

Town Council Meeting Minutes
North Town Hall
May 13, 2019

Mayor Carson called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Cook and Williams.

- Mayor Carson declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.
- Mayor Carson introduced Beverly McCormick as the acting Town Clerk.
- Mayor Carson then led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2019, Council meeting, Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.
- Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2019 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

- Chief Lin Shirer provided the incident reports for the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council reviewed the account statement for April, 2019. Mayor Carson advised that the Savings balance had been moved into an LGIP account in Columbia, SC. The LGIP account allows the funds to receive better financial benefits. Councilmember Cook inquired into the difference in the balances from 3/29/2019 to 4/30/2019, and was advised that property tax had been received increasing the funds. Mayor Carson advised that several accounts had been left with First Citizens Bank, and future consideration could be given to determine if moving some of the other accounts could be a financial benefit. Councilmember Cook inquired if the funds were attainable within a reasonable amount of time, Mayor Carson stated that funds could be available within 24 hours.
- Council reviewed the Agreement Concerning Electric Service Rights between Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. Mayor Carson provided a brief explanation of the agreement, and introduced the representative from Dominion, formerly SCE&G, to further explain and/or answer any additional questions. Mayor Carson requested if all in favor of this agreement, to motion for acceptance of the agreement, Councilmember Cook provided a second to the motion, but Councilmember Williams inquired for additional information. Mr. Lee Mikell, Dominion Energy representative, provided additional information and explanation to Councilmember Williams concerns. Mayor Carson then motions again for acceptance of the agreement, Councilmember Cook seconds the motion, and upon vote, was approved unanimously.
- Mayor Carson reiterates that the Town of North Annual Drinking Quality Report (CCR) has been posted on the town's website, and is approved by Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).
- Mayor Carson states that the SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) will hold a public input meeting at North Town Hall on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 4:30pm. Public input regarding recreational activities in western Orangeburg county is encouraged and welcomed.
- Councilmember Cook states the Annual Ride to Remember (Alzheimer's Fundraiser) will be at the North Town Hall on Saturday, July 13, 2019. The ride begins around Spartanburg, and includes Newberry, North, and Orangeburg.
- Ms. Reed presented information for the Town Events Committee for the upcoming September North Edisto River Festival. The event will include a Pageant event for age groups 0-12 months and up to 19 years of age. The event is planned to provide a fishing tournament (Bass tournament and Pan fish will include rules and terms of participation along with a registration), a fish fry (tickets to be sold), parade at 10 a.m., entertainment all day long, a street dance, and 9:00 p.m. fireworks. T-Shirts to support the event are in the planning stage, awaiting finalizing the logo, and will include a pre-sale event to assist with funding. Social media will be utilized to communicate the events. Sheriff Lott has approved

LivePD to participate with the event. Mayor Carson inquired about the anticipated schedule for the finalization of the logo, and Ms. Reed stated that they are awaiting the finalization of the logo before moving forward.

- An announcement is made that on 4th of July on Town Square, a celebration to honor our Veterans and show appreciation to include hot dog, chips, and drink – free of charge to our Veteran’s. There will also be ice cream and fireworks for the event.
- Mayor Carson reminds everyone that the North Branch Library is conducting computer classes. The classes will assist customers with setting up email accounts which will aid in obtaining their information regarding water billing. Councilmember Williams asked if customers would still be able to continue to obtain and pay their bills at the Town Hall. Mayor Carson advised that business will still be conducted normally with the exception of paper billing.

2018 COUNCIL PROJECTS:

- Mayor Carson asked Councilmembers to provide updates on the 2018 Council Projects.
- Councilmember Williams advised that continuing work is ongoing with the Opportunity Zone for North.
- Councilmember Cook advised that they are hoping for more participation for the railroad cleanup and establishing another date. Department of Transportation (DOT) has assisted with some cleanup for us as well.
- Mayor Carson asked if street sign names have been turned into Councilmember Jones? Councilmembers advise that some have and remaining are expected by the end of the week. This is all in an effort to provide legible street identifiers for the town.
- Mayor Carson extended a special “Thank You” to Bridget Salley and Tommy Williams for volunteering to assist with the cleanup of Highway 178, this really sets a good example for our town.
- The past two budget workshops did not materialize for Council did not have a quorum. In order to continue to receive state funds, Council must have a second reading of a balanced budget at the June Council meeting. Mayor Carson reminded that we only have three (3) weeks to get this done, several dates were suggested, but Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. was agreed upon. Mayor Carson will text and email reminders.
- Mayor Carson states that the SC Ethics Commission required reporting that was announced at the February Council meeting was to have been completed by March 30th. Councilmembers Jones, Jackson, and Cook are thanked for completion. Councilmember Williams has not completed to date which is a violation of State Law. Carson advised Williams to get this completed as soon as possible which Williams agreed to do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 7:41 pm Mayor Carson made a motion to move into executive session to discuss contractual matters with Graves Water Service.
- At 8:00pm Council returned from executive session. No decisions were made and no votes were taken. Councilmembers have before them the information to have the well and pump repaired by Graves Water Service. The preliminary expense is \$15,400 with the cost of the pump assembly of \$29,850. Councilmember Cook made a motion to accept the bid from Graves and Councilmember Williams seconded the motion, and upon vote the motion was approved unanimously.
- Mayor Carson additionally added that Council had put monies aside as depreciation which is where the expense will be paid from.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (written request)

- There were no written requests for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS per sign-in sheet (3 minutes)

- No people requested to speak per the sign in sheet, and no topics were not listed.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business Councilmember Cook made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Mayor Carson seconded the motion and upon vote was unanimously approved.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly McCormick
Town Clerk

Mayor Patty Carson: Patty Carson

Council Members:

Julius Jones: ABSENT

Daniel Jackson: ABSENT

Deborah Cook: Deborah Cook

Jennifer Williams: Jennifer Williams