

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
OCTOBER 17, 2023**

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

Absent: Jae Burroughs.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on October 17, 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 Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and other individuals associated with the distribution list of the Town of Winnsboro.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McMeekin called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

2. INVOCATION

Council Member Bartell-Prather led the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Bartrell-Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Bartell-Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from October 3, 2023. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on SCIIP Grant Project – Water Plant Expansion. Georgiana Graham and Ken Parnell from HPG Company introduced themselves. Ms. Graham stated the State awarded almost \$1.4B in grants earlier this year. The Town of Winnsboro was fortunate to receive \$10M for the purpose of expansion and upgrading of the Town’s water treatment plant. It is currently at 4MG per day, and once this project is complete, the capacity will be doubled. The Town would be in a good position with capacity for future growth and industrial development in the area. The project consists of doing a number of improvements to the treatment plant itself and would

also include high service pumping and a 20-inch water line to the 11th Street pipe. The project cost estimate, including construction contingencies, is just over \$13M. The grant target dates, included in the handout, were discussed. This includes that all projects are expected to be completed and closed out by June 2026. The target for engineering design to be complete is between September 2023 and March of 2024 with moving toward bidding and awarding of contracts by mid-2024. Currently, work is beginning at the water plant. The line will come later, because it will not take as long to construct and is not as critical to move forward with the capacity increase. As of today, the plans and specifications and request for construction permit have already been submitted to DHEC, which puts us ahead of the target date. The hope is to be able to advertise for bids around the end of this year or the first of next year, again being ahead of schedule. There is a lot of concern about how much construction will be going on around South Carolina at one time, and HPG is attempting to get the Town ahead of the curve to hopefully help as far as costs. Mr. Parnell stated the first phase is the work at the plant itself, which is considered the more complicated brick and mortar phase. Then, they will move into the pumping phase, which includes upgrades of pumping systems at the raw water pump station and the high service pump station. Then, there will be some additional line work to move water away from the water plant. The first phase is the more complicated, which is why this is getting started early. Ms. Graham stated the other phases may be able to be modified should cost for the plant come in a little higher than anticipated. Mayor McMeekin stated a lot of money is being dumped into the economy at one time, and there will be competition. It is good that we are ahead and also the wastewater treatment plant project is ahead of the game. Mr. Parnell stated it will be a fight for contractors and fewer contractors means elevated prices. This is why we want to get in early. Mr. Taylor stated he requested for Mr. Parnell and Ms. Graham to come and present to Council concerning the Town's water plant project because we have talked about the sewer project a fair amount. The engineer is usually at every meeting to give any reports, and it struck him that it would be good to have a presentation on the Town's project. The Town was very lucky to receive the \$10M, and this is critical to our future. Mr. Parnell and Ms. Graham have been with the Town a long time and are very familiar with the existing facilities; therefore, this is a great fit to bring them on board for this expansion. Ms. Graham stated the discussions of this project really began around 2008. There were three phases, the first of which was the line from the Town Reservoir to the water plant completed around 2010, and then the next phase was the line from the Broad River, with the third and final phase of what is being done now, which is expansion of the treatment plant. Mayor McMeekin stated he came on Council in 2017, so he missed the first part of it but knew it was a long-

term plan. As Mr. Taylor said, it really does dovetail with the wastewater treatment plant to be able to supply water for the potential growth that hopefully will come. Mr. Taylor further stated the Town has had a very good, logical plan in place for some time, and money was always the obstacle. Now, with this funding, the plan can be completed. Mayor McMeekin stated we were fortunate to get two grants, one for the Town and the other for the Joint System.

B. Arbor Day Proclamation. The Clerk read the Proclamation into the record, and all were in favor. Therefore, December 1, 2023, was proclaimed as Arbor Day for the Town of Winnsboro.

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

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Ongoing Projects – Mr. Taylor stated there are no current updates except that the Municipal Association Grant was awarded to the Town in the amount of \$25,000. It had been expressed in a prior meeting that planning and design would need to be done for downtown revitalization. Therefore, this grant will be used for this purpose. Mayor McMeekin stated he and Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman have discussed these plans with Mr. Taylor and are in agreement of the direction that is needed.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Dillon Pullen, Interim President, Chamber of Commerce – Special Request Concerning Upcoming 5K to Benefit S.C. Special Olympics. Mr. Pullen stated the Chamber is partnering with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office to produce the Ghosts and Goblins Trunk or Treat taking place at Fortune Springs Park on October 28. The event will kick-off with the 5K to raise money for the South Carolina Special Olympics. Once the 5K is completed, at about 6:00 p.m. the Trunk or Treat will begin. This was held at the

Sheriff's Office previously at the Administration Building, and they ran out of parking spaces. It was decided that this space was not conducive due to the amount of people who participated. The decision was, therefore, made to move the event to Fortune Springs Park, which Council allowed them to do. The ask tonight is for one exception to allow bounce houses to be set up outside of the Armory. The Chamber has two bounce houses to set up for the kids; however, the rules currently state that this is not allowed without the approval of Council. The Chamber has liability insurance from Clark Farley Insurance Agency for \$1M which was paid in full this morning in the hopes that Council would approve this request. Mayor McMeekin stated McDonald's closed the children's play areas because of children getting hurts and subsequent lawsuits. This is one reason bounce houses are not allowed. Mayor McMeekin questioned Mr. Pullen if the insurance will cover the bounce houses. Mr. Pullen stated it will only cover the bounce houses, and the Sheriff's office will be providing insurance coverage for the rest of the event. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Council Member Miller, to approve the special request. ***The motion carried 3-0.***

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.)

Executive session was not needed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman arrived at 6:34 p.m.

13. ADJOURN

At 6:34 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman made a motion, seconded by Council Member Miller, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 4-0.***


PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK


JOHN MCMEEKIN
MAYOR