

Minutes
Town of Yemassee Town Council
Council Chambers, Yemassee Municipal Complex
February 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting; 6:30PM
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945

Attendance:

Present: Colin Moore, Mayor; Peggy O'Banner, Mayor Pro-Tem; Chuckie Simmons, Council Member; Alfred Washington, Council Member; Michelle Hagan, Council Member; Matthew Garnes, Town Clerk; Tom Johnson, Town Attorney; Gregory Alexander, Police Chief; Samuel Watson, Police Officer; Denise Pinckney, Crime Victims Advocate; William Sanford, Clerk of Court and Lonnie Green, Public Works Superintendent.

Absent: None

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track, The Island Packet

Call to Order:

Mayor Moore called the Wednesday, February 12, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation:

Pastor Witter gave the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Determination of Quorum:

Mayor Moore, Council Member O'Banner, Council Member Simmons, Council Member Hagan and Council Member Washington were present.

Consent of the Agenda:

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Council Member O'Banner made the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Second by Council Member Simmons, all in favor. **Motion Passed**

Approval of Minutes:

Council Member O'Banner made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 Town Council Meeting Minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. Council Member Washington made the second, all in favor. **Motion Passed**

Acceptance and Presentation of the Town of Yemassee FY19 Audit by The Brittingham Group.

Bill Hancock with The Brittingham Group thanked the Council for having him return for another year. Mr. Hancock highlighted various portions of the findings of the audit. The audit this year was once again a clean and unmodified. The Town did very well with staying on budget and ended the year with a \$7,000 surplus. There were no discrepancies found within the budget. Mr. Hancock answered a question from Council Member O'Banner regarding the increase in retirement liability. Mr. Hancock informed her that the state has a 1% increase factored in every year for the next three years where they will reevaluate the health of the state pension plan. With no further questions, Mr. Hancock thanked the Mayor & Council once again.

New Business:

Mayor Moore read Ordinance 20-01, Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Yemassee Rates & Fees. Council Member Simmons made the motion to approve first reading. Mayor Moore asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Washington asked if the irrigation permit was required because Lowcountry already charges them. Mayor Moore said the inspection fee is separate for when the Town inspector goes out there to check for backflow. Council Member Washington said he would investigate it to which Mayor Moore advised anything can be changed between first and second reading. Council Member O'Banner asked what type of dock permit this was. Mayor Moore said the Town does have waterfront property along the Pocotaligo River and with Binden Plantation being for sale, there is the potential for up to 20 homesites to be built out there along with docks at each one. This fee is separate from the required application with SC DHEC. Mayor Moore said a home on McPhersonville Road under construction now already had a dock but there are docks in Yemassee down in Sheldon. Second by Council Member O'Banner. **All in favor. Motion Passed**

Mayor Moore read Resolution 2020-01, Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), between the Yemassee Police Department and the Spartanburg County Sheriffs Office. Chief Alexander got up and advised that they can be utilized for any need going forward after this is signed, they may request our help and we can request there's. Chief reported that officers would be going up that way this Spring to participate in a drug interdiction operation and this needs to be in place for them to legally operate. Council Member Hagan made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member O'Banner. **In favor: O'Banner, Washington, Moore & O'Banner. No Response: Simmons. Motion Passed**

Mayor Moore read Resolution 2020-02, Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), between the Town of Yemassee and Beaufort County for the purposes of collecting Impact Fees on new construction within the Beaufort County portion of the Town of Yemassee. Mayor said this applies to new construction only on the Beaufort side and collects money for each new residential, commercial or industrial new building permit application to be utilized by the County in three areas, libraries, parks &

recreation and roads. All money collected from our area will stay north of Whale Branch in what is known as the “Dale/Lobeco/Yemassee service area”. Quarterly, the County will distribute 1.5% of funds collected to the Town for use in various capital projects. The Town Attorney recommended to Council adoption with the addition of “endeavor to collect” on page 6 when talking about the Towns requirement to collect the fees. Council Member O’Banner made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 as presented, with those additions on page six. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Simmons. **All in favor. Motion Passed**

Department Reports:

Police Department- Chief Alexander yielded his time to Officer Denise Pinckney, Crime Victims Advocate. Officer Pinckney introduced herself as the Crime Victims Advocate and told the audience she has been with the Town since September 2018 and working in this field for almost twenty years. She shared a story of a Victim that she interacted with on a call a few weeks ago where a local business owner, Ken Simmons, went above and beyond. Officer Pinckney needed some locks changed on a house of a domestic violence victim. It was a Sunday afternoon, and everyone was closed but I contacted Kenny Simmons, who had done some work for the town. Officer Pinckney said he immediately came out and switched out all three locks for the victim at no charge. Officer Pinckney presented Mr. Kenneth Simmons with a Yemassee Police Department Certificate of Appreciation for going above and beyond. When Officer Pinckney finished, Chief Alexander thanked Zone D for their cleanup the other day on Zahler St and Hunt Street.

Administration (Matthew Garnes)- Mr. Garnes reported that the big news was the launch of the new website. The website which launched on Friday, uses the CivicPlus platform like the County and several other municipalities. The website is very functional and offers users the ability to sign up and unsubscribe from any email list, browse ordinances, view calendars and much more. Dominion Energy installed 87 streetlights throughout Yemassee in the last month and we met with Dominion today to begin phasing out the older lighting in the Municipal Complex parking lot to new, LED lights. They are roughly \$4 cheaper per light and burn a whiter, crisper, white light. The lights at the Basketball Court, Train Station, and Police Substation will all be replaced with the LED lights. Mr. Garnes presented the new town-owned trash cans which are being distributed around Town. Mr. Garnes said the new cans are larger, sturdier and should have a longer shelf life. They are being phased out street by street beginning in Zone A. Residents will be contacted for when to leave their current S&S blue can at the road to receive their new town owned can. Mayor Moore wanted to thank Mr. Garnes and his wife Carissa for the work they did and continue to do on labeling the trash cans with vinyl. Mayor Moore says this saves the Town money and often Matt brings a can home to work on at night. The Council thanked Mr. Garnes and his wife Carissa for their work.

Public Works (Lonnie Green)- Mr. Green said the new tractor is in service and doing its job. The next project will be the remodeling of the Yemassee Community Center and paving of the parking lot there. New trash cans are going out and reiterated to the public that any feedback they have is welcomed and wanted to thank those who notice the work they are doing.

Municipal Court- Clerk of Court Mr. Sanford reported that they are chugging along in Court.

Committee Reports:

Train Station Restoration Committee- Mr. Henson gave report for the Train Station as he is the contractor working there. The last room (former rail masters office), is currently being worked on. Drywall has been hung and it will be painted in the coming days. If you haven't been down to the Train Station lately pay it a visit, it looks great.

Public Comment:

James Fennell (PO Box 207, Yemassee) – Mr. Fennell asked for clarification of item C on the agenda. Mayor Moore asked Chief to briefly summarize it who told Mr. Fennell it's a Law Enforcement Mutual-Aid Agreement that allows them to work together or request each other's services for major incidents, disasters, Hurricanes and more. Mr. Fennell understood and thanked the Chief for his explanation.

After Public Comment, Mayor Moore informed Council that we need to do something with our ranking of CDBG needs from last meeting and asked if the Council was fine with keeping them the same this year as they were last year. Council Member O'Banner asked what they were and the Mayor informed her they included water/sewer, streetscapes and sidewalks. The Council was fine with leaving the needs as they were. The Council asked the Town Clerk to enter that into the minutes of the meeting.

Adjournment:

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Council Member Hagan made the motion to adjourn. Second by Council Member Washington. Meeting adjourned at 7:28PM. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**