

**MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WINNSBORO TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 20, 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 February 20, 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 6:03 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. This report was accepted as information only.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reclassification of Funds for SCIIP Grant Match. Mr. Taylor reported the Town has a number of investment accounts and other accounts on the operating budget, and an amount needs to be set aside for the SCIIP Grant match. This grant represents the \$10M received for the upgrade of the water treatment facility, and the match is approximately \$3M. Mrs. Belton stated funds will be transferred from the earmarked investment accounts, and ¼ will be transferred from each utility account, which should come to a total of \$769,000 out of each utility to make up the match. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the request. ***The motion carried.***

B. Request of Action – Gas, Water and Sewer Department: Request for Additional Allocation of Funds from Capital Funds Set Aside for Gas

Expansion to Purchase a Used Pipe Trencher and Piping (\$246,571.28) to Extend the Existing Gas Service to Approximately the Nelson's Funeral Home Property in Ridgeway. Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Peak will be presenting this request, but in the past, this has been discussed at length. The Town is looking to expand its gas service, and there have been many requests from Ridgeway citizens and businesses. Also, as will be discussed later in the meeting, a lot of requests for residential permitting and developments are being seen lately. With gas service, it is first come first serve, so the Town could lose out on this potential for the growth of its gas business. Mr. Peak stated this is actually something that has been in the works for over a year, and he feels the Town is finally ready to move forward. This request is for two items, the first being a trencher to use to install the pipe material, and then the pipe and fittings. This will go from the area the Town already has gas near Cook Road, Hwy 34 and into Ridgeway just past Nelson's Funeral Home. This expansion will get the Town up to about Peach Road, and this will also loop in some of the current gas service areas so it can be better supported with the upcoming growth. Mr. Peak has looked at four residential plans today. These plans near and in Blythewood would be the sale of water for the Town and possibly gas. The cost of a new trencher is pretty high. The Town has worked with DitchWitch in the past, and they currently have a 2017 model that has been completely rebuilt. Chairman Chatman stated he sees Mr. Peak provided multiple quotes. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the request. ***The motion carried.***

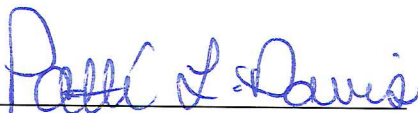
- C.** Request of Action – Electric Department: Request to Enter into a Reimbursable Contract for Relocation of Electric Poles and Lines to Allow Hubrich Contracting, Inc. to Install a Driveway for Midlands STEM Institute. Mr. Taylor stated this is a request associated with the new school and will be reimbursable. Mr. Medlin stated this is a reimbursable type contract for Hubrich to relocate poles to satisfy SCDOT for the new driveway being cut. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the request. ***The motion carried.***
- D.** Request of Action – Winnsboro Public Safety: Request to Repair Damaged Door to Preserve Engine 2 and Equipment on Board (\$4,654.00). Chief Lawrence stated this is in reference to the overhead door which houses Engine 1 to the Fire Department. The door was broken during the election at some point, and there have been problems in the past. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the request. ***The motion carried.***

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Request of Action – Request Approval of the Allocation of Funds to Allow Payment to 1st & Main Development for a Pre-Development/Development Due Diligence Period for the Reconstruction of the Thespian Hall. Mr. Taylor stated he is happy to announce that the second \$500,000 allocation for downtown revitalization has been received, and the Town needs to start acting. 1st & Main is a company that has been utilized in the past with the successful Mt. Zion project. They will assess and do the due diligence and put together a package of what can be accessed by a potential developer on tax credits and other things such as this. Mr. Clauson added that Mr. Rory Dowling is an individual who worked on the new County Administration Building and was successful in pulling down a number of tax sources and reinvestment resources. Mr. Dowling will guide us through the process and give the best options going forward. Chairman Chatman stated we have learned and been told that once we start doing these investments more will come in. Motion made by Mayor McMeekin, seconded by Chairman Chatman, to approve the Request. Mayor McMeekin also added that he thanks Representative Annie McDaniel as she has done a wonderful job in helping the Town. ***The motion carried.***

6. ADJOURN

At 6:13 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