

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

Present: Mayor John McMeekin; Mayor Pro-Tem Demetrius Chatman; Danny Miller, 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 December 6, 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. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated it is wonderful to have such a large crowd in attendance.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Burroughs 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 5-0.***

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 15, 2022, and the Regular Meeting minutes of November 15, 2022. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Posthumous Proclamation in Remembrance of Judge "Deacon" John "Johnny" Dewese and Presentation from Municipal Court Personnel. Mayor McMeekin read the Proclamation into the record. Mayor McMeekin then asked for the family to stand and Judge Dewese's daughter, Jessica Dewese to come forward to accept the Proclamation from Council. After this presentation, Jessica Guinyard, Court Clerk, Judge Goode and Judge Robinson then presented the Dewese family with Judge Dewese's gavel and also stated his robe has been officially retired.

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

No one signed to speak.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A.** First Reading Ordinance No. 64: An Ordinance to Amend Section 1-11-04 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Winnsboro, South Carolina, to Establish the Boundaries of the Town of Winnsboro's Four Districts by Re-Drawing (Redistricting) the Four Districts; and to Provide for Severability and an Effective Date. Motion made by Council Member Bartell Prather, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 64. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated he had some concerns and wanted to make sure a vote was not being taken on a finished product. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ongoing Projects

- AMI - Mr. Taylor reported the equipment is still on backorder, and the Town currently continues to lose meter readers, which has put the bills behind. A meeting was scheduled with the provider, Ferguson, to get an idea of the current situation, and they still could not give firm dates. They did provide a letter from the manufacturer stating the radios are taking a while to come in, but they also guaranteed the Town would get its fair share when they do come in. Council Member Bartell Prather inquired how many meters are expected, and Mr. Clauson stated there was around an additional 3,000. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated some areas around Columbia had faulty meters, and he can see why there is a hold, to make sure they are accurate. Mr. Taylor stated there were a few that were a problem in Blythewood.
- Grant Applications – Mr. Taylor stated staff is continuing to pursue all grants available. There was a large meeting today of 60-70 people, and it was all about grants. There were federal and state agencies in attendance making themselves available for various

grants that are offered. He felt this was very helpful, and Mr. Taylor and the Mayor were volunteered for several things.

- Code Enforcement – Per Mr. Taylor, Code Enforcement is well underway, and it is taking shape. Meetings are being held with a lot of property owners, and there has been a good response from some of the owners. Some commitments have been made, and they will be held to these commitments. Mr. Clauson stated Mr. Wilkes, the Code Enforcement officer, has met with individuals. A number have responded that either they will correct the problem or they have gone through the actual hearing process. So far, it has been pretty successful. There had been a question concerning Poplar Street, and the landowner has agreed to fix this situation. The abatement process has not been done yet, but some could be headed in this direction. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman inquired concerning the ones on Cemetery Street, and Mr. Clauson stated there may be some that will be forfeited.
- Utility Expansions – Mr. Taylor stated, especially with gas, he will be discussing the possibility of contracting some of this work out. There are people wanting gas in the Ridgeway area, along with the Town Council, and we will explore options to get this done.
- Comprehensive Plan – This has been contracted out to the COG.
- Ordinance Review and Update – This work continues.
- Redistricting – Mr. Clauson distributed a packet to Council. This represents the fourth iteration provided by the State, and he feels this is what Council was requesting. In District 4, there is no change. In District 1, a piece is being moved into District 3, but everything else is being added from District 2. District 2 is losing, but this is the Ward 1 area and a little bit of the mill village in order to keep everything contiguous. In District 3, it is adding the small piece from District 1 and some from District 2. The State did not like this draft, and they wanted the numbers to be tighter. The goal is to have 889 individuals in each district. District 1 has 890, District 2 has 27 less of the optimal number and should be accounted for as we get more of the mill village, District 3 is 12 over and District 4 remained the same with 13 over. This draft should be what Council had asked for, and the State did a good job putting it together. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman thanked Mr. Clauson for being persistent. Mr. Clauson stated this latest iteration is what Council voted on tonight. If this

is acceptable, the final reading and public hearing will be at the next meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated he has been getting calls everyday that the citizens are so happy with the cameras being installed because they feel safer. He also thanked Chief for getting these installed and feels we are moving in the right direction.

In closing, Mr. Taylor stated Interim Chief Lawrence has two new officers to introduce to Council. Chief Lawrence introduced Mr. Ashford who comes from Fairfield County and has 25+ years of experience, and also Mr. Williams who comes from the Cayce Department of Public Safety and Richland County with a wealth of knowledge in addition to a military background. Chief Lawrence thanked Council for their support, and going forward, there will sometimes be officers not dressed in uniforms. Council welcomed both new officers.

Council Member Miller inquired concerning the 29 pending jury trials with none scheduled listed in the Municipal Court monthly report. Judge Goode was still present in the audience and stated there are no trials scheduled right now; however, he did not have any further information with him tonight. Mr. Taylor will speak with the clerk concerning when these might be scheduled. Judge Good further stated the department is spread very thin right now and has been for about a year and a half. The judges are on-call for seven days at a time. He is excited about the new officers, and he has seen a pick-up in cases coming to traffic court. This is pretty time consuming at the present for a part-time position, and he knows Council is starting the process to make this better in executive session tonight. Mayor McMeekin stated Council appreciates Judge Goode and Judge Robinson's dedication, and he knows it has been a tough time.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Request to Use Fortune Springs Park – Fairfield County Parks and Recreation Community Fitness Center, February 18, 2023, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mr. Taylor invited Mr. Lucas Vance to come to the podium. Mr. Vance, Director of Fairfield County Parks and Recreation, also introduced Mrs. Barbara Mack and Mr. Cam Roseberry. He stated this request is to host the 2nd Annual Got Heart 5K at Fortune Springs Park. The necessary

forms have been completed, and Mr. Vance also passed out folders to Council containing the agreement, flyer for the race as well as a map of the race. The first race was held last year, and there was a lot of positive feedback from the community. The department is excited to offer this again this year. With approval, Mr. Vance will use the flyer to begin advertising. The request is for Saturday, February 18, with start time of the race scheduled for 9:00 a.m., and the race should be completed no later than 11:00 a.m. Strictly Running will be handling the race again this year. Mayor McMeekin stated he knows this was very successful last year and went smoothly. Council Member Bartell Prather stated the department did a great job with this event last year, and she is looking forward to it again this year. Mr. Vance stated last year there were a little over 70 runners for the event, and hopefully, there will be about a 10% increase. Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve the request for the 2nd Annual Got Heart 5K run in Fortune Springs Park. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

- B.** Request for Public Funds – Debra McDaniel – Community Christmas Dinner (\$750.00). Mayor McMeekin stated this is an event Mrs. McDaniel does every year for the community. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated Mrs. McDaniel of the Ward 1 Community of District 3 handles this event. It began with Thanksgiving and the need grew larger. She hosts this every year with volunteers, and this past Thanksgiving, about 600 dinners were served. It is a very good event that is done by this association. Mayor McMeekin stated this is good public relations for the Town and the community, and it does serve people in need. Motion made by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve the request for public funds. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

Council Member Miller stated Ms. Edwinda Armstrong usually handles the Zion Hill Community Christmas and Thanksgiving projects and others projects, and she has been sick. He appreciates all she and her family have done for the community, and he asked everyone to remember her in prayer.

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 6:48 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to enter into executive session for: (A) Receipt of Legal Advice – Discussion Concerning a Contractual Matter Pursuant to S.C. Code


§30-4-70(a)(2) and (B) Employment Matter – Municipal Judge Applicant Selection Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a)(1). ***The motion carried 5-0.***

At 7:08 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Bartell Prather, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather and Council Member Miller to approve Option 2 concerning the AT&T lease option. ***The motion carried 5-0.***

13. ADJOURN

At 7:10 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 5-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK



JOHN MCMEEKIN
MAYOR