



MINUTES
Special Called Council Meeting
February 22, 2022 - 6:30 pm
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, and Bobby Porter

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

I. Call to Order

Mayor Campbell called the Special Called Council meeting to order at 6:37 PM. A quorum was present. Mayor Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

II. South Congaree Championship Rodeo

Mr. Rance Woodley spoke to council regarding the upcoming Bull Bash to be held on March 25 and 26, 2022. Mr. Woodley advised the South Congaree Championship Rodeo has been recognized as one of the top five indoor rodeos in the Nation and Canada out of 450 sanctioned rodeos. South Congaree was recognized in January 2022, at the IFR (International Finals Rodeo) Convention, Gala, and the Gold Buckle Ceremony. South Congaree was also recognized on the IPRA (International Professional Rodeo Association) worldwide webpage. Mr. Woodley advised that riders come from all over the world to participate in the South Congaree Rodeo. The rodeo averaged 4,200 attendees per event that traveled from Aiken, Augusta, Charlotte, Statesville, N.C., Moncks Corner, Charleston and Fountain Inn, Laurens, Spartanburg, and Virginia. Mr. Woodley presented Council with information detailing the sponsorships available. He expressed the concern of the rising expenses to put on the rodeo and they receive zero sponsors from the Town of South Congaree. Mr. Woodley stated the rodeo gives away free tickets to local churches to provide to community families as well as neighboring towns. Mr. Woodley presented Council with many ways they promote the Town and local businesses and asked if South Congaree would do what they could do to support the rodeo. Councilman Porter thanked Mr. Woodley for putting on an excellent show and expressed that as a Town we should encourage and support those that bring events and promote our town.

Councilman Porter made a motion to support the Championship Rodeo at the level of the Double Box Seat Sponsor at \$2,000, seconded by Mayor Campbell. Councilman Drennan asked how the box seats would be distributed (i.e. raffle, etc.). Councilman Porter stated he would like to see council and dignitaries in the box seats showing support to the rodeo. Mayor Pro Tem Mabry asked if this was in addition to the box seats we already get for free. Mayor Campbell advised Mr. Woodley had provided a box to Council in July of 2020. Council continued to discuss how the tickets would be distributed.

Roll Call Vote –
Councilman Drennan – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Mabry – Yes
Councilman Porter – Yes
Mayor Campbell – Yes

III. Tree Removal Proposals

Mayor Campbell advised Council of the three proposals received by Pioneer Tree Service, Mike's Tree Service and Top Gun Tree Service with Pioneer Tree Service's providing the lowest bid of \$3,260 to remove the tree in front of town hall due to the large limbs falling from the tree.

Mayor Pro Tem Mabry made a motion to accept the proposal provided by Pioneer Tree Service in the amount of \$3,260, to cut the tree, grind the stump and remove all debris, seconded by Mayor Campbell. Councilman Drennan advised Mid Carolina is already partnered with tree trimming services and we may receive a reduced cost to have them remove the tree if we say that it can potentially take out the secondary distribution system. Councilman Drennan stated they have done it at the American Legion Post; Chief has a good rapport with Mid Carolina; before we make a final decision maybe, make a decision if we can't get Mid Carolina we move with Pioneer; can we pause until we find out if Mid Carolina can take care of the tree for us? Mayor Campbell stated that there has been two large limbs fall; this is where the police vehicles are parked; council has been talking about this tree for almost two years and why haven't we called Mid Carolina before now. Councilman Porter stated the crown of the tree is healthy and proposes limbing the tree up rather than cutting the tree. Councilman Drennan stated another option to save money we could remove the grinding of the stump.

Roll Call Vote –
Councilman Drennan – Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Mabry – Yes
Councilman Porter – No
Mayor Campbell – Yes

Councilman Porter stated that prior to Pioneer Tree Services performing the work, they need to provide their workers comp and general liability.

IV. Second Reading Ordinance 22-01

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT LEXINGTON COUNTY BUILDING CODE ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 14 – BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; ARTICLE V – BUILDING
CODES**

As of February 9, 2022, Lexington County officially began issuing building permits and performing required inspections for the town. As part of the agreement with Lexington County, the Town of South Congaree is to adopt Lexington County Building Code Ordinance to include building and building regulations and building codes.

Councilman Drennan made a motion to accept Ordinance 22-01, seconded by Councilman Porter.

Roll Call Vote –
Councilman Drennan - Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Mabry - Yes
Councilman Porter - Yes
Mayor Campbell - Yes

V. American Rescue Plan Act

As a result of Council voting to pay premium pay to the police officers, Mayor Campbell advised that she contacted MASC Field Representative Jeff Shacker for counsel as to how the pay was to be paid (i.e. regular pay, bonus). It was confirmed that the pay would be paid out as regular pay and retirement is optional. Mayor Campbell asked if we should float the money from the general fund to pay to police officers in order to use the standard deduction for the ARPA and circumvent completing the first report. Councilman Drennan agreed that we could use the general fund and then pay it back after April 30th. Councilman Porter stated that he does not agree with the formula that was used or the amount that was used and will vote against it if it comes up for any vote. Mayor Campbell stated Council did not set a date for the police officers to receive the pay and the Chief has asked when they can expect to receive their check. Mayor Pro Tem Mabry asked if we would miss the opportunity to use the lost revenue from the ARPA based on our budget year. Council posed questions about the new ruling and the benefits of using the lost revenue standard deduction. Mayor Pro Tem Mabry stated this is what these meetings are for to discuss this kind of things and to understand it and that is what we are doing. Council agreed to go ahead and process the premium pay to police officers. Mayor Pro Tem Mabry read from the MASC website that cities and towns that elect to pay a lump sum payment are not required to deduct retirement contributions from that payment.

VI. Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance


Mayor Campbell advised the insurance renewal for town employees is April 1, 2022. The deadline to decide on the insurance plan is March 15, 2022. Life insurance is optional for the employees and the monthly premium is to be paid by the employee and deducted from their pay. Councilman Drennan stated he compared all six plans and they are all very similar in cost, no significant difference and suggest we stay with the same insurance plan and life insurance should be paid by the employees. Councilman Porter stated that we do not want to get into the position of giving premium pay and then reducing the healthcare.

Councilman Porter made a motion to stay with the current insurance plan (Gold 8) until a later date when we become eligible for PEBA and readdress in June, seconded by Councilman Drennan. Mayor Pro Tem Mabry asked if we are locked in for a year if we stay with the current plan. Mayor Campbell answered no.

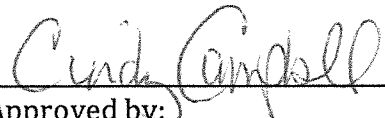
Roll Call Vote –
Councilman Drennan - Yes
Mayor Pro Tem Mabry - Yes
Councilman Porter - Yes
Mayor Campbell - Yes

VII. Adjournment

Council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Porter, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.



Attested by:



Approved by:
Cindy Campbell,
Mayor
3.15.2022

Date Approved