



Town of Summerton

Post Office Box 279
10 Main Street
Summerton, SC 29148
PH: 803-485-2525
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Minutes of Council Meeting February 23, 2022 at 6:00PM

Present. Mayor Bagnal, Council Members: Mr. Bryan Rembert, Mr. Terrance Tindal, Mr. Walker Wells, and Mr. Ritchie Way. Also present was Mr. Ray Perdue, Chief of Police, Mr. Jay Kates, Public Works Director, and Mrs. Frances Feagin, Town Clerk

Absent: Council Members: Mr. Chalmers Stukes and Mrs. Regina Brown

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Bagnal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m.

INVOCATION – Councilman Terrance Tindal

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All

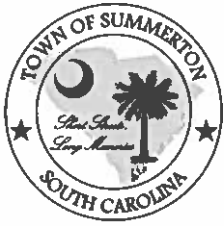
APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Rembert made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Mr. Way, all was in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Rembert made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 with the correction of “Mr. Rembert made a motion to exit executive session” by adding “with no action taken.” Seconded by Mr. Wells, all was in favor.

ACCEPT AS INFORMATION – Financials of January 2022 were accepted as information.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Briggs vs. Elliott Event– Mr. Julius Adger, Sr. greeted Mayor and Council for allowing him the time to speak at the meeting. Mr. Adger asked for permission to hold the Briggs vs. Elliott Festival during the month of May 2022. Mr. Adger has obtained the help of Mr. Jones and Mr. Richburg with the festivities and to “pass on the torch”. Mr. Rembert asked if there was anything that the Council could do to help with the event. He also asked about the porta-johns, of how many did Mr. Adger need? Mr. Adger asked for Chief to help with the police aspect of the event and he mentioned that Mr. Bucky always made the arrangements for the porta-johns. Mayor Bagnal asked how many was needed and if the town took care of that. Mr. Adger replied, we need 2 and yes the town took care of that. Mr. Adger thanked Council again for allowing him time to speak.
- b. Discussion of Water Issue on Tom Charles Road – Mrs. Christina Darby greeted Mayor and Council. She said that she had been working with Mr. Jay Kates about the water system and asked about possibly being added onto the Sigfield system. She said that



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their system is a very deep system, and it is causing several homes to experience home appliance issues. Mr. Jay Kates said that they are dealing with hard water issues and that he will be discussing some projects later in the meeting that would possibly help with this matter.

- c. Pertaining to Information sent out to Public– Mr. Richard Smith greeted and thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him speak at tonight’s meeting. Mr. Smith is asking Council for help with the letter that was sent out to citizens concerning the leak adjustment process. Per the letter, it states that the resident must pay the bill in full while the leak adjustment process is being reviewed. It was said that this would bring on a hardship to the residents that live on a fixed income. A concerned citizen asked if some sort of payment arrangement could be worked out for the hardship not to occur. Mr. Kates informed Council the letter was sent out to inform the residents of what was considered a customer issue versus a town issue. He also stated that the Ordinance needs to be reviewed and possibly revised of establishing a credit versus a refund on the leak adjustment procedure. There were several concerns that were brought up about sewer backups, water bills being too high due to wrong readings, and phones not being answered. Mr. Kates said that the letter will be reviewed again to make appropriate changes to clarify what will be the responsibility of the citizen and what would be of the town. Mr. Kates informed Council that at the Public Hearing several issues have been identified on what needs to be fixed.
- d. Presentation of UMOJA Black Heritage Event– Councilman Terrance Tindal informed Council since October the Lighthouse Foundation has done several events to get our citizens out and about. We started with our Fall Festival and our Christmas Festival. This month will be the Black Heritage Festival to get our community to unite and come together, with music and vendors on February 27th from 3pm-6pm. We are inviting the whole community to come out. A citizen asked if the organization is a town organization or a private one. Mr. Tindal responded that it is not a town organization and asked for all to come join in on the celebration. The Vaccine Clinic will be setup in the Parking Lot Town Hall from 1pm-4pm that day as well.
- e. 1st Reading Consideration of Establishment of Event Committee– Councilman Terrance Tindal said that he would like to put together an event committee, to include citizens of the town. It is fun to have an event, but it is hard work to do it alone. With a committee in place one group could work on a different project from another one with all projects always ending with a successful result. A citizen asked how many people would be on the committee. Mr. Tindal said as many that wanted to join but a minimum of 5 members for voting purposes. Mr. Rembert asked if any ordinances have been reviewed on how



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committees are governed. Mr. Tindal, with the help of Mrs. Amanda, researched finding that a group could be put together with no particular rules of who could be in the group. Then a member of the committee would bring the recommendation to Council to get approval for the event incase of funds being needed. Mr. Rembert asked if 1 Council member would be on the committee, Mr. Tindal said yes and at least 1 town employee as well. Mayor Bagnal asked when the committee needed to be started. Response was tomorrow due to already having an event in the works for April, but officially after the 2nd Reading. It was asked if there needed to be a 2nd Reading, the answer was yes per Mr. Charlie Barrineau, with the Municipal Association. A citizen asked what monetary funds come from for the events that were held by the Lighthouse Foundation before funding come from the Town. Mr. Tindal responded that the foundation took responsibility for all funding for those events. Mr. Rembert asked if this committee would be for all events moving forward, not just organizational events. Using Duckfest as an example, Mr. Tindal stated that the committee would for any event that the Town of Summerton would be presenting. He further stated that if any individual/group wants to host a private event, such Briggs vs. Elliott or the Car Show, that the town event committee would not be responsible for that. A citizen asked about the liability for the event, to make sure that it is covered by insurance incase of someone being injured. Once the event committee is established then the Town would have to invest in event insurance. Mr. Tindal made a motion that Council approves an event committee, which will serve for planning events for the town, allowing 1 Council person and 1 member of town staff to be involved in the planning. Seconded by Mr. Rembert, all in favor.

- f. Discussion of Sewer Rates increase with City of Manning – Mr. Jay Kates stated that as of July 1st the City of Manning will be increasing their sewer rates. He stated that right now the town is paying \$1.75 per 1,000 gallons for sewer that we are to sending to Manning. As of July 1st it will double to \$3.40 per 1,000 gallons, this is a cost that the Town of Summerton will have to absorb. We really need to consider the town meeting that we had recently that discussed the ARPA Fund Allocations. We need to consider Ionide investigation because once we turn the valve it is going to get really expensive. Mr. Rembert asked what we are sending per month right now. Mr. Kates responded that we have spent maybe \$20,000 for the year. I only send it when it is absolutely necessary, right now it is shut off. When we get a lot of rain water is when I normally have to send it to Manning or the wastewater plant will discharge bad water. Mr. Rembert asked if we are running the spray fields. It was answered that we are running the spray fields at max capacity of 300,000 gallons a day. It was asked why they are doubling the cost; it was answered because they can. A member of the audience asked when this would go into



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effect, the response was as of July 1. Mr. Rembert asked if there was anything that we can do to stop sending them water? Mr. Jay responded that we could fix our ionide problems, we can do a study on the sewer system and/or we can look for some grant money or possibly use the ARPA funding. A citizen asked if there was a reason as to why it hasn't been done. The response was the need of funding, due to the expense of findings that will need to be fixed. Mr. Kates gave several examples of what needs to be fixed to correct the sewer system, along with the infiltration of rain water going into the sewer system. Right now we are treating 170,000 to 200,000 gallons daily at the wastewater treatment plant and when it rains it goes up a million gallons just that fast. Mr. Kates said that we do have a 23 million dollar request sent in to Senator Johnson office right now. Part of that request is to address the sewer infrastructure for the Town of Summerton. It is also to address the water lines, sewer cleanouts, cut off valves & etc. It was asked by a citizen if he knew of the time frame of the request and do we need to call the senator. Mr. Kates said he didn't know of the time frame right now. It was mentioned by Mayor Bagnal that Senator Johnson did take a tour of the Town of Summerton to see and hear of all the issues. Mr. Kates addressed some of the funds that we have already in place and of funding that is on the way. He stated that the money has to be properly allocated and can't be spent on just anything. He again stated that we need to consider the public information that was collected from the public meeting.

- g. Discussion of Proposed Projects for North Shore and Taw Caw Phase II – Mr. Jay Kates said that right now we have the opportunity to get around 2 million dollars to able to address projects for the Town of Summerton. It would be to connect the Haynesworth Mill line into the Sigfield line. It is to drill a new well at Gin Pond and put in 100,000 gallons of water there. It is to remove the iron at NorthShore. It is to come into town and do what is needed to be done to help the citizens. We could take the \$630,000 to use in town to help the citizens by installing new water meters, new shut off and pipes. A concerned citizen asked how many water systems is Town of Summerton responsible for. Mr. Kates answered the town has 5 systems and stated that all of them have heavy needs. Mayor Bagnal said that funds should have been put up in the 70s-90s to help repair aging water/sewer lines to be fixed little by little. He mentioned that these problems have been inherited over time. A member of the audience asked has anybody been accountable for the issue? It was said DHEC should've stepped up because they knew the town had problems and the problems weren't addressed. It was asked how the town is going to prioritize what systems are going to be fixed. A member of the audience asked how is the town going to prioritize what is going to be fixed with the limited resources that are available. Mr. Rembert said that there are some funds that have been received that are



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not allowed to be used outside the town limits of Summerton. It is \$630,000, and again it cannot be used out of the town limits of Summerton, that it can only be used inside the town limits. A member of the audience proceeded to ask how the other funds, that don't have any restrictions, will be used. Response was that it would be used on a business stand point. A member of the asked where the 23 million dollar sought after, what assessment was done to come up with that figure, who did that? The town worked with DHEC and engineers. A question was asked if the public has seen the report, and if it was available to be seen? Mr. Rembert said that if you want to see the report, it will be made available for viewing. SCRCAP, Water Systems, and Hybrid Engineering put the report together. RIA Grant and SRF Grants are 2 grants that we are looking at with American Engineering writing the grants at no cost to the town if we get the grant. Mr. Rembert asked if it was American Engineering, Mr. Kates responded yes. Mr. Rembert made a motion for American Engineering with procuring or writing the grants to secure money to make repairs to our water systems and sewer systems. Seconded by Mr. Wells, all in favor.

- h. Discussion of Remaining Items on DHEC Consent Order – Mr. Jay Kates a letter was signed today by Mayor Bagnal on the remaining items on the Consent Order. It is identifying that we still have some tank maintenance that needs to be done. We are applying for some grant funding. If we do get that grant then we will have to replace the tank. Mr. Rembert asked if DHEC has a deadline of when it would need to be done. The deadline from DHEC is July 2022. Mr. Kates said he hopes to hear back from the RIA and SRF grants to see where we are on that. Mr. Rembert asked if we could use the ARPA funds on that. The response was yes we can, if we wanted to. Mr. Rembert asked if it would be better to wait, and Mr. Kates agreed. We have several different deadlines on different items on the letter.
- i. Discussion of ARPA Funds – Mr. Kates said that we need to come up with a budget. We need to come up with a list of projects in Town and out of Town that would help with the citizens. I would like to have that ready by April 1st of all possible. A member of the audience asked if the some of the items from the 23 million report include that, Mr. Kates said yes. Mr. Kates said he would like for Council to consider the information that was gathered from the Public Meeting to be used by the ARPA Funds. A member of the audience asked if all of the systems are all about the same for repairs. Mr. Rembert said that some of the systems are a little bit new, and each system has their own unique issues.
- j. Update on North Shore Water Rates – Mr. Jay Kates after meeting with Jay Bruner, he informed me that there is an ordinance on the reasoning why the water and sewer rates were developed the way they were. Amanda is looking through the ordinances where the



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town passed to justify the reasoning why there are different water and sewer rates in the area. A member of the audience asked if our ordinances are in separate binders by years. Mr. Rembert said that Amanda is getting the ordinances better organized.

OLD BUSINESS –

- a. 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, Sections 209 and 210 of the Ordinances of the Town of Summerton, Relating to Water and Sewer Connection Fees – Mr. Jay Kates said that we need to have a 2nd Reading on these. This doesn't have anything to do with the monthly water bills. Mr. Rembert said that if someone comes into town, buys a lot and makes a water or sewer connection, we would normally charge approx. \$300. But it actually costs close to \$1500 to do it, and the town is losing money. So we developed a new ordinance that says if a new water tap or sewer tap is needed that we will get a quote from a plumber to do the work we will only charge what that amount it that the town won't make any money off of it. That that would be the fee. There is a \$100 administration fee that is added onto the tap fee, this is to collect customer information and get them in the system.
Mr. Rembert made a motion to count this as the 2nd Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, Sections 209 and 210 of the Ordinances of the Town of Summerton, Relating to Water and Sewer Connection Fees. Seconded by Mr. Way, all in favor.

MAYOR UPDATE –

Tomorrow is the Grand Opening for Clarissa's Restaurant and Grill, restaurant will be opening for business afterwards with limited staff. K&M Care, the doctor office, is open, very good people and very reasonable rates. We need to use them, if not we are going to lose them. A member of the audience asked if they were fully open now, Mrs. Feagin stated that they have started accepting some insurances and are still getting setup with other companies as well, to please check their Facebook page as they are constantly updating it. Wanted to mention again the conversation of phone calls & such will be looked into and questioned with our staff. We will be working out the kinks with that, it is just unacceptable. Anthony will be returning soon, possibly in the next couple of weeks.

STAFF UPDATES –

- a. Police Dept. – Chief Perdue submitted a monthly report for Council to review and ask questions if they had any. He didn't have any new business to bring to Council at this



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time. A concerned citizen asked if something is being done with the people begging for money. Chief said that when they are arrested, the jail releases them back out within a few hours. If a citizen wanted to attend a bond hearing to leave your contact information with Mrs. Feagin to see if it is possible for them to attend. Chief said that he would see what the regulations are for Bond Hearing occupancy

- b. Public Works Dept. – Public Works Director Jay Kates provided Council with a status report was given thorough out the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Rembert made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Wells, all was in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Frances Feagin
Town Clerk