

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
JANUARY 16, 2024**

Present: Chairman Demetrius Chatman; Mayor John McMeekin; Jason Taylor, Town Manager; Chris Clauson and Kathy Belton, Assistant Town Managers; Patti L. Davis, Town Clerk.

The Finance Committee met on January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Winnsboro Women's Club. 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 other individuals associated with the distribution list of the Town of Winnsboro.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chatman called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried.***

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Kathy Belton – Monthly Finance Report

- Section A –Mrs. Belton stated revenues were down compared to last month. Investments, restricted and unrestricted, contain increases from interest payments. On page 2, the increases reflect money that is set aside to pay for the bonds.
- Section B – The General Fund revenue is where it should be at this time of the year, because the Town gets most of the funds in May, June and July. Lost profit and lost revenue percentage shows where it is in line with the budget, and everything looks very good in that area. Page 2, General Fund expenditures were up compared to last month. Combined Utilities revenue is up compared to last month. Combined Utilities expenditures were down compared to last month.
- Section C –No General Fund capital expenditures.
- Section D – Utilities capital. The \$1800 is for ¼ of the bill for the meter reader truck. The \$135,000 is for the electric meters. The \$16,000 for the water meters is hopefully the final part. Water should be finished except for the larger meters. Chairman Chatman inquired if all the meters have been installed. Mrs. Belton stated as far as she knows they have all been installed. Mr. Taylor stated there

have been some needed upgrades along the way and constantly having to reinstall. He further stated, at some point, the meters that are continually being damaged will need to be addressed. The dome sits on top of the new meters, and there may need to be an ordinance to state the first repair will be at no charge but any subsequent repair will be charged. Citizens need to make an effort not to hit the meters. Chairman Chatman suggested speaking with the installers to see if the price could be reduced. Further discussion ensued concerning the cover for the meters. Chairman Chatman stated the company should have shown the Town an example of the product and how it would look. Mrs. Belton continued with General Fund revenue, which is up compared to last month. The expense portion is also up compared to last year.

- Combined Utilities – The revenue is up compared to last year at this time with the overall for the year being \$184,000. Expense was down compared to last year but increased overall for the year. Chairman Chatman stated it appears that spending should be halted and monitored. The grant matches will be coming up in the near future. Mayor McMeekin stated it definitely needs to be monitored. Mrs. Belton stated at this point there needs to be a freeze in spending and no capital purchases unless absolutely necessary for operation.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Request of Action – Request to Bid on Forfeited Land Commission Property within the Town Limits in Order to Secure Properties that Would be of Interest to the Public Benefit. Mr. Clauson stated the County has decided to sell off a number of the properties they had in forfeited status. These include some of the properties the Town was working with the County to demolish structures and hopefully have a clear lot. There are three properties, in particular, and only one has a structure on it. The other two are essentially gullies and not usable; however, the Town could combine these with other pieces of property. This would be in the public's interest. There are a number of possibilities, but this does not help the Town for this to be owned by a private landowner who will not be able to use it. Staff is requesting the ability to bid on at least two of the parcels, and ideally the third parcel that adjoins to one of our properties already on S. Zion Street. It is hoped that the bids would not get too high because, again, the properties are not usable, but the request is being made for up to \$15,000 for a combined total for the three. Chairman Chatman inquired concerning the funds. Mrs. Belton understands the need but would advise to hold off at this point. Mayor McMeekin stated it could be discussed for this to come out of downtown redevelopment; and Mr. Taylor stated that would be an

option if Council agrees. After discussion, it was decided to defer this item to full Council for consideration.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. ADJOURN

At 6:12 p.m., it was moved by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to adjourn. ***The motion carried.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
TOWN CLERK



DEMETRIUS CHATMAN
CHAIRMAN