



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Town Council Chambers, Moncks Corner Municipal
Complex, 118 Carolina Avenue
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr. at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem David A. Dennis, Jr.
Council Member DeWayne G. Kitts
Council Member James N. Law, Jr.
Council Member Latorie S. Lloyd
Council Member Chadwick D. Sweatman
Council Member James B. Ware, III

Staff Present:

James E. Brogdon, Town Attorney
Jeffrey V. Lord, Town Administrator
Marilyn M. Baker, Administrative Services Director/Clerk to Council
Justine H. Lovell, Finance Director
R. Logan Faulkner, Public Service Director
Robert L. Gass, III, Fire Chief
Mohamed A. Ibrahim, Technology Director
Stephen G. Young
Lee W. Mixon, Jr., Police Captain
Elizabeth B. Rentz, Recreation Director
Justin S. Westbrook, Community Development Director

Absent:

Rebecca Walker, Business Development Manager

INVOCATION

Invocation was delivered by Pastor Andre Winters of Corner Church, Moncks Corner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Council Member Latorie Lloyd.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **Special Presentation:** Moncks Corner Police Department

Chief Stephen Young presented SRO Corporal Logan Armbruster with the Emeritus Action Award for his heroic efforts in saving a child's life on October 24, 2024, at Foxbank Elementary School.

PRESENTATIONS

3. **Proclamation:** Native American Heritage Month

Mayor Hamilton read and presented Geneva Burbage with a Proclamation recognizing November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month in the Town of Moncks Corner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. **Regular Meeting Minutes:** October 15, 2024

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2024. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

5. **Special Meeting Minutes:** October 29, 2024

Motion was made by Council Member Kitts to approve the special meeting minutes of October 29, 2024. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ware and approved unanimously as follows:

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

REPORTS

6. **Mayor's Report:** Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr.

Mayor Hamilton reported the following:

October 17th – He went to Berkeley Prep School and read to the 1st grade class.

October 19th – He participated in a dunk tank to help raise funds for Chief Steve Young's bike ride for charity, Chief Young also participated. Together they raised over \$400.00.

October 19th – He attended the Community Builders event at the Farmers Market Pavilion.

October 20th – He attended the Red Ribbon Family Fest at the Old Santee Canal Park.

October 24th – He attended a ribbon cutting for Your Health Primary Care, Councilman Dennis and Councilman Sweatman also attended.

October 25th – He attended and participated in a ribbon cutting for Complete Barbershop and Salon.

October 25th - He attended the Berkeley Middle School Fall Festival.

October 26th – He attended the Foxbank Golf Cart Parade.

October 30th – He attended the Town's Trunk or Treat Festival. He added that it was amazing how the business community showed up to give out goodies, and thoroughly enjoyed the costume contest.

He thanked Susan Gilmore and all the Town employees who worked so hard to put this together.

November 1st – 2nd - He attended the Lions Club BBQ Cookoff on Friday and did the tasting on Saturday. He spoke at the awards. He thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis for being at the event as a Lions Club Member.

November 5th – He was invited by Saint John's Christian Academy to judge their pumpkin decorating contest. He added that there were some talented artists there.

November 7th – He read to Mrs. Haywood's 2nd Grade Class at Whitesville Elementary.

November 8th - The Town held a Veteran's Day lunch at Swig and Swine honoring our employees who served in the military.

November 9th – He attended Drew's annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway at the Farmers Market Pavilion. They had many activities for the kids and the food was outstanding.

November 9th – He attended the Berkeley County Animal Shelter free adoption event. The event was put on to raise awareness of the animals that need either adoption or fostering.

November 11th – He attended the Veterans Day Service at the VFW. Councilman Dennis and Councilman Law also attended. He thanked Chief Gass and Chief Young for placing the Town's wreath at the Memorial.

November 13th – Our Recreation Department held their Annual Coaches Appreciation Dinner at Berkeley High School. Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis and I attended. We were also invited to attend the Santee Cooper's Annual Celebrate The Season Reception. Unfortunately, both events were held at the same time. Mayor Hamilton's wife attended the reception in his place.

November 14th - He attended the Berkeley County Water and Soil Conservation Banquet at Wampee.

November 16th - He attended the Moncks Corner Pickin' in The Park. He thanked all the staff who worked hard to put on this event. Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis also attended.

November 18th - He attended the VFW Awards Banquet.

Future Events:

November 29th – December 30th – Santee Cooper will hold their Celebrate The Season driving lighting tour.

December 6th – The Town will hold their Annual Downtown Christmas Festival from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

December 7th – The Town will hold their Annual Christmas Night Parade. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

He also reported that the Town was voted Best of Berkeley for our 4th of July Festival. He added that there is a lot of hard work and dedication put into the festival.

7. Administrator's Report: Jeffrey V. Lord

Administrator Lord reported the following:

The Town received \$25,000 from the Berkeley County Accommodations Tax Fund for the 4th of July Festival.

The Town received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 6th year in a row. He thanked Finance Director Justine Lovell, Marilyn Baker and staff for their hard work to make this happen.

Prior to the meeting he presented Council with a final copy of the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Staff are working on the Unified Development Ordinance. We have solicited proposals from planning firms and are currently reviewing the proposals. We hope to have a recommendation to Council soon.

Fire Chief Robert Gass announce that back in August 2024 Corey Denny was promoted from Captain to Battalion Chief. Since his promotion, he recently completed the Fire Officer 4 Certification program. He added that this is a nationally recognized certification program, and they are very proud of his achievement. Administrator Lord added that Chief Denny is also the Chairperson of our Safety Committee. This is a new committee that was started at the beginning of the year. Since the committee was formed, the Town has realized savings of \$60,000 on our liability insurance.

Introductions:

Recreation Director Libya Rentz announced that her department is fully staff. She introduced her newest member of the Recreation Department, Zachary Jacobs. Mr. Jacobs serves as the Athletic Director. He comes to the Town from Westcott of North Charleston. He has a background in baseball. She added that we are very excited to have him with us.

It Director Mo Ibrahim introduced newly hired Chris Humphrey. Mr. Humphrey will serve as the Town's IT Technician. He comes to the Town with 15 years of experience and is very experienced in networking and hardware. Mr. Humphrey is very familiar with the Town and facilities while working with a contractor that the Town utilizes.

Police Chief Steve Young introduced PFC Katheryn Whetstone. She comes to the Town with over 12 years of experience in policing, patrol, SRO, detectives, recruiting and peer support. She currently serves as an SRO Officer at Foxbank School and has brought a lot to the agency since April. He added that he is looking forward to her contributions to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

- 8. New Business:** There is no new business to be brought before Council

OLD BUSINESS

- 9. Old Business:** There is no old business to be brought before Council

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jody Nyers of 112 Mulberry Crossing Lane, Moncks Corner ask if the entrance to the new development that is going in at the corner of Main St Extension and RC Dennis will be adjacent to Edward Blvd going into Fairlawn. Administrator Lord responded, yes. She expressed concerns about the traffic issues. He added that there was a traffic impact study conducted and as a result there will also be a turn lane added on the Edward Blvd side. She also asked if resurfacing roads within the County or the Town was an SCDOT issue. Old Forte Road in Fairlawn is in dire need of attention. She added that she sent videos to the County and sent many emails until she finally connected with Danny Thrower. He told her that Old Forte was on a list to be paved along with 17 miles of other roads. She thanked Council for their time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 10. Discussion:** Matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of businesses.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to go into executive session to discuss the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of businesses. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sweatman and approved unanimously as follows.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

Out of Executive Session and Reconvene to the Regular Meeting:

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis to come out of executive session and reconvene to the regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Kitts and approved unanimously as follows.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware.

Mayor Hamilton had nothing to report out of executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Law, seconded by Council Member Sweatman to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Motion was approved unanimously as follows.

Voting Yea: Mayor Hamilton, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis, Council Member Kitts, Council Member Law, Council Member Lloyd, Council Member Sweatman, Council Member Ware

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

A copy of this meeting's agenda was e-mailed to the Post and Courier, The Berkeley Independent, Live 5 News, Channel 4, Channel 2, and The News Journal Scene. As required, the agenda was posted on the Municipal Complex bulletin board and the Town Website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Minutes Approved and Adopted:

Marilyn M. Baker/Clerk to Council

December 17, 2024
DATE