



MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
June 20, 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, Brian Jackson, Kitty Spires, and Jim Drennan

Also in Attendance: Municipal Clerk Kerri Charlton, Captain C. Garner, Sergeant C. Walker, and Town Attorney John Rakowsky.

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 **6:32 PM**. A quorum was present. Mayor Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Jerry Freeman led the Invocation. The freedom of Information act was read by Mayor Campbell.

II. Approval of Minutes.

6:35 pm-Motion by Councilwoman Spires to approve the minutes of June 15, 2023, work session meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry. Motion to amend by Councilman Drennan, three points to be added: 1. Council attending the annual conference 2. Ms. Charlton to contact Lexington School District II in reference to payment. 3. Councilwoman Spires to address Greene Finney in reference to billing.

Motion carries at 6:37 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

III. Departmental Reports 6:38 pm.

A. Police Reports-In Chief Shumpert's absence, Captain Garner addressed the Council.

Report includes the following items:

- No police statistical report was provided to the Council.
- Officers attended the Summer Reading Kickoff Event at the SCPR Library, losing the tug-of-war to the Pine Grove Fire Department.
- 25' Ordinance overview.
- The homeless and vagrant population is increasing within the town.
- The department makes contact with those people who are possibly homeless checking for warrants, while also providing information and escorts as needed to shelter within the Columbia area.
- Quotes are almost ready for the Axon body cameras. The Chief will forward those when he returns.
- SRO is to fill in on shift during the summer by working the road.

- The new trailer purchased with funds from the Palmetto Pride grant is now in the Tow Yard.
- Councilwoman Spires requests a copy of the current Police Policy Manual.

B. Support Services Report 6:44 pm.- Captain Garner's report included:

- Window bars have been installed in the cruisers. This should curtail activity in the back seats and provide additional officer safety.
- Spit hoods have been received and issued to all officers.
- GovDeals.com, a national sales firm, does not charge fees to the Town for the sale of equipment. The town now has an account that we can use to sell items, and the fees are charged to the purchaser. This is an option available for the sale of the Taurus no longer in rotation for the Police Department. The title for the Taurus will need to be signed by a Town affiliate or Mayor if sold on Govdeals.com. Overflow and old equipment in storage can be listed on Gov-Deals.com for sale also.
- Captain met with Michael Lets, CEO of Invest.com a 501c3, who reached out to donate body armor with active shooter plates for six officers. After receipt of these items, Captain will coordinate with Pine Ridge for training for the schools within the immediate area.

6:50 pm- Motion to sell the Taurus on Govdeals.com made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry. Discussion: Where will the funds go from the sale; they will go back into the Police Department Budget. Councilwoman Spires states there needs to be a breakdown exactly where these funds are distributed.

Motion carries at 6:55 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

C. Code Enforcement Report- 6:56 pm- Sergeant Walker's report included:

- Two citations for Business License violations. Congaree Village and two Mobile Home rentals one at 215 Dee Ann St, and one-off Happy Trail. 215 Dee Ann has no power, must be demolished. Court is scheduled for tomorrow morning. (June 21, 2023)
- Congaree Village inspections of 30 mobile homes include four out of 30 in compliance. Twenty-six failed with numerous violations.
- 1123 Main, two citations issued for non-removal and public nuisance of Mobile home. Court is the nineteenth of July referencing said property.
- Four more citations issued for 441 Dunbar for condition of house and property, unsafe habitat, unsightly accumulation, abandoned vehicle and public nuisance. Citations were sent to the owner's attorney.
- 915 Ramblin, rental house, unsightly accumulation, harborage for rats and abandoned cars. After four citations the property is cleaned up of the majority of the accumulation and vehicles.

Complaint 1162 Pine street- We cannot enforce code at this location. This property is in the county. They have not annexed into the Town of South Congaree. Lexington County Code enforcement has been informed.

IV. Legislative Items.

A. Ordinance 2024-01 First reading, Fiscal Budget.

7:06 pm- Motion to approve first reading of the fiscal 2023-24 projected budget of \$1,283,009.00, a decrease of 1.25 % from last year's budget. Motion to approve by Councilwoman Spires, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry.

Discussion: Councilman Drennan, would like to have had June's financials prior to motion, he states May does not reflect the fiscal year.

Motion carries at 7:08 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

V. Citizen Comments: 7:09 pm.

Carol Clark, Branch Librarian of the South Congaree-Pine Ridge branch of the Lexington County Public Library System, asked permission to place a "Little Free Library" on the premises of the park beside Town Hall. Ms. Clark gave the history of the Little Free Library program. The Lexington County Library System received a grant through LSTA to fund ten such libraries throughout Lexington County. Local teens and community leaders with the library system will complete the construction of the display box. Library staff will be responsible for supplying books and for keeping it clean. Motion 7:15 pm, Councilman Drennan made a motion to approve the placement of the Little Free Library in the park area, seconded by Councilman Jackson.

Motion carries at 7:16 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

VI. Executive Session: entered at 7:28 pm

Mayor Campbell made the motion to enter into executive session after a five-minute recess. Seconded by Councilman Jackson. Council invites Kerri Charlton , Town Clerk to stay for executive session. The council will enter into executive session after a five-minute recess at 7:17 pm.

Motion carries at 7:17 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

Entered Executive Session at 7:28 pm

The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, voted unanimously to re-enter Regular session 8:26 PM.

8:27 pm- Motion by Councilman Jackson to accept Prosperity Lawncare for the 2023-24 Fiscal year, seconded by Councilman Drennan, upon receiving Insurance and Bonding paperwork.

Motion carries at 8:28 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

8:28 pm- Motion by Councilman Jackson to move current internet from Spectrum to Carolina Connect for the 24 Fiscal year, seconded by Councilman Drennan.

Motion carries at 8:29 pm-

- Mayor Cindy Campbell-YEA
- Mayor Pro-Tem Mechelle Mabry- YEA
- Councilman Brian Jackson- YEA
- Councilman Jim Drennan-YEA
- Councilwoman Kitty Spires- YEA

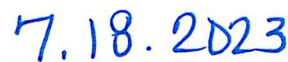
The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell unanimously vote to adjourn at 8:30 pm.



Attested by:
Kerri Charlton,
Municipal Clerk



Approved by:
Cindy Campbell,
Mayor



Date Approved