

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**February 21, 2017**

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Mike Hawkins and Robert Martin

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer; Ed West, Utility Director; David Beddingfield, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Underwood called the Regular Meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Kyle Kneece introduced himself to Council and shared his interest in a dog park in the Town and also for us to consider looking into a grant to extend the sidewalks on Brown Street to Cedar Drive. Discussion followed. Mr. Kneece asked if Mr. West could look at an eroded pipe in front of the Youngblood property.

Mr. Donald Eaves introduced himself to Council and asked if we could do electronic billing. Council stated we could check with our software and see if there is a way this can be done.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from January 17, 2017 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the minutes from January 17, 2017, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Presentation of the Bennie Bennett African American Community:** Mayor Underwood presented Mr. Alex Alexander with the Bennie Bennett African American Community award for 2017.

**CPST Plan Review- Update:** Mrs. Livingston stated they would have a meeting tomorrow with Alliance. She stated the preliminary list included the demolition of the tennis courts to use for a parking lot, new lighting at the Dixie field, tennis courts at Town Center location and a multipurpose field. She stated we have a Pard Grant for a walking track to include in this plan. Discussion followed. Council agreed to go with the design with two tennis courts and implement the walking track in the design.

**Sidewalk Project- Town Clock Relocate:** Council decided to relocate the clock on the corner of Main and Grace Street on lower sidewalk.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to relocate the clock on the corner of Main and Grace Street on lower sidewalk; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

**Sanitation Schedule Change:** Mrs. Livingston stated Advanced is changing our recycling date to Monday's beginning March 13<sup>th</sup>. She stated they would be mailing cards out to all our customers with the changed dated and were paying to redo our magnetic calendars. She stated we have concerns with not having enough room for both carts being out there at the same time because we already have problems with them not putting the carts back in the right place and leaving in the middle of driveways or in the road. Discussion followed.

**Discuss Shopper's Walk and Parade Merging:** Mrs. Livingston asked if this could be tabled until after Hoppin'.

**Enforcement of Parking Ordinance:** Mrs. Livingston stated we needed to add parking hours into our parking ordinance. She stated the parking ordinance was intended on the parking that was harming business parking in the square and in front of the businesses. Discussion followed. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated himself and Chief Beddingfield would come back with recommendations.

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Public Safety & Economic Development:** Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he and Councilman Martin had attended the groundbreaking at the Mid-Carolina Commerce Park on the business who is supplying parts to BMW. He stated this is a wonderful addition to Newberry County.

**Electrical, Streets & Sanitation:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he and the Chief had a good meeting and the Chief had brought him up to speed with his department. He stated the one way parking would coincide with the sidewalk project.

**Public Works, Buildings & Properties:** Councilman Robert Martin stated he and Mrs. Livingston were coming up with a plan on building and properties. Councilman Gallman

asked Mrs. Livingston about the response on the letters she sent out. Mrs. Livingston stated we have forward movement on six of the eight letters that were sent.

**Parks, Recreation & Events:** Councilman Gallman stated the ballfields were looking better. He thanked Mr. West and his crew for their hard work. Mrs, Livingston stated we have lost several Hoppin' committee members this year and we need a lot of volunteers. She stated the Town coordinates the run, pageant, the information booth, sending letters out to solicit funds and responsible for advertising. She stated the Business Association has had a change in leadership with the Market and this festival takes a lot of people.

**Police Department:** Chief Beddingfield stated he had attended a meeting at the Sheriff's office on the Smart 911 system. He stated it is a volunteer system and encouraging the Citizens to participate in this program. He read over the stats he had given the Council. He stated they are addressing projects such as the E ticket system, the body camera grant and the Crime Stopper's program which is an opportunity for Citizens to report a crime anonymously. He stated he and his Officers are making their presence in the downtown businesses. He stated he would be meeting with the Observer to do an article on equipment violations with vehicles.

**Utility Department:** Mr. West stated they finished up the Church Street project. He stated they have had two broken electrical poles this month from vehicle incidents at Main Street at Hamm's and McNeary Street. He stated they are upgrading where the pole was hit on Main Street. He stated he had been asked to speak at the daycare on recycling. He stated there would be a film crew out in a few weeks with weather permitting to look at the Washington and Main Street project. He stated they would be smoke testing with manholes in the coming month and SC Rural Water is helping us with this project. He stated we would like to do two sections a year. He stated they are working on dugouts and they are looking good and also working on a drainage issue at the ballfield. He stated they are having issues with the lift stations and alarms. He stated it is a warranty issue and that we will be replacing a couple at the time so that our system is not down. He complimented Mr. Joe Everson; one of his utility employees for taking the initiative on his own to go to Midlands Technical College to take a small engine repair class this summer and investing his money and time to help us with repair on our equipment.

**Town Attorney:** Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

**Town Administrator:** Mrs. Livingston had nothing to report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Debris Removal Policy:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he and Mrs. Livingston had sent information for the Council to look over for our policy.

**Sidewalk Repair Update:** Mr. West stated the contractors are meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> concerning some more fibers in town. Discussion followed.

**Hospitality Advertisement:** Mrs. Livingston stated we have information from two contacts and Council decided to hear presentations next month at 6pm before our regular scheduled Council meeting.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Underwood reminded Council the deadline for Economic Interest Forms is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Underwood stated they would be discussing a contractual matter in the Electrical Department concerning Coal Ash with Kevin O'Donnell our Nova Energy Consultant and a Personnel Update in our Police Department.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Robert Martin to move into Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Robert Martin to move out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, Mayor Underwood stated there was no action to be taken on Personnel Update with the Police Department and Council recommends obtaining legal representation for Coal Ash issue.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Robert Martin to obtain legal representation for Coal Ash issue; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, with an approval of four votes and one vote opposed.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 9:26p.m.

**Michelle Bundrick** Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer