

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2023**

Present: Mayor John McMeekin; Mayor Pro-Tem Demetrius Chatman; Danny Miller, Janice Bartell-Prather, Council Members; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Chris Clauson and Kathy Belton, Assistant Town Managers; Patti Davis, Town Clerk.

Absent: Council Member Burroughs.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on May 16, 2023, 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 Miller led the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, 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 Regular Meeting minutes of May 2, 2023. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

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. 78: An Ordinance Annexing into the Town of Winnsboro a 0.37 Acre Tract of Land, Located at 240 Poplar Street, Winnsboro, SC, Owned by Yuling Wu, in Fairfield County, Not Already Within the Winnsboro Town Limits, and Including All Adjacent and Abutting Rights-of-Way. Tax Map No. 126-03-21-007-000. Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve First Reading Ordinance No. 78. ***The motion carried 4-0.***
- B.** Resolution No. 2023-05: A Resolution Committing the Town of Winnsboro to Provide a Local Cash Match for a South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program Grant from the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority to Fund a Plant Expansion for the Water Treatment Plant. Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve Resolution No. 2023-05. Mr. Taylor stated this was discussed previously when the Town originally applied for the grant, which is the \$10M to upgrade the water plant by 2M gallons of treatment capacity. The initial application was requesting an additional \$500,000 through another side program that is offered that would have relieved some of the match. However, the Town was not awarded this additional amount. We must, therefore, commit to the full match, which makes the match go up by \$500,000. Mayor McMeekin stated this will increase capacity. The Town has 10M gallons coming in through the Broad River, and this will bring the treatment capacity from 4M to 6M. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ongoing Projects

- AMI: The meters are being installed and going well.
- Code Enforcement/Zion Hill: Administration is trying to work out a way to partner with the County to save some of the cost. The cost on taking an individual house down is running between \$6,000 and \$8,000. If it can be done in-house borrowing some of the County equipment and taking some of their houses down at the same time, a considerable amount of money can be saved. Mr. Clauson stated the agreement is being finalized to use their excavator and maybe their roll-off trucks with the Town paying the tipping fees. On Zion Hill, approval was received today to take down another structure on College Street with the grant funding that is handled by the County.

- Utilities: Mr. Taylor is continuing to look at gas expansion. Some water lines are also having to be moved in relation to the Scout project. Since the water lines are being moved, the consideration is being given to potential expansion in the area to open up new territory for water.
- Redevelopment Efforts: Various properties are continuing to be looked at. Other partners are also being reached out to in order to potentially work with, such as 1st & Main, especially on some of the vacant buildings. They are capable of accessing abandoned building tax credits and other historic tax credits that could be leveraged to do better projects and do more buildings. This is something that is being explored. This is the same company the County worked with on the Mt. Zion project, which was a very successful project. This was roughly a \$19M project that the County only paid \$9M for.
- Ordinance Review and Update: The historic preservation ordinance is continuing to be looked at along with others. Mr. Clauson stated the Streets and Sanitation ordinance is also being looked at for more clarity concerning contractors clearing lots and expecting this department to do the clean-up. This is unreasonable, so clear guidance is needed. Mr. Taylor stated the Town is left in the situation quite often where it is having to negotiate what it will and can pick up, and Mr. Johnson is put in a bad position because he does not have clear guidelines. This is frustrating for the Town and the contractors when they expect us to take on a burden that we cannot take on. Mayor McMeekin stated he can see where this would put Mr. Johnson in a tough spot, and we do not want this. Mr. Taylor further stated the Town wants to help everyone, but we also cannot be taken advantage of, especially with the Town having to pay the tipping fees.
- Board and Commission Appointments: Mr. Clauson stated again that a number of people have expressed interest, but no actual applications have been received.
- Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer Service: The Commission has had another meeting, and some good information was received in executive session. Hopefully, a Technical Committee will be scheduled soon to again further vet the information that was received. Mayor McMeekin stated after the information is received in final form, the public will then be able to see it.

- Grants Update: Mr. Taylor reported several grants have been awarded, and the notice to proceed is expected soon on the \$10M grant. A meeting will be held at the end of the month, and there will be other meetings in the process of moving forward.

Mayor McMeekin stated Bronco is in full force on the AMI installation. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman inquired which area was the work begun, and Mr. Medlin stated the Fairfield County side of Blythewood. Mayor McMeekin inquired if everything is going smoothly. Mr. Medlin stated he understands everything is going well.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

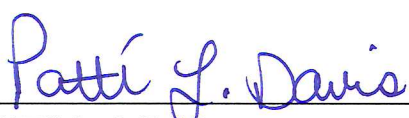
A. Request of Action: Gas, Water and Sewer Department Unbudgeted Request to Purchase a Ford F-150 Truck at State Surplus for \$27,500. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated this item was brought before the Finance Committee. This vehicle is needed to accommodate all the employees. A suitable vehicle was found at State Surplus, and the request was approved in the Finance Committee to be brought forth to full Council. Motion made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve the Request of Action. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

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.

13. ADJOURN

At 6:28 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 4-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK



JOHN MCMEEKIN
MAYOR