

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
JUNE 6, 2023**

Present: Mayor John McMeekin; Mayor Pro-Tem Demetrius Chatman; Janice Bartell-Prather, Jae Burroughs, Council Members; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Kathy Belton, Assistant Town Manager; Scott Elliott, Town Attorney; Patti Davis, Town Clerk.

Absent: Danny Miller, Council Member; Chris Clauson, Assistant Town Manager.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on June 6, 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

Mayor McMeekin led the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Burroughs made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to add an item under Section 5 Special Reports and Presentations. ***The motion carried 3-0.*** Council Member Bartell Prather then made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve the amended agenda. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve the Budget Work Session minutes of May 2, 2023, the Finance Committee minutes from May 16, 2023, the Regular Meeting minutes from May 16, 2023 and the Budget Work Session minutes of May 16, 2023. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation in Honor of National Race Amity Day. Mayor McMeekin read the Proclamation into the record. Council Member Burroughs made a

motion to approve the Proclamation declaring June 11, 2023, as Race Amity Day, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

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

- Yvette Howard – Council Meetings

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman arrived at 6:23 p.m.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. An Ordinance to Adopt a Budget and Updated Fee Schedule Proposed by the Town Manager, Containing Estimates of Proposed Revenues and Expenditures by the Town of Winnsboro, for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2023, and Ending June 30, 2024, and Declaring that the Same Shall Constitute the Budget and Fee Schedule for the Town for Such Fiscal Year. Mayor McMeekin opened the public hearing at 6:25 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Mayor McMeekin closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

B. An Ordinance to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Ordinary Town Purposes in the Town of Winnsboro for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, and Ending June 30, 2023, to Provide for the Expenditures Thereof. Mayor McMeekin opened the public hearing at 6:26 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Mayor McMeekin closed the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 76: An Ordinance to Adopt a Budget and Updated Fee Schedule Proposed by the Town Manager, Containing Estimates of Proposed Revenues and Expenditures by the Town of Winnsboro, for the Fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2023, and Ending June 30, 2024, and Declaring that the Same Shall Constitute the Budget and Fee Schedule for the Town for Such Fiscal Year. Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 76. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman inquired concerning the Armory rental, and Mr. Taylor stated the fee schedule is included in the budget. However, Council wanted to discuss the Armory separately, so there will be a future discussion concerning this. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

- B.** Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 77: An Ordinance to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for Ordinary Town Purposes in the Town of Winnsboro for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, and Ending June 30, 2024, to Provide for the Expenditures Thereof. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 77. ***The motion carried 4-0.***
- C.** Second and Final 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. Council Member Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to approve Second and Final Reading Ordinance No. 78. ***The motion carried 4-0.***
- D.** First Reading Ordinance No. 79: An Ordinance Annexing into the Town of Winnsboro a 0.77 Acre Tract of Land, Located at Hudson Street, Winnsboro, SC, Owned by John and Susan Smith, in Fairfield County, Not Already Within the Winnsboro Town Limits, and Including All Adjacent and Abutting Rights-of-Way. Tax Map No. 126-02-01-007-000. Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to approve First Reading Ordinance No. 79. ***The motion carried 4-0.***
- E.** Resolution No. 2023-6: A Resolution Updating the Employee Handbook. Mr. Taylor requested for Mrs. Edwards to give further information on this item and list the changes that are being proposed. Mrs. Edwards stated the request is being made to add four holidays, including Presidents' Day, Juneteenth, Columbus Day and Veterans' Day. There are currently 11 holidays, and this would bring the holidays to 15. The next item is to assure that the correct number of qualified applications are received for each position. Three applications would need to be received, and if not, the ad would be run again. The vacation rollover was requested to be increased from 240 hours to 360 hours. However, upon separation, the maximum pay-out would be 240 hours. Finally, part-time employees had been accruing vacation and sick hours; however, it was never set up to be done this way. The HR attorney advised that this change be implemented effective immediately, which was done. Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve Resolution 2023-6. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman questioned allowing an employee to rollover 360 hours but only being compensated for 240 when they leave. He feels if it is rolled over, the whole amount should be paid to the employee when they leave. The State allows a rollover amount of

45 days maximum, and when an employee leaves, they get the whole 45 days. Whatever is rolled over should be paid. Some employees do not take time off, because there is no requirement by law for them to take time off. Mr. Taylor stated he does not mind expanding this, but it does not need to be open-ended because it could potentially hit the Town very hard. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated if the employee is allowed to rollover that amount, they should be compensated for the whole amount. Council Member Burroughs suggested keeping it at 240. Mr. Taylor asked for Mrs. Belton to comment, and Mrs. Belton stated it should be 45 days to follow the State guidelines. Vacation days and sick leave count toward retirement in the end and would be beneficial for any retiring employee. However, she also looks at it from the Finance perspective. According to how many employees are retiring, this could also affect the Town's revenues. The Town is also more of a utility company, and sometimes certain employees are not permitted to be off because of the job. As a result, some employees accumulate a lot of time. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman inquired if the sick time and vacation time are separate. Mrs. Edwards stated it is separate, but sick accrual is not paid out when an employee leaves. Mr. Taylor stated if Council wishes, some numbers can be brought back to make a more rational decision. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated that would be acceptable, and he would not have a problem with any of the other requested changes. Council Member Bartell Prather made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to table Resolution No. 2023-6 until the next Town Council meeting. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ongoing Projects

- AMI: Mr. Taylor reported things have been moving along smoothly for the last five weeks. Over this time, around 550 new meters have been installed, and this is averaging a little more than 100 per week. A request has been made for Ferguson to have regular meetings to give updates.
- Code Enforcement/Zion Hill: Mr. Taylor reported staff had a very productive meeting with the County. Jonathan Burroughs' department is willing to lend the equipment needed, which will save about \$12,000 to \$16,000 in the demolition of the houses. It will still cost a fair amount of money because the Town will be paying the tipping fees. The County will provide the equipment and staff to run it, and this will save the \$8,000 rental fee per month for the equipment. The Town's houses will be torn down along with the

County's houses and others structures. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman likes the signs being put in the yards to let the community know this is being worked on, because this gives them hope that it is getting done. Mr. Taylor agreed that this will serve more than one purpose, to let the citizens know that it has not been forgotten about and to also let the community know to stay away from the house because they will be coming down. Around 24 houses are currently on the list to be taken down. Again, Mr. Taylor reiterated thank you to the County and thank you to Mr. Burroughs and his department.

- Utilities: Mr. Taylor reported problems are continuing with the odor and taste of the water, and information has been posted to Facebook and the Town website to address the exact issue, which is Geosmin. Mr. Peak further stated it is an algae bloom. A couple of days ago, the levels were looking better; however, the levels have increased again. Mr. Taylor stated money has been thrown at the problem, and the Blythewood area has been switched back over to Columbia to assist the customers there. The problem is being addressed, but it is tough. There has been constant contact with DHEC, and they have given assurance that the water is safe to drink. The water in the basins at the water plant are as clear or clearer than it has ever been. This problem is not unique to Winnsboro. Columbia also spent a lot of money and time trying to deal with this same problem. Mayor McMeekin stated it is very peculiar that one house will have no problem and then another house down the street does have the problem. Mr. Taylor stated this was looked at early on trying to figure out what was causing this. It was odd that certain areas had it and certain areas did not. Initially, it was thought that the problem was with the elevated storage tanks. These will also be cleaned along with performing flushings of fire hydrants. The pumps are being used at the Broad River to flush water into the Reservoir. A lot of results are not being seen for all the effort that is being put forth. It also seems to be worse in a lot of the commercial establishments. Mr. Taylor also reported that the work being done with the SCOUT project will also include relocating several of the Town's large water lines. All of the cost is being covered by them. Mr. Peak stated there was already a section of line on Blythewood Road from Syrup Mill to the interstate which had already been slated to be moved, but with the Scout Plant coming, this move was expedited. Within the next few weeks, those water lines will be moved. They have also added to the same project from Syrup Mill Road down to Muller Road. Incorporated into this will be the moving of the lines, including engineering and construction, and a stub out

will also be incorporated for future growth. There have been some potential developments on Muller Road. None of the Town's utilities should be affected by the new interchange on 77. Mr. Taylor stated the plus is there will be new lines and new stubbed out situation where new territory can be opened up with all the cost being covered. The cost of this project would be substantial.

- **Redevelopment Efforts:** Meetings are continuing with a lot of the downtown business owners and a redevelopment company that Mr. Taylor has used in the past. There is a good opportunity there to get more bang for our buck in partnering with them in a public/private partnership. Also, it is looking very positive that the Town will get additional money. Mr. Taylor spoke with personnel in the Ways and Means Committee at the State House and forwarded support letters to try to pull down additional dollars for downtown redevelopment.
- **Ordinance Review and Update:** This work continues. Mr. Clauson is at a conference on planning of the walkability of communities to try to have interconnecting neighborhoods and commercial districts to make them more livable and walkable.
- **Board and Commission Appointments:** Mayor McMeekin stated the City of Columbia is having the same trouble with finding people to serve on boards. He hopes Council will continue to push to try to find some people to serve.
- **Fairfield Joint Water and Sewer Service:** The Commission has two meetings scheduled shortly, a Technical Committee Meeting which should be very substantive looking at the cost and proposals and options to hopefully move forward with finalizing a location and service routes and a standard meeting to do a lot of housekeeping issues that are needed. Now that the SCIIP Grant has been achieved, a lot of things will be needed to ensure compliance with the grant. Mayor McMeekin stated a lot of incorrect information has been on Facebook. The SCIIP Grants are handled by the Rural Infrastructure Authority and must be done properly and correctly. There are those who say the process is not moving fast enough; however, we will move methodically, carefully and will do things the right way. If the facts are correct and the reasoning is sound, we will not have to worry about anything else. Mayor McMeekin reiterated that our facts will be correct and our reasoning will be sound.

- Grants Update: Mr. Taylor stated staff attended the Grant Workshop, which was mandatory for all SCIIP recipients. The Town has the SCIIP Grant for the water plant, and the FJWSS, on which the Mayor and Mr. Taylor serve, also has a SCIIP grant. There are a lot of requirements that must be met. This is something that will be a huge benefit to opening up territory for the Town's utilities, both territory-wise and capacity-wise.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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.)

A. Receipt of Legal Advice – Discussion Concerning Fairfield County Trash Dispute Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-5-70(a)(2).

At 6:53 p.m., motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to go into executive session for the above listed item. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

At 7:02 p.m., motion made by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Bartell Prather, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

Mayor McMeekin stated all discussion in executive session was taken as information only, and Mr. Elliott was asked to proceed with the litigation.

13. ADJOURN

At 7:03 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 4-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK



JOHN MCMEEKIN
MAYOR