



## MINUTES

Regular Scheduled  
Council Meeting  
May 18, 2021, 6:30pm  
South Congaree Town Hall  
Council Chambers  
119 West Berry Rd.  
West Columbia, SC, 29172

**Members in Attendance:** Mayor Cindy Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry and Council Members Jim Drennan, Brian Jackson, and Bobby Porter  
**Also in attendance:** Town Clerk Sharon Williams, Chief of Police Josh Shumpert, Bookkeeper Marsh Harsey, Town Attorney John Rakowsky and Pastor of Ebenezer PH Church Gene Henderson

---

**The public was duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.**

**I. Call to Order.**

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. A quorum was present. Mayor Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance and invited Pastor Gene Henderson to give invocation.

**II. Failure to Execute and/or Follow Council Decisions that have been approved by Council:**

Council, on motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Porter, voted unanimously to hold this agenda item until after the reports.

**III. Reports**

1. Chief Shumpert presented the monthly report to council. He provided Council with an update on the backordered patrol vehicles that are anticipated to arrive by the end of summer. Chief Shumpert announced that the Police Department is seeking applicants for the School Resource Officer Position. Officer Sharpe is currently working on applications for an Axon Body Camera Grant and a Palmetto Pride Grant to obtain a larger trailer for litter pickup. Chief Shumpert announced that the Run Ella Run 5K race will be held June 5, 2021, at the South Congaree Arena.
2. Planning Commission Chair, Mrs. Dee Branham, provided an update regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission received the agreement from the Central Midlands Council of Governments last week. Council discussed the agreement. Councilman Drennan asked if the start date of April 20, 2021, was correct. Mrs. Branham explained that once the Planning Commission received approval from Council in March a special meeting was scheduled with Mr. Gregory Sprouse, Central Midlands Council of Government, on April 14, 2021. Pro-Tem Mabry inquired regarding the payment plan for the Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Branham stated that an email was received and will be attached to the agreement. The cost will be broken down into four (4) equal payments of \$6,250. Mr. Drennan asked how many Public Meetings the Planning Commission intends to have.

Mrs. Branham explained the Planning Commission plans to have several small meetings with the community before having one large event. Councilman Drennan suggested that Municipal Clerk, Williams, attend the Planning Commission Meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan, all of council agreed.

IV. **First Reading: Annexation Ordinance- 2021-003**  
**100 Percent Petition Method (TM# 007797-01-004)**

Council on the motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Porter, voted unanimously to approve the First Reading of the Annexation Ordinance 2021-003

V. **2021-2022 Budget Update**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry provided Council with an update for the 2021-2022 budget that was discussed at the workshop meeting. Mayor Campbell stated that she worked with the Chair of the Finance Committee and provided Council with an updated draft copy of the proposed budget to include proposed income. Mayor Campbell stated she increased the IT services to include a new website and data services upgrade. Mayor Campbell informed Council that she has received information from Senator Shealy that the State will approve a 2% cost of living increase for all state employees. Mayor Campbell has included a 2% cost of living increase to the proposed budget for council to discuss. She stated this would change the bottom-line figure of the budget. Councilman Jackson stated the IT/website upgrade will have to be put out for bid.

Pro-Tem Mabry stated that council needs to set dates for the public hearing and posting in a newspaper since the first proposed dates were missed. Council discussed the timeline and set a date of May 27, 2021, for a Special Called Meeting, to finalize the budget.

Councilman Jackson brought to Council's attention the extent of damage due to the flooding of the court room bathroom and how it may affect the budget.

Pro-Tem Mabry stated that the town has retained the current Auditors for the last five (5) years and council needs to review the law on this matter. She will look into before the next meeting.

Councilman Jackson stated that a scope of work needs to be drafted for a CPA. He and Councilman Porter are working on this item.

**VI. Failure to Execute and/or Follow Council Decisions that have been approved by Council.**

Councilman Jackson stated that he would prefer to discuss the agenda items in Executive Session with the town attorney. Mayor Campbell stated the agenda items did not qualify for Executive Session. Town Attorney Rakowski stated the items may be discussed in open session. Councilman Jackson stated that there were several items that Council have voted on in meetings that have not been followed through. He asked the question, "What do we do, and why does it not follow what Council has decided?" He provided the decisions on Councilman Porter's appointment, the part-time Building Inspector getting the run around on the process, and the additional carpet cleaning when a majority of Council responded "no" to Mayor Campbell's email. His question to Council was, "We are a Council Form of Government, where the majority of Council Rules, why are we not following through with what we decide as a Council?" Pro-Tem Mabry responded that Council should. Councilman Jackson stated that a month ago the decision was made on the Building Inspector and asked why it had not been followed through. He also stated if there was a problem with the vote regarding that agenda item then the problem should be addressed to Council.

**VII. Censorship of Council Members for Un-Approved Expenditures**

Pro-Tem Mabry asked Councilman Jackson what the unapproved expenditures were. Councilman Jackson stated that the carpet cleaning, the purchase of Christmas lights, and the purchase of file cabinets for Town Hall were all unapproved. Councilman Jackson stated that if the Town is on a crunch budget, it should follow the procurement code. Pro-Tem Mabry stated that Council should review the Ordinance with the procurement card to define incidentals. Councilman Jackson stated that the additional sanitizing was not approved by Council and that the carpet had been cleaned sometime between July and October 2020, for a cost of \$518. Mayor Campbell stated that it had not been cleaned. She advised the paperwork referenced was a quote provided by ServPro in 2019, and the work was not completed in June 2020. Pro-Tem Mabry stated that Council voted for the Carpet to be cleaned, but an email to council was sent for additional sanitizing and cost and although majority of council stated no, it showed up on the budget as being done. Pro-Tem Mabry provided the email chain to the Mayor. Councilman Porter asked Councilman Jackson if he had the dollar amounts. Pro-Tem Mabry asked who kept the credit card and if it was kept in the office. Mayor Campbell stated that she keeps the credit card because her name is on the card, however, the Municipal Clerk has the credit card number to purchase supplies. Councilman Porter asked if the ordinance gives the right to the Mayor to make certain purchases under a certain dollar amount. Councilman Jackson stated yes, for budgeted and non-budgeted amounts, but it is not to add to an amount already approved. Pro-Tem Mabry stated it is supposed to be for incidental purchases. Councilman Jackson stated that council needs to define incidentals versus lack of planning. Councilman Jackson suggested that for future purchases, an expenditure sheet should be turned into the Finance Committee to be approved before purchasing.

Mayor Campbell asked Council if there was any more discussion for Agenda Items II and III. Councilman Jackson responded that he would like an answer from Mayor Campbell on why the things that they voted on went the opposite direction on. Mayor Campbell stated, "For the record, I believe there is strong evidence Councilman Jackson is mistaken."

**VIII. Control of Information that is Posted on the Town of South Congaree's URL HOME | Townofsouthcongarree**

Mayor Campbell gave Councilman Drennan the floor to discuss items IV, V, and VI.

Councilman Drennan stated that one of the issues that Council faces is inability to work as a team. He stated that all Council Members ran on certain platforms.

Mayor Campbell ruled a Point of Order as the topic was not on the agenda.

Councilman Drennan stated that he can attest no Council Members have had an opportunity to post on the Town's URL. Councilman Drennan stated that he can attest that no one has had access to the information. Councilman Drennan stated that he can attest that according to the way Council ran for office, Council was going to post the Town's financials on the URL. Councilman Drennan stated that Council has approximately (6) six sets of minutes that it has not seen. He also stated that he has requested these items be put on the agenda for the last 6 months and was suggested by the attorney that it should be discussed in executive session. He apologized for airing our dirty laundry.

**IX. What is the account # assigned by the Bank that council compensation can be directed?**

Council voted to establish a separate account / I did not want my compensation directed to the "General Fund".

Councilman Drennan stated that he asked the Town Bookkeeper to provide him an account number to deposit his Council Compensation check in. Councilman Drennan stated that he does not know of anyone that has sat on Council in the last 50 years that has been compensated. He stated that Jeff Shacker from MASC advised Council that it was okay to have a separate checking account designated for compensation checks.

Councilman Drennan stated that Council approved the account and went on to ask the bookkeeper, Harsey "Is there an account number set up to handle Council compensation?" Ms. Harsey replied to Councilman Drennan from the audience, "There is not a checking account setup because that is not what the auditor advised." Mrs. Harsey stated the auditor advised it did not need to be a separate checking account, it could be a separate general ledger line number. Councilman Drennan stated that he did not agree with that and that is not what Council voted for. Pro-Tem Mabry confirmed with Ms. Harsey that the Auditor did not say a separated account could not be set-up, only that it was not necessary.

**X. Discuss Ordinance # 30.07 Council Compensation and expenses**

Councilman Drennan stated that this is a Council run Government, meaning that everyone on Council is an equal. He stated that based on that structure, he thinks that compensation for all members on Council, including the Mayor, should be the same amount.

A motion was made by Councilman Drennan to make Council and Mayor compensation amounts equal. The motion did not receive a second. Pro-Tem Mabry stated that a motion cannot be made as the ordinance would need to be changed. Councilman Drennan stated that he has the ordinance prepared for the first reading. Pro-Tem Mabry requested to let the Town Attorney review the ordinance. Town Attorney, John Rakowsky, suggested this be tabled until the next Council meeting.

Council, on the motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Pro-Tem Mabry, voted unanimously to table this agenda item until the next regular scheduled council meeting.

Councilman Porter stated that Councilman Drennan and Municipal Clerk, Williams, could setup the account at the bank and bring the signature cards back for council to sign.

Councilman Porter announced that Former Lexington County Councilman Bobby Keisler was presented the Order of the Palmetto by Governor McMaster.

**XI. Citizens Comments**

Public Comment was given by Principal Christopher Dickey, Congaree Elementary School. Principal Dickey wanted to publicly thank the police officers and Mayor and Council for the support of the drive-in movie night at the arena.

Councilman Drennan stated that there are opportunities available for sidewalks through the federally funded program "Safe Routes to School". Councilman Drennan asked Principal Dickey to inform the PTO of the opportunities. Principal Dickey explained that the PTO has not been able to meet this year with COVID, but he could propose the opportunities at the School Improvement Council meeting.

Public comment was given by Alice Hughes, resident of West Columbia.

Public comment was given by Lauren Aull , resident of South Congaree.

Public comment was given by Kitty Spires, resident of South Congaree.

Public Comment was given by Kevin Nation, Mayoral Candidate for the Town of Pine Ridge.

**XII. Executive Session**

Council on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Porter voted unanimously to move into Executive Session at 7:48PM, after a 5-minute recess, for the purpose of

**a. Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)**

Contractual Matter: Building, Permitting & Inspections Agreement Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

Legal Matter: Planning Commission

Council on the motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Pro-Tem Mabry, voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:20 PM.

**Upon returning to open session, action may be taken by Council regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.**

Council reconvened at 9:25 PM in the public forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Drennan, to pay the Part-time Building Inspector \$ 25,000 per year, as a part time employee of the Town of South Congaree. Municipal Clerk Williams will review the Town ordinances and compile the job duties and take into consideration set hours. The pay will begin immediately.

Councilman Porter stated that the building inspector position needs distinct job duties and hours and not an open-door policy.

Mayor Campbell stated on the record, "We need to look into IRS regulations for Independent Contractors." She also stated if we have no control over the terms and conditions of his employment as far as the hours that he works, and if he is providing the Town a service, he is a contract employee. Mayor Campbell also stated that council does need to re-visit and discuss to ensure that everything is legal for the part-time building inspector as well as for the Town, so that the Town will not be liable for any type of liability claim.

Councilman Jackson stated for the record, "Ever since he's been hired, he has been a W-2 employee that we take taxes out. This has nothing to do with your zoning commission or planning commission, and he has been the Zoning Official so that he could do Code Enforcement and Building Inspector.

Mayor Campbell stated for the record, "There are no W-2 forms on file for the building inspector prior to 2016."

Pro-Tem Mabry requested the bookkeeper to check in Quick Books to see how Mr. Lattimore was paid prior to 2016.

Councilman Jackson's motion carried with a vote of 3 in favor (Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry, Councilman Drennan, and Councilman Jackson and 2 opposed (Mayor Campbell and Councilman Porter).

**XII. Citizens Comments**

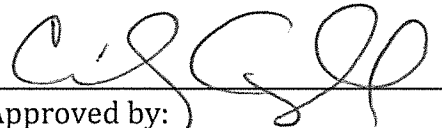
Public comment was given by Debbie McIver, resident of South Congaree.

**XIII. Adjournment**

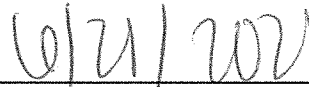
Council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Porter, voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM.



Attested by:  
Sharon Williams,  
Municipal Clerk



Approved by:  
Cindy Campbell,  
Mayor



Date Approved