

Minutes
Regular Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 - 7:00 PM
McCormick One Stop Conference Room
109 W. Augusta St., McCormick, SC
Welcome & Comments

Mayor Smith welcomed all in attendance to the regular meeting of Council for March at approximately 7:05 pm, stating guests were present, who he then asked for them to introduce themselves.

John and Deborah Stone, of the Lincoln Journal newspaper were in attendance, and Mr. Stone stated that he would be the new owner of the McCormick Messenger at the end of March, with the new name for the paper being The Lincoln Messenger. He stated that the Washington News Reporter may be coming on board as well, and the three papers would be combined to report for all three papers. He gave information regarding his career in journalism, he being a Lincoln County native, having lived in Augusta, worked at WBBQ, spent time in Washington, DC under Senator Charlie Norwood from Georgia, worked at the US News & World Reports, and also served on the Development Authority. He stated his wife of 43 years, Deborah, had a degree in journalism, as well as several of his family members. He stated he hated to see small town newspapers closing, which is a great loss to small communities, as small-town newspapers are vital to smaller communities.

Mayor Smith thanked him for his introduction and welcomed him and his wife to the McCormick Community.

Notifications -

News Media and others requesting notice was done by email on March 4, 2022.

FOIA Notifications was done on March 8, 2022, for those requesting notice of meeting and agenda packages.

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Smith called the regular meeting of the McCormick Town Council to order at approximately 7:10 pm.

Quorum Confirmation – The Town Clerk/Treasurer affirmed that a quorum was present, those being in attendance: Mayor Roy Smith, Jr., Council Members, Dolly Franklin, CM D#1, Nathan Jones, CM D#2, Calvin Chiles, CM D#3 & Mayor Pro Tem, Curt Dansby, CM D#4, Alvin Jennings, CM D#5, and Faye Hood, CM D#6.

Also in attendance were Staff: W.D. Bo Willis, Chief of Police, Fire Chief Mike Barron, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Sandra McKinney, and Town Attorney, James Graham Padgett, III.

Others in attendance were Chuck Cook, County Council Member, District 3 and Mrs. Cook, Charlotte Tallent, Chamber of Commerce, and Marge Elmore, resident of Washington Street

Pledge of Allegiance – All present stood and offered the Pledge of Allegiance in a patriotic manner.

Invocation – Mayor Smith offered the invocation - being thankful for a beautiful day, for mercy and grace; blessings for all in attendance and families; and seeking guidance in thought, tongue, and conduct of meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda as Written** – Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda as written.

Council Member Mr. Jones offered said motion, with said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

3. **Appearance of Citizens, Public Comments** -

A) No Written Requests by Deadline – March 2 - Mayor Smith stated no written requests had been received by the March 2 deadline.

4. **Regular Town Council Business Items - for February** –

A) **Minutes**

B) **Bills**

C) **Financial Statement**

Council had received copies of the Minutes, Bills, and Financial Statement for February prior to the meeting for review, and Mayor Smith called for any questions or comments regarding same. No questions or comments being offered, Mayor Smith called for a motion from Council.

Council Member Mr. Jennings offered a motion to approve the Minutes, Bills, and Financial Statement for February, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

5. **Legislation** -

A) **Ordinances – Two** -

****Ordinance No. 2022-03-08-01** – Ordinance to Adopt the 2022 Model Business License Ordinance, recommended by the Municipal Association, repealing and replacing all previous versions – **Introduction/First Reading**

****Ordinance No. 2022-03-08-02** – Ordinance to Adopt the Election of the Standard Allowance for Lost Revenues under the American Rescue Plan, repealing and replacing all previous ordinances – **Introduction/First Reading**

B) **Resolutions – One** -

*Fair Housing Resolution for April – **Resolution 2022-03-08-01; Motion – Mayor Issue/Town Clerk/Treasurer Attest**

C) **Proclamations – Three** -

Random Acts of Kindness – February 17, 2022

American Red Cross Month – Month of March, 2022

Sunshine Week -March 13-19, 2022 – **Information; No Action**

Council had received copies of all Legislative items for review prior to the meeting.

Regarding Ordinance **No. 2022-03-08-01** – Mayor Smith asked the Clerk/Treasurer to speak to Council.

Mrs. McKinney stated with regard to Act 176, Business License Standardization, all older business license ordinances were to be repealed and replaced with the Model Business License which included a license term of May 1 through April 30, implemented the use of the NAISC codes, and called for a license fee based on the previous year's gross income for businesses. She stated the process began in 2020 and 2021 was the year to implement the changes, set up the online portal for renewals and created a credit card account for payment. She stated there were some issues in getting all of the steps in place, and the Town would not be using the portal for 2022, but would need to pass the model ordinance and worked to establish the rates in the online portal.

Mayor Smith stated that this would be first reading and called for a motion.

Council Member Mr. Jennings offered the motion to give first reading, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

Regarding Ordinance **No. 2022-03-08-02** – Mayor Smith called for a motion to give first reading – Ordinance to Adopt the Election of the Standard Allowance for Lost Revenues under the American Rescue Plan, repealing and replacing all previous ordinances.

Council Member Mr. Jones offered the motion to give first reading, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

Regarding the **Fair Housing Resolution**, Mayor Smith stated that the Town desires that all citizens be afforded the opportunity for fair housing and rejects discrimination in obtaining housing services. He stated a motion was needed for him to sign the Resolution.

Council Member Mr. Jennings offered said motion, it being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

Mayor Smith stated that three Proclamations had been issued, the Random Acts of Kindness for February 17, calling for acts of kindness such as a smile, a show of hand, opening doors for others and any act of kindness which is much needed in the world today; the American Red Cross Proclamation designating March as American Red Cross Month; Mayor Smith stated he felt that this was an organization which needed to be recognized and was the first to respond in matters of emergencies, and the least to be recognized; Sunshine Week, being designated March 13-19, 2022, calling for transparency of governments with Mayor Smith stating that the Town was committed to open government.

6. Reports for presentation and approval as presented -

- A) **Police**
- B) **Fire**
- C) **Clerk/Treasurer & Deputy Clerk/Treasurer**

Council had received copies of all reports for review prior to the meeting, and Mayor Smith called for questions or comments regarding.

Police – discussion was had as to the shortage of officers in agencies, the Town being no different. Chief Willis stated that he was down to five officers and would be, after March 19, down to four. He stated one officer was leaving to go to the Department of Corrections, and with the Governor’s proposed action of providing a 30% increase for law enforcement, the Town could not compete with larger agencies. He stated, after being asked regarding any Town incentives to keep officers, that the only current incentive was that the Town paid the health insurance cost for the officer at 100%. Asked regarding take home cars, Chief Willis stated that only he and one other officer took home cars, and the other officers were given a gas stipend for use of their vehicles. He stated that the Town was not the only agency with issues, he stated due to the climate of the world, all agencies were being affected

Calling for and receiving no questions or comments regarding the Fire, Clerk/Treasurer, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer’s reports, Mayor Smith called for a motion to approve all reports as given.

Council Member Mr. Jennings offered said motion, it being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

7. Old Business -

- A) **Filing of 2021 Statements of Economic Interests
to be done by elected officials online (via INTERNET)
and due by noon, March 30 - \$100 a day for late filing**

Mayor Smith reminded Council of the importance of filing their statements on time to avoid the \$100 a day for late filing fee.

8. New Business:

- A) **Draft Copies of the FY 22/23 –
General Fund Operating Budget;
Capital Projects Budget**

**Budget Workshop scheduled for March 22, 2022 – 6 pm – One Stop
Conference Room**

Mayor Smith stated that discussions regarding the proposed FY 22/23 budgets for the General Fund and the Capital Projects budget would be held.



Mayor's Comments:

Veterans Memorial Park – Mayor Smith stated that each Council Member had a brochure and asked them to contact anyone they felt would be interested in buying a brick.

Republic Services – Mayor Smith stated representatives of Republic, the Town's trash collection contractor, would be in Town on Thursday, March 10, at 10 AM, and he would be taking them around the Town.

Youth Empowerment Golf Classic – Mayor Smith stated that each Council Member had information regarding this event, the sponsor hopefully being able to attend the Town's next meeting.



9. Adjournment -

Before adjourning, Mayor Smith called for other items to come to Council.

Council Member Mr. Chiles stated that he had received individual complaints regarding utility bills, some ranging from \$600 to over a \$1000. He stated that he had directed these calls to the CPW, they having their own board, but felt that there was some cause other than the high cost of fuel which was explained in a letter insert in the utility bill.

Mayor Smtih stated he had also gotten calls, and had directed the calls to the CPW, but felt that the issue should be a concern to all, in that aged-persons who could barely afford their medicines was faced with high bills. He stated that a meeting would be held at CPW on the matter on Thursday.

Mayor Smith called for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Mr. Jennings offered the motion, said motion being duly seconded by Council Member Mr. Dansby, and unanimously approved.

Council adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra McKinney
Clerk/Treasurer

