

Mayor Julius Jones:

- Called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Jennifer Williams and Jeff Washington.
- Led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Declared quorum and welcomed all.
- Briefed that Council had a chance to review the January meeting minutes asked Council for a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Councilmember Washington motioned to approve; Councilmember Williams seconded the motion.
- Welcomed Chief Lin Shirer to share the Police Report.

Chief Lin Shirer:

- Provided the police report for the months of December 2019 and January 2020, due to being absent during December's Council meeting.
- Presented documented information.
- Presented undocumented information regarding current situations:
  - Dover Elementary on January 8, 2020: Arrested subject for unlawful conduct towards a child and for disrupting school. Subject also wanted for parole violation out of Newberry.
  - Shooting at Velaro Gas Station on February 2, 2020: Arrested subject for attempted murder, possession of a weapon (pistol) during the commission of a violent crime, and possession of a weapon (pistol) by person committed of a crime of violence. Lt. Mizell able to apprehend subject and help victim immediately due to being in connecting parking lot.
  - North Middle High School this past Friday [February 7, 2020]: Chief and SRO responded to a call regarding an assault on a student. Ambulance was called and transported individual. Today [February 10, 2020] arrested 2 juveniles for assault and battery 3<sup>rd</sup> degree for the incident that happened on Friday.
  - North Middle High School [February 7, 2020]: Chief and SRO responded to suspicion of an individual with a weapon (pistol) on school grounds. Located individual and arrested him for possession of a lethal weapon (pistol) on school grounds and simple possession of marijuana.
- Requested from Mayor Jones if he was to share openly what was currently being discussed in office. Mayor Jones acknowledged his approval. Chief Shirer shared detailed information on the status of the abandoned, dilapidated NAPA building. The Police Department alongside the Town have conducted all processes available to expedite having the building demolished. Chief Shirer shared that there were extenuating circumstances that were causing delays, i.e. waiting lists for demolition crews provided by the County, testing and preventative procedures needed before demolition due to asbestos, etc.
- Asked if there were any question from Council on his report.
  - Councilmember Williams asked if the asbestos in the NAPA building posed any threat to the town or it's individuals. Chief responded that as far as he knows, there is no immediate danger, that the building needed to be demolished in a particular manner so that the asbestos was contained properly. Chief also stressed that he was not an expert on the matter so he wasn't able to state for sure, he only had information from previous encounters with it personally. Councilmember Williams thanked him for the information.

Mayor Julius Jones on the Mayor's Report:

- Briefed on SCDOT's repaving of numerous streets within the town (Cromer, Stafford, Salley, Toshiba, Derrick, Partridge, Sycamore, Bedford, Pew, and Alma), to be completed in a month, depending on weather circumstances.
- Briefed on Water/Sewer paper billing reinitiated. Expressed if bills had not been received to contact the Town Hall offices.
- Briefed on Business License Renewals and Fees being due by the end of March 2020.
- Briefed on the new Orangeburg County Library in North due to open in April 2020.

- Requested an individual to volunteer as the Election Commission Volunteer. Individual would certify candidates and electional votes in the town elections every two years, or in special elections. Oversee ballot calibrations if necessary. Three online courses required. Documentation available for the position, contact the Mayor's office for more information.
- Briefed on Census assessments to begin in April 2020.
- Briefed on Southeastern Housing Community seeking tenants. An informational flyer will be placed on the bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Mayor Julius Jones on New Business:

- Briefed on December 2019 to January 2020 financial statement. Asked if there were any questions from Council. There were none. Stated document would be placed online in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.
- Welcomed speaker Charlie Barrineau, the Town's representative with the Municipal Associate of South Carolina (MASC).

Charlie Barrineau, MASC representative:

- Welcome and thanks to all present.
  - Briefed on what is offered through the MASC, that he as our representative could assist in providing information, advocacy, collections, support or training regarding grants, grant writing, business licensing process, etc.
  - Mayor Jones asked for Mr. Barrineau if he was able to expound on business license tax. Mr. Barrineau gave a brief break down and offered the explanation that MASC provides suggested practice. Highlighted that Business License Tax can provide upwards of 30% or more of the municipality's budgeted revenue. Legislation has been ongoing for a number of years regarding Business Licensing. This year a House bill has been introduced that is attempting to take Business License away from Gross income and put it to Net income. The MASC is adamantly opposed. The Town is commended based on already adopting MASC's standard practice (recommended by the State) regarding Business Licensing, which put the Town ahead of many in the State. Business License Tax is a critical revenue source for the Town.
  - Mr. Barrineau asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- Welcomed Daniel Jackson, swore in as a new Councilmember. After accepting the Oath of Office, Councilmember Daniel Jackson joined seated Council.
    - Wanda Whetstone, also voted onto Council, not present. Will be sworn in at March 2020's Council Meeting.

Mayor Julius Jones opened the floor for Council Projects:

- Asked Councilmember Williams for an updated regarding her project.
  - Met with a grant writer from Aiken on January 23, 2020, here at Town Hall regarding two proposals – a North Historical Tourist/Visitation Center and a North Wellness and Community Center.
  - Met with board members who started Aiken's center who offered the advice of obtaining a Community Board.
  - Peggy McLynn who is involved with Orangeburg's grant writing directed Williams to Michelle McCloud who is over a heritage grant for small towns. Ms. McCloud offered the information that there are grant monies available and were becoming available in April of 2020.
  - Asked for volunteers to join project planning. Asked if there were any questions. There were none.

- Asked Councilmember Washington for an updated regarding his project.
  - Moving forward finding out information, but due to personal issues delaying him, would like to get firm details before providing an update. Speaking with a grant writer in Atlanta, GA, about medical grants to maybe get a doctor back in town.
- Asked Councilmember Jackson if he would like to speak on a project or idea. Did not.

Mayor Julius Jones asked if there were any public comments (per sign-in sheet; 3 minutes allotted)

- There were no written requests.
- Opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Mayor Jones motioned for an adjournment:

- Councilmember Washington seconded motion; All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 9, 2020**.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stephanie M. Ott*

Stephanie M. Ott  
Clerk of Court

Mayor Julius Jones: \_\_\_\_\_

Council Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel Jackson: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeff Washington: \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Williams: \_\_\_\_\_

