at every pipe. This is saving effort because this inventory can be done while installing the meters. There is a possibility that some piping may need to be replaced.
- Grant Applications – Mr. Taylor reported there will be an application presented to Council tonight; however, the Town did not get the Municipal Association grant that was applied for to do work to the Women's Club Building.
- Code Enforcement – Per Mr. Taylor, cameras have been installed, which will help with a lot of issues with Public Safety.
- Comprehensive Plan – This work should commence in December. Mr. Clauson reiterated that the Planning Commission only has three

members with two vacancies. This Commission will do a large part of the work with the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the Zoning Board of Appeals continues to have one vacancy.

- Utility Expansions – This continues to be looked into. Mr. Taylor asked for Mr. Cisney to speak to Council concerning the recent DHEC notice, because he is sure Council probably received calls from citizens concerning the letter which was sent out concerning water quality and DHEC. DHEC must be sure that all the water systems comply with their rules and regulations. Mr. Cisney stated there are over 35,000 tests per year done by the Winnsboro plant. There was one failed test because the lot had expired on the testing agent. There was not a water quality issue at the plant or in the distribution. The problem was in the lab where an expired lot number had been missed. Mr. Cisney further explained that there was a lot of this particular reagent in the lab, and normally, this much is not left over. An inspection was done on the wastewater lab, which is done about every three years, along with the water treatment lab. Every year there is an inspection on the plant. This year's inspection actually upgraded the plant from needs improvement to satisfactory. So, there was never a water quality issue at all. Mr. Taylor stated the quality of the water is actually better because of the way the pulsator plant works. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated he has noticed the water is very clear instead of being discolored as it was in the past. Mr. Cisney agreed that the quality is the best since he has been at the plant, and it is getting better all the time. Again, there was no quality issue but just an unfortunate oversight as far as an expired lot. Mr. Cisney also invited Council to come to the plant anytime.
- Ordinance Review and Update – The current ordinances have been completed, and staff will continue to look at updating other ordinances.
- Redistricting – Mr. Clauson distributed a packet to Council, and he explained that this is a new graphic. The Town boundaries have changed since the census, and the State has included additional blocks with the census data. The graphic distributed is getting everything into the Town, and there is a little more. The populations are still wildly off per district with District 1 having 738, District 2 having 1280, District 3 having 680 and District 4 having 857. All of the districts need to be around 889 in total. The State's attempts to do this would be draft 2 and 3. The public hearing was held, and the State also heard in the meeting as well that Fairfield Street was the

only area of concern that should be moved back into District 1. For some reason, in draft 2, more was taken out of this area. Mr. Clauson responded to the State and told them that this was opposite from what the goal was, so then draft 3 was sent, which is a complete overhaul and reconfiguration of all the districts. He can request the State go back to draft 1 and see if the little area could be added back to District 1. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated Council needs a clearer copy to be able to read. Mr. Clauson will see if he can zoom in more and get this to Council. Mr. Taylor also suggested a rooftop view. Mayor McMeekin stated he does not want to make drastic changes, which would not be beneficial for the voters or the candidates. Mayor McMeekin and Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman voiced their opinion that they would like everything to stay as it is. Mr. Clauson further explained that District 2 has an overwhelming population. The priority of the State is to give everyone a voice. If there is a district with 1200 people, they do not have as much of a voice as the district that only has 400 or 600. Mayor McMeekin stated an updated map is needed to then move toward where Council is comfortable. Mr. Clauson stated we should probably continue to work with the first draft.

**Council Member Miller arrived at 6:30 p.m.**

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** PARD Grant Match for Paving Basketball Court at Friendship Park. Mayor McMeekin stated the County Delegation had contacted him concerning the PARD Grant, and this is a pressing matter with a tight window. He has had citizens contact him concerning getting Friendship Park repaved, parking, etc., and this money can be used toward this project. Mr. Taylor stated this is one of the simpler grants that can be applied for. It is essentially a Legislative Delegation appropriation. PARD stands for Parks and Recreational Development, and as long as a park project is being put forth and the senator and representative agree this is where they want to spend the money, then the money can be allocated to that particular project. The Delegation does like to spread the money around with sometimes awarding it to Ridgeway, Winnsboro or to the County. It has been indicated that it is essentially the Town's turn to go after this money. One project that has come to the forefront is Friendship Park because the basketball court is in poor condition, parking needs improvement and the fence has some issues.

Mr. Taylor has spoken with Mr. Heyward Banks concerning this, and he made a request for this project to be considered. Council is being asked for support to put in for this grant with an 80/20 split. If approved, the project will be moved forward to get cost estimates. Mr. Clauson stated this could be two allocations of \$27,000 for a total of \$54,000. Mr. Taylor stated this should cover what is needed to be done to make the park look nicer for the community. Council Member Bartell Prather requested for Mr. Taylor to explain the location of Friendship Park. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Clauson stated Friendship Park is located on Frazier Street. Mayor McMeekin stated it is an entranceway into Winnsboro, and he has had people from the neighborhood contact him also. This is a high traffic area, and this will be good for the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated it is a well-used park. Council Member Miller suggested that other funding could also be secured to assist with this request. Council agreed to move forward with this project.

**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.)**

At 6:45 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to enter into executive session for: (A) Economic Development/Contractual Matter – Discussion Concerning Downtown Revitalization Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a)(2); and (b) Receipt of Legal Advice – Discussion Concerning a Contractual Matter Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2). **The motion carried 5-0.**

At 6:54 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bartell Prather, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. **The motion carried 5-0.** Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated Council received information only.

**13. ADJOURN**

At 6:55 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to adjourn. **The motion carried 5-0.**

  
 PATTI L. DAVIS  
 TOWN CLERK

  
 JOHN MCMEEKIN  
 MAYOR