



**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**September 19, 2023**  
**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 (6:35PM), Kitty Spires, and Jim Drennan. Also in Attendance: Municipal Clerk Kerri Charlton, Town Attorney John Rakowsky, Chief Josh Shumpert, Captain Chris Garner, Sergeant Chad Walker. Special Guest Speaker: Senator Katrina Shealy**

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**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 Zack Henderson from Ebenezer P.H Church led in invocation. Mayor Campbell read the Freedom of Information Act.

**II. Special Recognition of Violet Crumpton's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Senator Katrina Shealy presented (**6:33 PM**) Mrs. Violet Crumpton with a resolution introduced by the South Carolina Senate for her dedication as a longtime resident of the Town South Congaree. (Council takes a 5-minute break to speak with Mrs. Crumpton and family, then resumes the Council meeting)

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

**A. July 13, 2023, Work Session Minutes**

Motion to approve July 13, 2023, minutes by Councilman Drennan at 6:41 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Spires. No discussion.

**Motion carried at 6:42 PM**

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

**B. July 18, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve July 18, 2023, minutes by Councilwoman Spires at 6:43 PM, seconded by Councilman Drennan (6:43 PM), No Discussion.

**Motion carried at 6:44 PM**

- **Councilman Drennan-Yea**
- **Councilman Jackson- Yea**
- **Councilwoman Spires- Yea**

- Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea
- Mayor Campbell- Yea

C. July 31, 2023, Elections Special Called Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve July 31, 2023, minutes by Councilwoman Spires at 6:44 PM, seconded by Councilman Jackson (6:44 PM). No Discussion.

**Motion carried at 6:45 PM**

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

#### IV. Departmental Reports - (6:45 PM)

##### Police Report by Chief Shumpert

- 184 Tickets were issued in August.
- The annual Radar Inspection for police vehicles was today (09/19/2023). All vehicles passed.
- Mayor Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry, and Chief Shumpert attended a meeting last month at Ebenezer PH Church with the non-profit "The Courage Center.
- The SC Criminal Justice Academy visited August 11, 2023, to assess the new policies required by the new state law HR3050. The South Congaree Police Department was found to comply for all nine policies. Chief Shumpert presented the Council with a copy of the letter from the SCCJA.
- Police Departmental meeting was held on, Friday, September 15, 2023, to review the new policies.
- Sergeant Walker attended Cyber Security Training.
- The Chief attended several Chief's luncheons to discuss new training and policies.
- The Chief will be attending the Annual Chief's training conference in November.
- Reserve Program: The new Reserve Officers are scheduled to complete the training by the end of October.
- Axon Update: Walter O'Brien, sales representative for Axon, provided Chief Shumpert with a quote for body cameras, tasers, and in-car cameras with I-cloud storage. Councilman Drennan asked for verification that quote includes I-cloud storage.

Motion to approve the Axon package for all equipment with warranties and taser replacement every two years is made by Councilman Drennan at 6:54 PM seconded by Councilman Jackson (6:55PM) Discussion: Councilwoman Spires asked if this eliminates Watchguard? Yes, per Chief Shumpert. We are not under any contract with Watchguard, they are paid in full.

**Motion carries at 6:55 PM**

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

Councilman Jackson (6:46 PM) introduced a Motion for a salary increase of 5% for the Police Department in which he stated. "This was previously discussed in a meeting, so while we are still on the Police department, I would like to make a Motion." Mayor Campbell stated that the topic of salary is not an agenda item for tonight's meeting and cannot be discussed at this time. Furthermore, Mayor Campbell stated, "This was an executive Session discussion and has not been discussed in an open meeting." Meeting proceeds without action.

- **Support Services Report by Captain Garner 6:56 PM:**

- Police Department Policy is 100% up to date. These policies are required to be reviewed and updated yearly and are subject to Audits from the SCCJA. These policies release the Town and Police Department from specific liabilities.
- The On-Site visit went well, and the Auditor was impressed with our new policies. The Police department is scheduled to be Audited again in 2 years. This will be a full Audit to include complaints, pursuits, use of force, and all other policies and police activities and documentation.
- In reference to the Cameras that Council voted to accept, Captain Garner commended Council for their support. Captain Garner stated that the amount of time the current WatchGuard cameras use to download requires the patrol cars to idle for an excessive length of time and at times in extreme weather. This creates a faster breakdown on the police cars and increases repair costs to include rapid depletion of battery use.
- Captain Garner will have quotes on new Police vehicle packages at the next Council meeting. The Police spare Tahoe is worn out. It needs to be sold and replaced. Discussion: Mayor Pro-Tem asked, "What year is the Tahoe?" Captain Garner replied 2013. It has 167,000 miles.
- Councilwoman Spires asked for a copy of the New Policy Manuel.
- Captain Garner requested to table the 25FT Ordinance until further review from the Town Attorney.

- **Code Enforcement Update by Sergeant Walker 7:00 PM:**

- 42 Code Enforcement violation cases are on the Court docket for 09/20/2023. Joshua Thomas, SAFEBuilt Code Enforcement Inspector stated that those who have come into compliance will be dismissed, and those who have not come into compliance will move forward with court.
- Mobile Home Park inspections are still ongoing. Two complete parks remain to be inspected. Numerous follow-ups remain open in other parks. Process and procedures are followed for compliance.
- There are 7 active complaints from citizen complaint forms. A total of 13 complaints have been submitted since the last council meeting on July 18,2023. Discussion: Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry asks, "How many complaints are Anonymous?" All 13 complaints submitted are anonymous per SGT. Walker. Two mobile home parks to come into compliance have with one receiving their Business License today.

V. **Printer Equipment Upgrade (7:03 PM):** Printer upgrade discussion continued from meetings on July 13th and 18th. Council to vote on a new Printer choice from, DPI, SOS, or Premiere Tech Group. Councilwoman Spires makes amotion **(7:04 PM)** to accept the quote from Simplified Office Systems (SOS) for the new printer upgrade, Seconded by

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry (7:05 PM) Discussion: Council continues to discuss options for the printer upgrade project. The decision moving forward has not been settled as to the Town leasing or purchasing the new equipment. The Town Clerk clarified each vendor had provided their purchase quote for Council to review previously. SOS proposal was discussed in reference to their service plan continued cost outside of the purchase price of \$15,304.33. The Council continued to discuss each vendor. Mayor called for a rollcall vote.

**Motion fails at 7:10 PM**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry continued the discussion requesting more clarification for Council to move forward with a lease or purchase option. Councilman Drennan continued purchase price discussions for clarification on price for equipment and price per page of printing. Councilwoman Spires reiterated her support for the proposal from SOS and their price point being the most appropriate for the town. The Council continued discussion.

Motion by Councilman Drennan to move forward with the purchase of printers from Premiere Technology Group at 7:17 PM seconded by Councilman Jackson. Mayor Campbell called for a rollcall vote:

**Motion fails at 7:18 PM**

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

A Town citizen stated to council, "This has dragged out long enough, keep going." "Yes, it has, per Mayor Campbell", Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry responded, "This has not, we need to discuss it, this is our meeting, to discuss it and get it right, we have discussed this one time, come on Jerry, You've been on council. So, this is our meeting." The Citizen responded, "This is actually the Town's meeting." Mayor Campbell called a Point of Order so the Council meeting can continue without further interruptions. The Council continues to discuss printer options. Mayor Campbell stated we need a motion to decide if we are going to lease or purchase. If we receive the lease option from Premiere Technology and it is not sufficient, we will have to re-visit this at the next Council Meeting. For now, we need to move forward.

Motion by Councilman Jackson (7:22 PM) to obtain a Lease package from Premiere Technology group, Seconded by Councilman Drennan (7:22 PM). No Discussion. Mayor called for a rollcall vote.

**Motion carries at 7:22 PM**

- Councilman Drennan-Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman Spires- Nay



- **Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry- Yea**
- **Mayor Campbell- Yea**

**VI. Town Contribution Requests 7:23 PM:**

Requests from 1. Friends of the SCPR Library 2. Midlands Baseball 3. Jesus is His Name. Mayor Campbell stated in the 2023-2024 Budget, the Town of South Congaree budgeted \$3000.00 for contributions. The discussed recipients at that time were as follows:

- A. Midlands Dixie Youth Baseball
- B. Midlands Girls Softball
- C. Friends of the South Congaree/Pine Ridge Library
- D. Jesus is His Name
- E. Airport High School Education Foundation
- F. Congaree Elementary School/ Special Projects Fund

Motion to split the contributions evenly to all 6 proposed recipients listed at \$500.00 each by Councilman Drennan (**7:24 PM**) and seconded by Councilman Jackson (**7:24 PM**). Discussion by Mayor Pro-Tem referenced the contribution to Congaree Elementary School as to how the contribution would be specified—to the school or PTO. The Council discussed the direction of the contribution. Motion amended to clarify the Congaree Elementary School Principal, Mr. Dickey. Mayor called for a rollcall vote.

**Motion carries at 7:26 PM**

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

**VII. SAFEbuilt Inspection Results of Town Facilities 7:27 PM**

SAFEbuilt serves the Town in Code Enforcement inspections and processing and the review, issuance, and approval of building permits. The inspection of Town facilities including the Town Park, the Municipal Court Room, the Police Department and Administrative Offices has been completed. SAFEbuilt officials Scott McDaniel CBO, Ward Braswell, Licensed Building Inspector, and Joshua Thomas Code Enforcement Inspector presented the results of the inspection. Numerous critical concerns (failures) were revealed from the inspection.

Please reference the video presentation including discussion at the Facebook Live link for (September 19, 2023, Council Meeting Continued) provided below. The inspection begins at 46:00 and ends at 1:46

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfSouthCongaree/videos/823817299473945/>

### VIII. Citizen Comments 8:32 PM:

1. Danny Crews, 532 Ramblin Rd: No Thru Trucks Concern for West Ramblin Road. Mayor Campbell responded to his concern with information from Mike Bagley of SC DOT. After Mr. Bagley's review of SC DOT records, the portion of S32-103 which is Ramblin Road and Pine Ridge Drive is designated as a No Thru Trucks Zone. However, the portion of Ramblin Road from highway 302 to highway 602 (Platt Spring Road) is NOT designated as a No Thru Trucks Zone. Mr. Crews requested to have the portion from highway 302 to highway 602 classified as a No Thru Trucks Zone as well. He was informed to contact SC DOT. His next concern was the speed limit of highway 302 and Platt Springs Road. This is a residential area, and the speed limit is 35MPH. His request is to have more police presence in that portion of Ramblin Road to enforce the speed limit. He commended the Police Department for their service. Mr. Crews suggested that the Town host a Town Block Party. He agreed to volunteer for the Block Party team.
2. Debbie McIver, 117 Burkett Street: Ms. McIver stated, "I am not appalled, but I do applaud whoever reported this building, because I know we are being taped and it wasn't me, but it should have been and should be reported to the Fire Marshal." Ms. McIver explained the Town paid a building inspector nearly \$50,000 that obviously never inspected this building. She expressed her concerns in reference to fixing the buildings and suggested leveling these facilities. Ms. McIver stated, "no one should have to come to work in this. It was evident when you pulled up to it, it has seen better days, and I hope you won't kick this can the way you have kicked other cans." She stated there are other options and suggested moving the staff to a local building on Daniel Road that is currently vacant. The Town could rent or purchase this building for \$400,000 that could be upfitted perfectly with over 6000 square feet and honestly, you should probably move all your employees over there and rent it until you can do something. Ms. McIver continues to discuss needing Commercial contractors to assist and these fees will not be cheap her opinion. She discusses a Federal Pacific Electric Box and per her "This place could burn at any time." Ms. McIver continues to state, "If you condemned Naomi Halter's parks and other parks were condemned, this needs to be condemned and y'all had to know." Where is the maintenance person? Why aren't they taking overgrowth off the building? Ms. McIver states I know the Council is not paid and they serve with their time, but this needs to take priority. She continues to inform the Council of reopening the Park as soon as possible, there are some upset families who play there every day. The park creates community and provides the youth a place to play basketball and reduces drug use and criminal activity. Tear that structure down. We need to focus on this, level this and make the park with parking on the side, not to mess up West Berry, "I don't know these people live on West Berry haven't complained, make this a park we can be proud of." Y'all have money, spend it on the community and get something done around here without fighting. "I thank you for your time." At this point, Mayor Campbell informed the public about a property owned by Watts Construction on Daniel Road which many Town's citizens know from the past as "Miss Debbie's Daycare. "That is something we (The Council) haven't discussed yet.

3. Jerry Smith, 140 Chapel Road: Mr. Smith applauded with an “atta boy” the Council’s decision to approve the Axon camera systems for the Police Department. He discussed Axon’s uses as they relate to his career in Code Enforcement. His concern about Chapel Road is that the pavement is already beginning to break down and the build-up of 18-plus inches on the sides is creating issues causing smaller, low vehicles to drag on the pavement. Vehicles are scraping as they go in or out of areas. Mayor Campbell stated that Lexington County paved the road. She directed Mr. Smith to contact them with his concerns. The Mayor also encouraged Mr. Smith to call the Lexington County Council. Mr. Smith also stated that he would like to see more code enforcement in the town other than just Mobile Home Parks. Many other code enforcement issues in the Town need to be addressed.

**8:41 PM** Councilman Jackson referenced the inspection results to ask the Council to approve that Municipal Clerk, Kerri Charlton, reach out to contractors and fire safety companies to have the issues that can be addressed immediately resolved. Councilman Jackson made the motion that the Town Clerk reach out to get viable, less complicated violations resolved as soon as possible and acquire quotes for the remainder of the inspection failures from commercial contractors. **8:42 PM** Councilman Drennan (8:42 PM) seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a roll-call vote.

**Motion carries at 8:43 PM**

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

**Adjournment of Council Meeting:**

The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Spires, voted to adjourn the meeting at **8:44 PM**. Motion carried with unanimous vote of council.



Attested by:  
Kerri Charlton,  
Municipal Clerk



Approved by  
Cindy Campbell,  
Mayor

11-14-2023

Date Approved