



## MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting  
February 20, 2024, 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 (Absent), Kitty Spires (Absent), and Jim Drennan.

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

---

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 Jerry Freeman, of Congaree Baptist Church led in invocation. Mayor Campbell read the Freedom of Information Act.

**II. Platt Springs Baptist Church Presentation: by Allan and Chloe Putnam.**

**Discussion Points:**

Attendees shared inspirational stories from black history and emphasized the importance of forgiveness.

In 1920, William Charles Bruce and his wife, a black couple, purchased Bruce's Beach in Manhattan Beach, California, where they built a successful resort for black families.

However, in 1924, the Manhattan Beach Board of Trustees condemned the beach through eminent domain, offering \$14,500 for the property, which the Bruce family refused, leading to a protracted legal battle.

Lonnie Johnson, born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1946, was recognized for his contributions to innovation and invention. Known as "the professor," Lonnie Johnson's curiosity and ingenuity led to the creation of the Super Soaker and over 100 patents. The Super Soaker has sold over 250 million units and generated over a billion dollars in revenue over the past 30 years.

**III. Animal Ordinance: First Reading**

*AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING, BY REFERENCE, THE COUNTY OF LEXINGTON'S UPDATED ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE; CHAPTER 10, ANIMALS, ARTICLE II, ANIMAL CONTROL, DIVISION I, GENERALLY; TO INCLUDE SECTION 10-42, TETHERING AND SHELTER (1st Reading)*

Motion made by Councilman Drennan (6:41 PM) to approve the Animal Ordinance first reading as stated by Lexington County, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry. No Discussion

**Motion carried at 6:42 PM**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes. (6:41PM)**

- A. November 9, 2023, Council Work Session
- B. November 14, 2023, Council Meeting.
- C. December 12, 2023, Council Meeting.
- D. January 05, 2024, Special Called Meeting
- E. January 22, 2024, Special Called Meeting, Work Session Minutes

Motion to approve listed minutes by Councilman Drennan at 6:41 PM, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry.

**Motion carried at 6:43 PM**

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

**V. South Congaree Rodeo. (6:43 PM)**

South Congaree Rodeo's growth and sponsorships.

**Discussion Points:**

Mr. Rance Woodley expressed gratitude to the mayor for her ongoing personal support and acknowledged the rodeo's growth and achievements.

The rodeo was recognized by the International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) as one of the top 5 indoor rodeos nationally, including Canada.

Mr. Woodley provided updates on the upcoming March Bull Bash Event.

It was noted that the rodeo is sponsoring a mission aimed at assisting homeless individuals in reintegrating into the workforce and securing housing, with provisions for mental health and drug addiction counseling.

Small businesses in South Congaree are sponsoring rodeo events, with the rodeo expected to have a \$1 million impact on the community.

**VI. Departmental Reports - (6:50 PM)**

A. Police Report by Chief Shumpert

**Installing security cameras in town to address crime concerns.**

**Discussion Points:**

Chief Shumpert proposed the installation of a high-definition camera system near Advanced Auto Parts to aid in crime-solving and information gathering efforts.

The Chief discussed the potential installation of cameras at the entrance of 302 in Dunbar, noting that power is already available at the center.

Law enforcement statistics were presented, indicating the issuance of 160 tickets, 21 arrests, and 34 warrants issued.

Recent criminal incidents, including an armed robbery at the Citgo Gas Station and the Dollar General, were discussed. The individual responsible was apprehended, and a larceny incident off Congaree Drive was reported.

Chief Shumpert requested authorization to activate power at the town-owned power pole near Advanced Auto Parts to facilitate the installation of cameras.

Mayor Campbell expressed concerns regarding personal cameras and suggested the use of License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras as an alternative.

The council approved the request for power activation by MCEC to support the camera installation.

- **B. Support Services Report by Captain Garner 6:57 PM:**  
**Police vehicle purchases, driver safety training and Policy Updates, Captain Garner.**  
**Discussion Points:**

The need to replace the 2013 Tahoe was addressed, and it was decided to sell it on Gov Deals. New vehicles are priced at approximately \$46,000, with an additional \$6,000 required for upfitting.

It was confirmed that the standards outlined in the 2023 Policy Manual have been met according to SCCJA procedures.

The DUI checkpoint scheduled for March 15, 2024, will be conducted in partnership with LEU and Pine Ridge.

A suggestion was made to retrofit existing vehicles instead of purchasing new ones, citing COVID-related delays.

Delays caused by the insurance company in repairing a rental car were discussed, resulting in a 7-10 working day delay.

Challenges in finding a charger for a new vehicle due to retooling and phasing out were discussed.

Motion: Councilman Drennan made a motion to sell the 2013 Tahoe on GovDeals, strip it first, then use ARP funds to replace that vehicle. Mayor Campbell amended the motion to place the 2013 Tahoe on Gov Deals for sale as the first step, then revisit the purchase options for replacement at a later date after council has discussed in detail. Seconded by Councilman Drennan, Roll call Vote:

**Motion carried at 7:06 PM**

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

- **C. Enforcement Update by Sergeant Walker 7:07 PM:**  
**Code Enforcement Sergeant Walker.**  
**Discussion Points:**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has been contacted regarding concerns about large trucks from Columbia Auto blocking and damaging the roadway. DOT will dispatch an engineer to assess the situation.

The property at 441 Dunbar continues to have an unlawful pole. The attorney representing the property owner has been notified, and a court date for all violations, including the abandoned mobile home, has been set for March 27, 2024.

Complaints regarding businesses in town, including one with unsightly accumulation on Pine Street, have been addressed. Sergeant Walker has contacted the company to address compliance issues, and deadlines have been set for some residences in town.

Sergeant Walker has also addressed citizen complaints about a trailer in Lexington County. Code enforcement has condemned the trailer, and the owner has been notified to remove it.

Citizen complaints referencing a vacant mobile home on a property owned by someone in the military have been brought to Sergeant Walker's attention. It has been determined that government involvement is necessary to address the issue effectively.

**VII. Citizen Complaints and Actions to be Taken (7:15 PM).**

Hiring a full-time code enforcement officer.

**Discussion Points:**

A council member raised concerns regarding the apparent lack of enforcement of ordinances by police officers without prior council authorization.

Suggestions were made to enhance the quality of life for citizens by hiring a code enforcement officer. The council deliberated on the necessity of establishing clear policies and procedures before proceeding with the hiring process and emphasized the importance of assessing the effectiveness of such policies.

In response to the discussion, the council explored the option of hiring a Code Enforcement Officer as a Town employee, aiming to streamline enforcement efforts and improve compliance with ordinances.

Councilman Drennan made a motion to hire a Code Enforcement Officer (7:23 PM), Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry, Discussion: To post after Council sets the Salary.

**Motion carried at 7:25 PM**

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

**VIII. Citizen Complaints and Concerns**

**Discussion Points:**

1. Several residents voiced their frustrations with the lack of enforcement of code violations in their neighborhood.
2. Citizens emphasized the urgent need for the code enforcement officer to address various ordinance violations promptly.
3. Mr. Wooten brought attention to the non-enforcement of noise, nuisance, and automotive ordinances since 2022, expressing concern about the deteriorating situation.
4. Concerns were raised regarding the adverse effects of heavy equipment vibrations emanating from Columbia Auto Parts, which were reported to be causing cracks in the drywall of neighboring properties.
5. Homeowners expressed their distress over the persistent noise pollution and environmental degradation resulting from the operations of Columbia Auto Parts.
6. Mr. Wooten elaborated on specific violations and referred to regulatory bodies such as DHEC and Stormwater in relation to issues linked to Columbia Auto Parts.
7. There was a discussion regarding the business hours of Columbia Auto Parts, which were confirmed to be from 7 am to 9 pm daily.
8. Concerned citizens directly addressed Mr. Joshua Cohen, the owner of Columbia Auto Parts, expressing their grievances about the noise and vibrations generated by the business operations.
9. A long-term resident of B and M road provided detailed accounts of the adverse effects of the neighboring scrap yard, including the proliferation of mosquitoes, noxious smells, and potential ground contamination.

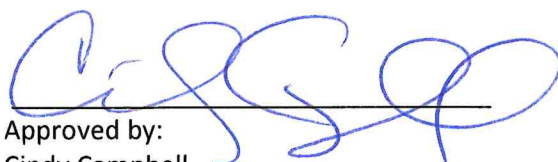
10. It was suggested that citizens should file written complaints detailing instances of excessive noise to facilitate more effective resolution.
11. Mr. Cohen disclosed his plans to relocate certain operations within the property to mitigate disturbances, although concerns were raised about the proximity of residential areas on all sides.
12. Mayor Campbell expressed empathy towards residents impacted by the vibrations and emphasized the importance of preserving their quality of life.
13. Mr. Cohen outlined his proposal to relocate the crusher to the center of the property, estimating a cost of \$20-\$40K and targeting completion within 90 days.
14. Mayor Campbell proposed scheduling a round table discussion to comprehensively address the concerns raised, with Captain Garner and Chief Shumpert designated to facilitate the meeting.

**IX. Adjournment of Council Meeting:**

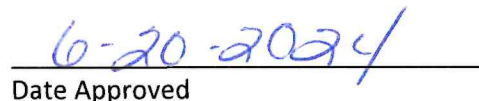
The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Drennan, voted to adjourn the meeting at **7:45 PM**. Motion carried with unanimous vote of council.



Attested by:  
Kerri Charlton,  
Municipal Clerk



Approved by:  
Cindy Campbell,  
Mayor

  
Date Approved

**For the complete Live Stream Video, Please see the following Facebook Links:**

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfSouthCongaree/videos/361573223382138>

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfSouthCongaree/videos/341199022244610> PT2

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

The Town of South Congaree is a handicapped accessible facility.