



MINUTES
Regular Scheduled
Council Meeting
December 21, 2021, 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 Mabry, Council Members Jim Drennan, Brian Jackson, and Bob Porter

Also in attendance: SC Representative R. J. May; Lexington County Councilman Bimbo Jones; Town of Springdale Mayor Michael Bishop; Pastor Jerry Freeman, Congaree Baptist Church and Josh Salonich, Steve's #1 Sub Contractor Owner

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 invited Pastor Jerry Freeman to give the invocation.

Mayor Campbell welcomed everyone and recognized dignitaries present.

II. Presentation of 2021 Christmas Parade Awards

Mayor Campbell thanked Mrs. Kim Yarbrough, Jerry and Samantha Smith, volunteers and the police officers that volunteered on Saturday, December 11, 2021, to ensure the Christmas parade was a success and safe for all participants and spectators.

Mr. Jerry Smith advised there were 71 participants and this year's parade entries were outstanding despite the weather. Mr. Smith presented trophies to the top three parade entries:

Goins Dance Studio
Mr. Glenn Creech's Choo Choo Train
Kevin and April Miller's Dirt Cheap Hauling

Council took a 5-minute recess.

III. Mayor Michael Bishop – Town of Springdale

Mayor Michael Bishop thanked Council for allowing him to present on behalf of the Town of Springdale and introduced the Town of Springdale's Mayor elect, Juston Ricard. Mayor Bishop presented information regarding the Hospitality Tax. He advised council that the revenue brought into Springdale has allowed for many projects to be funded. Mayor Bishop advised of the neighboring towns and cities already receiving revenue from a H-Tax: Batesburg-Leesville, Columbia, Chapin, Irmo, Springdale, West Columbia, Lexington and Cayce. Mayor Bishop shared that the Town of Springdale passed the H-Tax in 2019 and the revenue brought into their town the first year was

approximately a little over \$100,000. He advised their council did not pass this tax for several years and the result of their not passing was an approximately \$400,000 in missed revenue funds to better their town. Mayor Bishop advised they have used their revenue funds to improve their splash pad and park projects (that Springdale is well known for), festivals, a master plan for new a new town hall, community events, town hall renovations, and an electronic speed limit device. He stated that no municipality that has already passed the H-Tax would say that they regret doing so.

IV. Josh Salonich, Owner – Steve’s #1 Sub Contractor, West Columbia

Mr. Josh Salonich, Steve’s #1 Sub Contractor owner in West Columbia, thanked the Council for allowing him to present on behalf of business owners already collecting the 2% H-Tax. Mr. Salonich advised of his experience and the impact the H-Tax has on small businesses. He advised that when the City of Cayce passed the H-Tax his first thought was that he would see an increase in business because his business is in West Columbia where they wasn’t a tax. Mr. Salonich advised that he saw minimal, if no, increase in business. He then advised that when West Columbia passed the H-Tax his business saw no negative impact at all. Mr. Salonich advised that from a business owner’s standpoint, he already maintained records for state taxes and it was a very simple set up to report the additional 2% H-Tax.

V. Second Reading Ordinance 21-005

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX ON THE SALES OF PREPARED MEALS AND BEVERAGES IN ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH CONGAREE

Councilman Jackson made a motion to table the Second Reading of Ordinance 21-005 until after holding a Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Drennan. Mayor Campbell requested a Roll Call Vote-

Councilman Porter – yes
Councilman Drennan – yes
Councilman Jackson – yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry – yes
Mayor Campbell - yes

Council voted unanimously to table the Second Reading of Ordinance 21-005 until after the Public Hearing to be held on January 13, 2022. The motion carried.

VI. Reports

Police Chief Josh Shumpert reported 162 tickets were written during November 2021. The Chief advised the Police Department recovered a stolen trailer that came unattached and hit the guard rail on the Ramblin Road bridge. He advised the guard rail is to be repaired by SC DOT and the trailer was returned to the rightful owner. Chief Shumpert advised the PD is waiting on the equipment to be installed in the newly purchased police vehicles. The officers worked at

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the Jesus Is His Name drama that provided an opportunity for the officers to engage in the community and greet visitors to South Congaree. The Chief advised there were no traffic issues during the Christmas parade and the officers enjoyed escorting Santa throughout the town, giving out candy and taking pictures with citizens. The PD received numerous positive comments from citizens and hope to do this again next year.

Chief Shumpert thanked Mid Carolina for their assistance in hanging the snowflakes throughout town and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Jackson advised that two of the four new vehicles were budgeted and approved for purchase by Council. Chief Shumpert added that the additional two vehicles purchased were the result of an accident that totaled one of older vehicles. The Chief stated the insurance payout for the totaled vehicle is approximately \$15,000. He also advised that the insurance payout and the income from the tow yard will be more than enough to pay the added lease installments for the two additional vehicles. The Chief also advised these vehicles serve as an office for the police officers and reliable equipment is needed in order to successfully and safely perform their jobs to protect and serve.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry stated that council needed to vote on the purchase of the fourth vehicle.

Councilman Jackson made a motion to come off the agenda to vote, seconded by Councilman Drennan.

Councilman Jackson made a motion that the Town purchase the fourth vehicle for the Police Department using the funds received by the insurance company, seconded by Councilman Drennan.

Councilman Porter asked Chief Shumpert to clarify the amount to be received from the insurance company and the amount of the lease payment. Chief Shumpert advised that \$15,040 was received and the year's lease payment will be \$12,000.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry stated that the current budget will need to be increased to include the purchase of the additional vehicle. Mayor Campbell requested a Roll Call Vote-

Councilman Porter – yes

Councilman Drennan – yes

Councilman Jackson – yes

Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry – yes

Mayor Campbell - yes

Council voted unanimously to purchase the fourth police vehicle. The motion carried.

VII. Citizens Comments

Public comment was made by Samantha Smith.

Council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, voted unanimously to enter executive session.

Councilman Jackson made a motion to invite Mrs. Dina Lusk, Clerk of Court, into executive session, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry, voted unanimously by Council to invite Mrs. Lusk.

Council took a 5-minute recess.

VIII. Executive Session

A. Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

Discussion of employment, compensation, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee.

Municipal Clerk, Police Department, Clerk of Court, Assistant Clerk, Bookkeeper and Building Official

Upon returning to open session, action may be taken by Council regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.

Council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Drennan, voted unanimously to reconvene at 8:13 p.m. in public session.

Councilman Drennan made the motion to immediately hire a temporary town clerk, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mabry.

Roll call vote –

Councilman Porter – No

Councilman Drennan – Yes

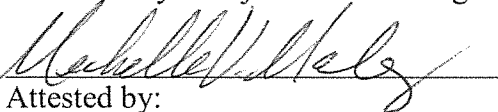
Mayor Pro-Tem Mabry – Yes


Councilman Jackson – Yes

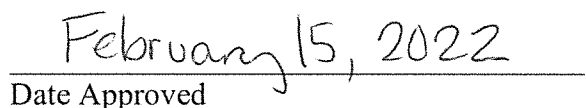
Mayor - Yes

XIII. Adjournment

Council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.


Attested by:


Approved by:
Cindy Campbell,
Mayor


Date Approved