

Council Meeting
January 11, 2000
7:00 PM

Present Mayor Goodwin, Councilmember O'Banner, Moore, Jinks, and Cook. Mayor Goodwin called meeting to order. Motion to accept minutes as printed by councilmember O'Banner second by Moore.

Doris Bowers---- Representative U.S. Census Bureau for Hampton County. She said in 1990 only 49% of the people did census in Hampton County. She spoke about the importance of taking census count. She explained that last year there was \$1 billion dollars in federal fund is allotted for Education, Elders, Boys and Girls Club, Roads, and so many other things that are based on the census count. She said that because of such low count Hampton County missed out on a lot of federal funding that could have helped in the repair of the schools and the streets. "The federal government also uses the numbers they get in the event a disaster happen," Bowers said.

When Hurricane Andrew hit Florida, it wiped out whole neighborhoods. The federal government called and got the numbers from their census report to know how much supplies and food was needed to send to those who were hit worst by the hurricane.

Bowers said her job is to recruit workers for Hampton County to help with the census. The census forms should be mailed out March 13th. Sometime this week or early next week they will be making calls to people who had applied for the job. These jobs are part-time and full-time. What we need right away is for people to go around to past out the forms. If forms are not delivered by the post office they have to be hand delivered, which is a lot of work in Hampton County, We need people from each community to go out and count because nobody knows that area better than the people who live in it. We need to find workers within the county, within the towns, Its 20-40 hours per week, pays \$8.75 per hour plus mileage. We need 18 years of age and up who can drive a car. You have to take a test to be able to work, 30 minutes test with 28 questions, multiple choice. First training in January.

What she needs from us is she needs to know whom to contact where can she go to speak, how to let people in our town know about census and what we need. She said she would work with the town about setting up a testing site for Yemassee. Currently the testing site is set up at Lowcountry

Technical College in Hampton, Hampton County Library, Hampton County Job Service, and Estill Elementary School. If anyone is interested in the job taking census, contact the Town Hall for information. Mrs. Bower's home # 803-625-3493 Office # 843-522-1544. Mayor Goodwin advised Mrs. Bowers that we are going to help her.

Police Dept.—Chief Jack Hagy said this month total of 182 calls. Count is high because of Christmas and New Year's traffic. 50 calls were disable vehicles, 12-15 accidents. For the year total of 1550 calls.

Chief Hagy updated council on the status of the abandoned vehicles in town. Back in July 1999 we sent out letters to 30 people who had abandoned vehicles in town and gave them 90 days to bring the situation up to town's ordinance compliance of the 30 letters sent out, only 12 have complied with the ordinance and have done something with the abandoned vehicles. The other 18 have not. With the letters, we sent out a list of different agency and businesses that would take these vehicles and junk it. Councilmember Cook said, "I think that if 12 have complied, it wouldn't be fair to them to allow the other 18 to get away with no punishment. Mayor Goodwin said their initial 90 days have days have passed since receiving the letters and another 90 days has passed is enough time to get in compliance. Mayor Goodwin told chief Hagy to do whatever it took to get those people to comply with the ordinance.

Fire Dept—Chief Lane said December was a busy month. We had 19 calls, 7 in town the rest out of town. 2 structure fire both in Early Branch, one really good response the other was not to good. Chief Lane reported he and his staff are having problems with their radio frequency when being called out. The problems with the radio have resulted in slow response time from the fire department recently. Chief Lane said he would talk to county fire chief Gene Rushing at the next fire chief meeting about finding a solution to the problem so their response time is faster. Some of the calls some of the guy's pager did not go off. Mayor Goodwin advised Chief Lane that he would also give the county a call about correcting the problem. Chief Lane said he thinks that it is because they are so far away from the tower, which is located in Hampton, they are getting a bad frequency. Our pagers are going off on the second call out for first respondents, instead of on the first call from dispatch. It works fine in our trucks, but it is our hand-held scanners and our pagers when outside of the trucks that we are having problems with.

Firefighter is having their annual banquet at Community Center Saturday night. All councilmembers and their spouse are invited. We will be naming firefighter of the year.

We were donated a piece of property by Christina Demosthenes, property is located by the old bank building. She would like to claim the land off her taxes. Mayor Goodwin said he spoke with town attorney Clyde Eltzroth about the request. Atty. Eltzroth said for them to get an appraisal amount of the land from her attorney. The property was appraisal at 16,500. Motion to accept by councilmember Cook, second by councilmember O'Banner.

The town purchased computer equipment from Midge Tuten, 2 monitors, and 1 printer for \$135.00. Motion to accept by councilmember Jinks, second by councilmember O'Banner.

Michele Knight from LOCG met with Mayor Goodwin and councilmember O'Banner before the meeting about recreation (basketball court). Councilmember O'Banner said the town needs a 501C application, this form consist of 37 pages long. Mayor Goodwin said we maybe could go through LOCG instead of this long process, which will take forever. Michele Knight said she think that we may be able to go through LOCG. Councilmember O'Banner contacted Charles Artist in Orangeburg and his office needs this 501C in order for us to apply for 890-program grant. Michele Knight at LOCG will contact him and process all the paperwork for us if she can use LOCG paperwork, she will do everything necessary for us to start the grant. She will call us back tomorrow to let us know whether it is yes or no.

S. Yisrael wanted to know status of the gentlemen who come to town to open a mobile home park. Mayor Goodwin told him we had two people to contact us about mobile home park, which one is he referring to. He said he was referring to the one who spoke at Shrimp Festival a year ago. Mayor Goodwin said we have not heard from him in a long, long time but we are hearing from another gentlemen. We are not allowed to announce his plan, but keep your ear open you will hear something very quickly on that.

He wanted to know status on the trial that is requested to be appeal by Hampton County. Mayor Goodwin said he do not know he need to contact prosecutor Rame Campbell. He complained that at the last council meeting Alfred Washington call him all kind of names. He requested Chief Hagy to write incident report but he did nothing about it. He said he called 911,

Officer Lee came and would not write a report. Mayor Goodwin advised him to call or come to the town hall next week. Judge Nix and him will meet and go through everything he needs to talk about.

Motion to executive session by councilmember Jinks, second by councilmember O'Banner.

Motion to regular session by councilmember Moore, second by Jinks.

Councilmembers went into closed session to discuss personnel matter which no action was taken on and a contractual matter with Randy Johnson, Wastewater site consultant regarding a wastewater customer.

Motion to send written agreement to wastework customer after town attorney look over it.

Motion by councilmember Jinks, second by councilmember Moore.

Meeting adjourned