



MINUTES

**Regular Council Meeting
October 17, 2023, 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, Councilmembers: Brian Jackson, Kitty Spires, and Jim Drennan.

Also in Attendance: Town Attorney John Rakowsky, Chief Josh Shumpert, Captain Chris Garner, Sergeant Chad Walker. Absent: Municipal Clerk Kerri Charlton

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 Pastor Kevin Houston (Kinetic Church) led the Invocation. Mayor Campbell read the Freedom of Information Act.

II. Approval of Minutes.

A. September 19, 2023, Council meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Councilwoman Spires at 6:34 PM. Motion to Table minutes by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry (6:34 PM) seconded by Councilman Jackson (6:35 PM). Discussion: Section 7 is incomplete. The Town Clerk will review for completion and correction. In Section 4 add Mayor Campbell as an attendee. Councilwoman Spires withdrew her motion. Roll call vote:

Motion Tabled at 6:35 PM

- **Councilman Drennan-Yea**
- **Councilman Jackson- Yea**
- **Councilwoman Spires- Yea**
- **Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea**
- **Mayor Campbell- Yea**

III. Departmental Reports - 6:36 PM

A. Police Reports

Chief Shumpert addressed the Council. Report included the following items:

- A statistical report was provided to the Council, 165 tickets, 16 arrests.
- Chief Shumpert will be attending the Annual Chief's Conference November 16-19th in Myrtle Beach.
- Winter Camp: 1st Annual Winter Camp to be offered by the SCPD to children during Winter Break. This would be a one-day event for children ages 6-13, Max of 25 kids. No cost to the Town. All food/events to be donated for this event. Parents would complete a permission application to attend as well as a waiver of liability. There will be a posted itinerary of all services and events.

Example of events include a movie in the Court Room, snacks, painting and crafts, vehicles and firetruck education, a lunch of pizza, games outside if weather permits. Saturday, December 16, 2023, is the proposed day. Mayor Campbell addressed the situation with our building inspection and repair may interfere with the availability of the Courtroom. Chief Shumpert replied, "If that becomes the issue, we have alternate sites to include the school cafeteria as an option." No assistance is needed from the Town or Council.

- The Axon equipment is arriving in phases. Some areas will not be implemented until all computer systems of the current upgrade are completed.
- In reference to Councilman Drennan's requested quotes for a camera system for Town Hall buildings and the Park from State Vendors, Chief Shumpert asked for information about a State Vendor as this is not usual duties for his position. Mayor Campbell provided an example (security systems). A new camera system was purchased from Amazon (Swan System) for temporary use until a monitored camera system with the State Vendor is procured. No Audio is provided with security systems for security purposes. Only the Park area can have audio.
- December 9th, 2023, Christmas Parade route has been sent to DOT for road Closures. Lexington County Sheriff's department has been informed of the date for extra assistance during the parade.
- Chief Neely from Pine Ridge and Chief Shumpert met last week to assess the homeless camps in town. They visited the area on the train tracks and bridge over the tracks for homeless. No current encampments are active. Remnants of old camps were noted.
- The two (2) police reserves have completed all the required classes and are set to test at the SC Police Academy on November 8, 2023. Once they pass, they will need to be on the agenda to be Sworn in as Reserve Officers. Mayor Campbell stated the November meeting is on the 14th.
- The Police Department will be setting up a table on October 28, 2023, to pass out candy and assist with the "Spooktacular" event at the Arena.
- Mayor Campbell asked if the Department has any new initiatives to assist with the homeless issues and speeding within the town. The Chief replied there are speed signs on Chapel Road and Main Street. Nightshift has been going into the woods off highway 302 for homeless areas. Chief reiterated a full-time Code Enforcement officer would free up Sergeant Walker to resume full duty for the Police Department.
- Councilman Drennan gave a shout-out to Officer Sharpe for his diligence in litter control and keeping South Congaree clean.
- Councilman Jackson requested police presence and assistance with the Lawncare company traffic direction on highway 302 while they are working on the crepe myrtle trees. The highway right-of-way is not wide enough to safely maneuver while cutting and removing debris.
- Councilwoman Spires addressed Chief asking for clarification on the traffic ticket count. While reviewing the report, Councilwoman Spires read the tickets administered to those speeding under 10MPH the count is "ten (10)", speeding over 25MPH the count is "two (2)" and "six (6)" tickets were written for speeding between 10MPH and 25MPH for a total of "18" out of 165 tickets. Is

there a combination of charges per person or did 165 individual people receive tickets? The Chief responded that tickets reflect one or more than one ticket per stop. This does not reflect the number of people stopped. Councilwoman Spires wanted clarification on Chief's prior statement referencing the majority of tickets are for speeding. Chief stated, "They are slowing down like they are supposed to." Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry gave examples of a traffic stop which resulted in numerous violations and citations. Chief concurs.

B. Support Services Report 6:51 PM

Captain Garner's report included:

- **Wal-Mart Block Grants:** No match grants from \$500 to \$5000. Captain Garner is in the process of applying for the \$5000 Grant. These funds would be allocated for Stop-Sticks for the Police department.
- **Walkie-Talkie replacements:** During COVID, Chief Shumpert sent off walkie-talkies to Motorola for repair. These were lost at the repair shop intake facility. Through negotiation, Captain Garner procured two (2) new Walkie-Talkies at no cost to replace the two (2) that were lost. The value of these two (2) new walkie-talkies is estimated to be around \$6,500.00 each. As a bonus, the two (2) loaner radios that the department received for use awaiting repairs were donated to the department as well. These two (2) loaners radios will be transitioned to the new reserve officers for use.
- **Active Shooter Training:** SCPD in conjunction with Chief Neely (Pine Ridge) will be conducting joint training efforts due to the proximity of schools within these 2 neighboring towns. This will provide the floorplan and escape route to both departments for more effective safety training and lifesaving protocols.
- **Fleet Update:** The auto strike has affected the production and cost of fleet vehicles.
 - **A. Chevrolet Tahoe-** These will come available sometime within the next two (2) years. The approximate availability date is late 2025 if Chevrolet opens the order list in 2024.
 - **B. Ford Interceptor-** These will be available in 2024 dependent on the Strike.
 - **C. Dodge Charger-** The Charger is no longer being manufactured. These are going to be replaced with Daytona in 2025.
 - **D. Dodge Durango-** These are all that Dodge has to offer for 2024 availability. This creates an issue for vehicles needed for SCPD. The only option this leaves us is a certified used vehicle for now. With the reserves coming on and the Crown Vic needing to be transitioned to the spare, we need to find a good replacement. The Chief's truck has over 100K miles on it and needs to be cycled out for Town use for Code/Zoning Enforcement. Truck prices are going to double in the next year, and the Tahoe is going up over \$14K by 2025. The Chief's truck is NOT pursuit certified; however, the new trucks are pursuit certified rating for insurance benefits. We need to move forward now before opportunity and prices prevent us from doing so. Captain Garner asked Council, "What would you like to do?" Councilman

Drennan asked for a Fleet breakdown showing the number of miles and idle time to reflect engine hours of use and the date of replacement. Every hour of idle is thirty-three miles of road use. Captain Garner advised the 2013 Tahoe needs to go on GovDeals for sale Immediately. Mayor Campbell clarified by asking if Captain Garner needed a vote to sell the 2013 Tahoe. There was no response. Captain Garner stated he has reached out to Jackie Jones Dealership in Georgia. They currently have a 2022 Dodge Charger fully equipped with 46K miles for \$32,000 with a clean Car-Fax report. The Mayor asked for details to be sent to the council for Work Session review. Captain Garner will send the council requested information. Councilwoman Spires inquired about the life span of a police vehicle. Captain Garner replied that most vehicles have a seven (7) to nine (9) year life span with proper vehicle upkeep and maintenance. The town needs two cars now.

- **Upfitting Price on Police Vehicles:** The estimated cost is between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per vehicle. This must meet OSHA requirements for Officer Safety. The Mayor asked for clarification on reserve officers driving. Per Captain, after a year and 240 hours, the reserves can move to an advanced status and become driver eligible. Captain reiterated to Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry that the 2022 Dodge Charger for sale would replace his Crown Vic and move it to the spare status. The current 2013 Tahoe spare would go for sale. The Chief's truck would need to be replaced with a new pursuit ready truck. Mayor Campbell asked if replacing the Chief's truck with a car would be an issue or does it have to be a truck? The Chief stated a truck is helpful in pulling other vehicles out in emergency situations, but he has no preference.
- **More Workdays**
Captain Garner requested more workdays with the Town of South Congaree. The Council will discuss it in a work session meeting.

IV. Printer Equipment Upgrade 7:05 PM: Council to review lease option on a new Printer choice from SOS, Premiere Tech Group, and DPI. Councilman Drennan made a motion to go with DPI lease (7:05 PM), seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry (7:06 PM). Discussion: Which DPI lease option is the motion for? DPI has numerous options for used and new printers. The council discusses lease terms— is this a month to month, one year or 60 months? Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry made a motion to amend (7:10 PM) the lease for the 4054 and three other printers and Mayor Campbell reflected that the DPI equipment lease is for a 1-year lease term. Roll call vote:

Motion carries at 7:11 PM

- **Councilman Drennan-Yea**
- **Councilman Jackson- Yea**
- **Councilwoman Spires- Yea**
- **Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea**
- **Mayor Campbell- Yea**

V. Southern First Account 7:12 PM: During the October 12th work session, it was proposed to Council to transfer the \$250,000 currently in the Southern First Bank into the Local

Government Investment Pool who has a larger interest return compared to Southern First. Mayor Campbell asked if there was a motion to transfer the exact amount of \$250,030.82 to the Local Government Investment Pool? Councilwoman Spires made a motion to transfer the funds (7:12 PM) Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry (7:12 PM) Discussion: Councilman Drennan stated that these funds will no longer be covered by insurance. Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry stated the interest for Southern First goes back into the Southern First account, but then it is transferred to account ending in 4713. How much is in that account? Councilman Jackson clarified that the Town still has the First Citizens accounts as well.

Mayor Campbell gave educational information pertaining to the State Statutes and entities participating in this fund. For full details please see FB Live recording at 42:00 to 46:00.

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfSouthCongaree/videos/603203898688178/>

Motion carries at 7:18 PM

- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

VI. Legislative Items 7:19PM:

A. Ordinance 2024-03: First Reading.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH CONGAREE TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 of 2020. Motion to approve as the first reading of the Amendment for Business License Ordinance No. 21-006 by Councilman Jackson (7:19 PM), seconded by Councilman Drennan (7:19 PM), Discussion: Council discussed if the amendment needed its own Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem clarified this is an Amendment and does not need its own number. No replacement or new number is needed. Councilman Jackson asked the town Attorney John Rakowsky for advice moving forward with the First Reading. The first reading continued. Roll Call vote:

Motion carries at 7:23 PM

- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

VII. Planning Commission Appointments 7:24 PM:

Per *Ordinance No. 153-002*, the Planning Commission shall have a minimum of five (5) appointed members and a maximum of seven (7) for a term of three (3) years. Terms to be staggered. Members Mike Gordon and Debbie McIver have each served a term of three (3) years. The council discussed appointments during the October 12th work session. Motion to re-appoint Mike Gordon to the Town of South Congaree's Planning Commission by Councilman Jackson (7:24 PM), seconded by Councilwoman Spires (7:24 PM). Roll call vote:

Motion carries at 7:25 PM

- Councilman Drennan-Yea

- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

Motion to re-appoint Debbie McIver to the Town of South Congaree's Planning Commission by Councilwoman Spires (7:25 PM), seconded by Mayor Campbell (7:25 PM). Roll call vote:

Motion carries at 7:26 PM

- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

Motion to appoint Bobby Jeffcoat to the Town of South Congaree's Planning Commission by Councilman Drennan (7:26 PM), seconded by Councilman Jackson (7:26 PM). No Discussion. Roll call vote:

Motion carries at 7:27 PM

- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

VIII. Lexington County Recreation & Aging Commission Funds 7:27 PM:

Motion to designate the funds totaling \$85,788.20 currently being held by the Lexington County Recreation & Aging Commission for the Town of South Congaree to purchase new playground equipment and upgrades to the Town Park by Councilman Jackson (7:29 PM) and seconded by Councilwoman Spires (7:29 PM), Discussion: Councilman Drennan would like to amend the motion to split the funds 50/50 to include an environmental study of the 11.5 acres donated to the town to see how we can work these acres back into our recreation development plan and the upgrades to the current park. Councilwoman Spires asks for clarification about requested use of these funds. Per Mayor Campbell, in speaking with Randy Gibson at LCR&A, these funds per the council work session discussion are to be utilized for the park. Lexington County Recreation & Aging will continue to house these funds. The council will in the future vote on when and the amount to withdraw for the park. LCR&A has stated they would be willing to assist with the 11.5 acres in the future. Initial motion stands, no amendment. Roll call vote:

Motion carries at 7:36 PM

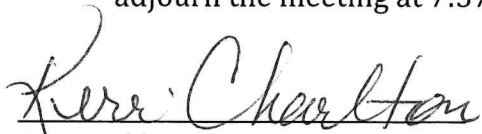
- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

The council signed a letter to LCR&A stating these funds are to be allocated and used for the Town Park.

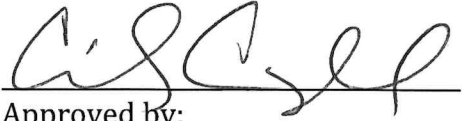
IX. Citizens Comments: None

X. Adjournment of Council Work Session:

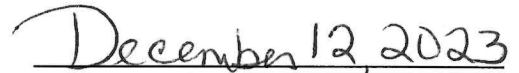
The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Motion carried with unanimous vote of council.



Attested by:
Kerri Charlton,
Municipal Clerk



Approved by:
Cindy Campbell,
Mayor


Date Approved