

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

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

**Absent:** Danny Miller.

The Winnsboro Town Council met in regular session on November 7, 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 6:15 p.m.

**2. INVOCATION**

Council Member Burroughs led the invocation.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Bartrell-Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Bartell-Prather made a motion, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from October 17, 2023. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**5. SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**A.** Proclamation Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Paul Baptist Church. Mayor McMeekin read the Proclamation into the record and then presented the Proclamation to representatives from Saint Paul Baptist Church.

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

None.

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A.** Historic Preservation Ordinance Establishing Local Historic Property Designation and Design Review. Mayor McMeekin opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Mayor McMeekin closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.
- B.** Amending the Town Policies of the Public Works Ordinance of the Town of Winnsboro to Add the Annexation Requirement for Utility Services. Mayor McMeekin opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Mayor McMeekin closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.
- C.** Amending the Business License Ordinance of the Town of Winnsboro to Update the Class Schedule as Required by Act 176 of 2020. Mayor McMeekin opened the public hearing at 6:24 p.m. No one signed to speak; therefore, Mayor McMeekin closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m.

## **8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. Ongoing Projects:**

Code Enforcement - Mr. Taylor stated this is tied into the information to be discussed in executive session.

Utilities – Mr. Taylor reported there have been some issues at the sewer plant concerning one of the large mixing basins, which is a large container with large paddles to keep the wastewater stirred. One of the large paddles has broken off in the bottom, so the basin is having to be drained. This should not be a great expense; however, it is a large effort to get the basin drained. Also, with one basin down, the Town is at a higher capacity. Mr. Taylor further stated while the improvements with the fiber optics are good, it is causing the Town a lot of work internally. Typically, when someone is digging, the Town has to locate its lines in the ground with about 100 requests per month. Right now, these requests are at 500 per month, which is eating up a lot of the staff's time. There are also a lot of lines being hit. There was a water break today associated with the fiber optic installation. Staff was also picking up a lot of the limbs that were being cut, but at this point, the Town can no longer do this. The company will have to get a private contractor for the limb cleanup. Mayor Pro-Tem

Chatman inquired if they could be made to get a private company to locate the lines. Mr. Taylor stated by law the Town has to do this within a certain amount of time and at no charge.

Redevelopment Efforts – Some items will be discussed in executive session; but Mr. Taylor is delighted to announce that the new Mexican restaurant, Winnsboro Fiesta, has opened. All reports are that the business is going very well. Primerica also opened downtown, and the old Wells Fargo building has sold at auction. It is a very good sign that it brought \$430,000. It was purchased by an investment company who has a track record of purchasing buildings in small downtowns and redeveloping them into restaurants, apartments, offices, etc. He hopes, with the amount of the investment, that the Town will have a good redevelopment partner.

Fairfield Joint Water & Sewer Service – There are upcoming meetings but not a lot of new issues to report at this time.

Grants Update – A lot of grants have been received, and staff is now in the process of having to implement them.

One final item to be discussed tonight is concerning the upcoming meetings for the holidays. The Clerk stated the next meeting is scheduled for November 21, which is two days before Thanksgiving. Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman stated this is a work day for him, so he is okay with meeting on this date. Mr. Taylor stated this meeting can proceed if Council wishes, but if anyone has a problem, now is the time to discuss. The meeting on November 21 will remain on the calendar.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Request for Public Funds – Debra McDaniel, Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Mayor McMeekin stated Ms. McDaniel does this every year, and this usually goes to the Finance Committee first. There is a limited amount of money in this line item for functions of the Town of Winnsboro with the maximum request being \$750. It has to be for the citizens of Winnsboro and open to everyone in Winnsboro. Motion made by Council Member Bartell-Prather, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to approve the request. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**B.** Request to Use Fortune Springs Park for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Got Heart 5K – Fairfield County Parks and Recreation Department. The Clerk stated Mr. Lucas Vance had planned to attend the meeting tonight; however, he had four coaches call out and had to coach tonight. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event, and the event is getting bigger each year. Motion made by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Bartell-Prather, to approve the request. ***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.)**

**A.** Economic Development/Contractual Matter – Discussion Concerning Downtown Revitalization Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2).


At 6:33 p.m., motion made by Council Member Burroughs, seconded by Council Member Bartell-Prather, to exit regular session and enter into executive session for the above item. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

At 7:06 p.m., motion made by Council Member Bartell-Prather, seconded by Council Member Burroughs and Mayor-Pro-Tem Chatman, to exit executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

All discussion was received as information only.

**13. ADJOURN**

At 7:07 p.m., Council Member Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chatman, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

  
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PATTI L. DAVIS  
TOWN CLERK

  
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JOHN MCMEEKIN  
MAYOR