

Town of Yemassee Council Meeting
April 8, 2014
6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Cook, Council Members Anderson, Moore, Jinks, O'Banner, and Clerk Josie Roberts.

INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Council Member O'Banner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

ACTION ON MINUTES FROM MARCH 11, 2014: Motion to accept minutes, as written, by Council Member Moore and seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Mayor Cook and Entire Town Government were present.

DETERMINATION OF NOTIFICATION OF PRESS: The press has been notified, both newspapers and radio.

Mayor stated to citizens in attendance, that the town is in financial trouble, and he asked for prayers for the financial situation and for the Town of Yemassee.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LRWS GRANT – BARBARA JOHNSON: This hearing was advertised in the Hampton County Guardian. On April 14, 2014, the town will submit an application to the South Carolina Department of Commerce requesting \$750,000.00 for a CDBG grant, to upgrade sewer lines. It will serve 407 people in the eastern part of the town. LRWS will put up the other \$125,000.00 of the cost of the improvements. Because the grant is a municipal grant, it has to be applied for through the town. Council Member Jinks stated that the application for the grant will be 100% for the good of Yemassee, and that the citizens really don't know how bad the sewer system is. Council Member O'Banner stated that this is the process for getting the grant. Council Member Moore stated that we are LRWS, we're a part of the five towns that are combined to make it up. Mayor Cook stated that we have to do what we can to help them as much as possible, because the town is unable financially to do these repairs. If the repairs aren't made, the town is going to be in major trouble.

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES:

OUTBACK ENTERTAINMENT - Katherine Miller – Motion to approve by Council Member Moore and seconded by Council Member Anderson. All were in favor.

DJ JENNY – Entertainment – Motion to approve by Council Member O'Banner and seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.

HARMON LAWN SERVICE – Motion to approve by Council Member O'Banner and seconded by Council Member Moore. All were in favor.

ICEMAN ICE HOUSES – Charlie Marshall – Motion to approve by Council Member Moore and seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.

CHOO CHOO MINI MART – Michelle Hagan – Motion to approve by Council Member Jinks and seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor.

Mayor Cook stated that there were a lot of people in town without a business license, and he encouraged citizens to report anyone that they saw doing business without one.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT-CHIEF HAGY: Month of March there were 560 calls and 4 arrests. There were 7 alarms and assisted 7 motorists who were broken down, and 6 vehicle accidents. Chief Hagy also reported that Officer Rogers came back to work on Friday, April 4th, following sick leave. Officer Rogers thanked everyone for their prayers while he was out. Council Member Jinks wanted to know if the police report could be shortened from 9 pages. Activity sheets will start next month.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – ASST. CHIEF SMITH – PAUL HOLMES: Mr. Holmes stated that March was a busy month. The fire department responded to 21 calls. Mr. Holmes stated that 7 people from FEMA met with them today and advised them how to fill out the FEMA form for the damage from the ice storm. Once the town send them the information they need, FEMA will make sure the forms are correct. Mr. Holmes told citizens that there was an invisible structure in Yemassee, and that it's the electrical substation on Hwy. 68. There are hazardous materials stored there. There are several men in fire training, and Mitch Thames will graduate. There are 7-12 volunteers right now. Council Member Jinks encouraged citizens to contact Mr. Holmes if they see anything that is a hazard. Mayor Cook thanked Mr. Holmes and told him he appreciated what he did for the town.

YEMASSEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT – DANIEL ANDERSON: "See Report"
Council Member Anderson gave the report for Mr. Alsing. Mr. Alsing made a suggestion in his report that the town council set the spring carnival for two weeks earlier, so that it doesn't interfere with the spring baseball practice in Yemassee. The recreation department also needs volunteers for working with the baseball teams. Council agreed to revisit the carnival issue at a later date. Council Member Moore made the motion and it was seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN'S INACTIVE VEHICLES: Mayor Cook stated that the vehicles behind the Town Hall were inactive, and that the town will be taking sealed bids on them. The vehicles will be advertised in the local paper for a 2 or 3 week time period. Council Member Jinks suggested that they advertise as they have in the past, and that a reserve amount will be placed on each vehicle. Motion to move forward with the auction of the inactive vehicles was made by Council Member Jinks and was seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor. Council Member Anderson will talk to Dave Thomas about the auction.

YEMASSEE SHRIMP FESTIVAL – FAYE ALLAN: Ms. Allan reported that \$1889.00 was deposited from the fund raiser that was held, and that there is a balance in the bank of \$2,913.30. There is another fund raiser scheduled for June 20th. Faye thanked Mayor Cook and Council Member Anderson for their help. Meredith Harley sold over \$600.00 in raffle tickets.

DISCUSSION OF BEAUFORT MOTORSPORTS: Beaufort Motorsports has repaired the sidewalk on Railroad Avenue by the church.

DISCUSSION OF YEMASSEE WEBSITE – ALLEN COOK - Mr. Cook will be updating the new website for the Town of Yemassee. He needs to get updated information to add to the site. Right now the website is townofyemassee.org. He stated that at a later date, he would suggest making the official site yemassee.gov. A suggestion was made to put the main ordinances on the website. Mayor Cook said that he thought that was a great idea. There could also be links to other pertinent sites.

DISCUSSION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT: The council will be talking to someone about coming on board at no charge to the town. The council could make a selection at the next council meeting.

DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MEETING: On the 4th Monday of May, the town will be hosting the meeting at 7:00 P.M., in the courtroom. Rep. Bill Bowers will be here, and the town will be feeding about 30-35 people. Council Member Jinks stated that he will prepare the meal.

Council Member Anderson read a letter from Adonis Riley inviting the employees and council of the Town of Yemassee to a free fish fry on April 19th and May 24th from 12:00-3:00 P.M. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 12th at 11:00 A.M. Council Member Anderson asked for donations and volunteers to help with the event. Plastic eggs will be hunted and then traded for real eggs.

Wanda Shastay said that she had spoken to the postal service and they told her that they hadn't had much response from citizens about the new post office, and that they needed more site suggestions. She stated that even the train depot could be recommended again, and if chosen, the money would come to the town. Mayor Cook stated that the train depot was out, and that the post office would not be put there. Mrs. Chisolm stated that the train station would have to be submitted by the town, since the town owns it. She was told that the building needs to be 2000 sq. feet and it needed to be submitted in writing by the owner of the property. Council Member Jinks said that the train station work would have to be completed before it could be submitted for consideration. Douglas Mickens said he wished there was a way to fix up something to keep money in Yemassee. Council Member O'Banner asked what the harm could be to submit it to the post office and let them turn it down. Mayor Cook made the suggestion to table the discussion until he could get more information from the postal service, and then revisit it at a later date.

Motion to go to executive session was made by Council Member Anderson and was seconded by Council Member Moore. All were in favor.

Motion to return to regular session was made by Council Member O'Banner and was seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Jinks and was seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor.
