

Town of Yemassee Council Meeting
January 14, 2014
7:00 P.M.

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

INVOCATION: Invocation was given by Peggy O'Banner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

ACTION ON MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 10, 2013: Motion to accept minutes, as written, by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Mayor Cook and Entire Town Government were present except for Council Member Moore. Each council member stated their name.

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

VOTE ON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TIME – Motion to set the Yemassee Town Council Meeting time to 6:30 P.M. made by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member O'Banner. All were in favor.

BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT: Report given by Doug Mixson. There were no permits issued in December. Luck Duck Distillery had their final inspection, and are ready to open as soon as everything is complete. Mr. Mixson then gave the yearly report for 2013.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT-CHIEF HAGY: Month of December there were 335 calls and 9 arrests. There was one Kidnapping on Hwy. 17 where a husband duct-taped his wife and assaulted her. He was also charged with CDV High and Aggravated. The wife and children were taken to a shelter for their safety. There was also one Burglary, one Possession of Cocaine, five Simple Possession of Marijuana, two DUS, one Shoplifting, one Trespassing, and one False Information to Police. There was no jail fee for this month.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT-CHIEF WASHINGTON: Month of December, Chief Washington was not present, due to a class being taken at the Air Station in Beaufort. Mr. Paul Holmes reported that Yemassee has five new firemen that are enrolled in class in Estill. There have also been 2 or 3 applications received for the fire department.

YEMASSEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT – BUTCH ALSING: No new updates to report.

DISCUSSION OF DELTA ISLAND PROPERTY: .710 acres in Beaufort near Saint Helena Island. The value of the land is appraised at around \$1,300.00 now, but the council will try to get an updated value that is more current than the one on hand. The town is looking into selling it since there is no use for this property. Motion made by Council Member Jinks to go forward with trying to get the true value of the property, Council Member Anderson seconded. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CENTER – Currently the Community Center is rented for a rate of \$85.00, if you clean; or \$120.00 if the town cleans. Mayor Cook recommended that the new rate be raised to \$100.00 if you clean; or \$150.00 if the town cleans. Motion to raise the rental fee was made by Council Member Anderson and was seconded by O'Banner. All were in favor.

TRAIN DEPOT UPDATE – ALTON SEARSON: The contractor will start on paving the parking lot, no later than the second week in January. Mike Padgett and Deep Bottom Construction Company out of Ruffin won the bid to do the work. Mr. Searson also stated that the council needs to decide on a name for the street that runs from Hwy. 68 to Salkehatchie Road, which is beside the Choo-Choo Mini Mart. Mr. Searson recommended Depot Drive to keep anyone from getting hurt feelings.

DISCUSSION OF LEASH LAW ORDINANCE: Mayor Cook stated that he was getting a lot of complaints about stray dogs. He wants the citizens to understand that when these dogs are caught, and are taken to the pound, we have to pay for feeding and caring for them. Mayor Cook encouraged the citizens to make sure that they keep their animals at home and take care of them. Also, if your animal is missing, contact the town hall immediately, because we only hold them for 10 days, and then they are taken to another shelter. The town only has one dog trap, but we are working on getting more. Council Member Anderson stated that one of the main reason that for this is to try and control the pet population.

DISCUSSION OF NOISE ORDINANCE: Mayor Cook stated that this ordinance has been on the books for a long time, but that he is receiving phone calls about loud music, especially at night when people are trying to sleep. The fine for this is \$500.00, which is a very expensive ticket. The church bell will be an exception to this ordinance. If you can't turn down your radio, then you better get out of town. Council Member Jinks asked if there would be special consideration during the Shrimp Festival, Mayor Cook stated that this would be discussed closer to the festival.

DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP: There will be a community clean-up tentatively scheduled for January 25th. The clean-up will begin at 9:00 A.M. and last until 3:00 or 4:00 P.M. Anyone willing to volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT – PAUL HOLMES: This discussion was focused on safety in the fire department. Mr. Holmes stated that there are some young people coming onto the fire department, and that safety should be the first priority. If safety is not first, then bad things can happen. He stated that there needs to be more safety training for all emergency responders. Mayor Cook stated that all of these responders should be commended for their service. Motion to make Mr. Paul Holmes the Chief Safety Officer of the Yemassee Fire Department made by Council Member Anderson and was seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.

Mayor Cook then opened up the floor to the citizens for any comments or suggestions that they may have:

One citizen expressed a concern about the water rates and tax base for Yemassee.

Mrs. Margaret Searson stated that Janet Moore passed away last week, and that she had given the park in memory of her husband. She also wanted to thank everyone who worked with the town Christmas Program.

Jimmy Glass had a concern about motorcycles that race up and down the road, and wanted to know what or if something was going to be done about it.

Goodwin Dr. sign has been down for about 2 years.

50 Cameron Dr. needs a garbage can and also the Burn Ordinance needs to be enforced in that area.

Center Point Dr. has a big pot hole in the road.

Spaghetti dinner raised approximately \$387.00 as a start up for the Shrimp Festival committee.

Council Member Jinks read a letter regarding the YSF volunteers meeting on January 26, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. At that time, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer will be appointed. All citizens were invited to attend if they were interested in volunteering.

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