

Minutes
Town of Yemassee Town Council
July 11, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting 6:30PM
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945-3363

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Colin Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy Bing-O'Banner, Council Member David Paul Murray, Council Member Washington, Council Member Stacy Pinckney, Town Administrator Matthew Garnes and Police Chief Gregory Alexander.

Absent:

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track, Ltd.

Call to Order:

Mayor Moore called the Tuesday July 11, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Council Member Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Determination of Quorum:

The full Council was present.

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented for July 11, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed, Agenda Adopted.**

Mayor Moore asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the June 13, 2023, Town Council meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Council Member Murray. **All in favor, Motion Passed**

Mayor Moore asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the July 6, 2023, Special Town Council meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections. Council Member Washington made the motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed**

Public Comment:

Belinda Jackson (17 Small St) – Ms. Jackson expressed concern about the signage for an abandoned business at the end of Smalls St near Yemassee Hwy and stated it was a safety risk. She also commented about abandoned cars throughout town.

Old Business:

Ordinance 23-18 - Text Amendment in Zoning Ordinance on Campground / RV Park Requirements: Mayor Moore read the Ordinance and had Mr. Garnes provide some background information. The Ordinance amends some requirements for campgrounds and RV parks including changing the density from 20 acres to 3 acres and density for different camp sites. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval to forward to Town Council. Mayor Moore opened a Public Hearing:

- Stephen Henson (17 Mixon St) – Agrees with the proposed text amendment and thinks this is putting the Town in the right direction.

With no further comment, Mayor Moore closed the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to approve the second reading. Second by Council Member Murray. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Ordinance 23-20 – Ordinance Repealing the Existing Development Standards Ordinance and Replacing it with the Codified Ordinances: Mayor Moore reviewed the Ordinance and asked Mr. Garnes to provide background. Mr. Garnes is seeking to propose repealing the existing Development Standards Ordinance (DSO) as a standalone manual and incorporate it into the newly codified Code of Ordinances. Staff believe this would help individuals navigate the zoning requirements by consolidating regulations into one source. Mayor Moore then opened a Public Hearing:

- Stephen Henson (17 Mixon St) – Mr. Henson stated that the Municode platform is fantastic and user friendly. By adding the Development Standards Ordinance into Municode and our code it will make everything more accessible to the public.

With no further comment, Mayor Moore closed the public hearing. Council Member Pinckney made the motion to approve the second and final reading. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

New Business:

Proclamation Honoring the Service of Mr. Tom Risse for his years of service on the Yemassee Municipal Election Commission (MEC): Mayor Moore read a Proclamation thanking Mr. Risse for his years of service on the Towns Municipal Election Commission.

Ordinance 23-22 - Consideration of an Ordinance Approving Annexation of One Parcel of Land of Approximately 0.21 Acres of land located at 2 Ponderosa Cir and identified by Hampton County TMS: 203-00-00-047: Mayor Moore read Ordinance 23-22 and asked the Town Administrator to provide an update. Mr. Garnes advised the parcel contains a single-family dwelling located on Ponderosa Circle, a private road just off Poston Drive within Ponderosa Subdivision. The property is contiguous to the current Town boundary by the adjoining property at 27 Poston Drive, which was annexed in 2017. The current zoning designation under the Hampton County Zoning Ordinance is General Development and the requested Zoning designation with the Town of Yemassee is Residential ½ Acre (R2A). Council Member Murray made the motion to approve the first reading. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed**

Ordinance 23-23 - Consideration of an Ordinance Approving Annexation of One Parcel of Land of Approximately 0.48 Acres of land located at 4 Ponderosa Cir and identified by Hampton County TMS: 203-00-00-002: Mayor Moore read Ordinance 23-23 and asked the Town Administrator to provide an update. Mr. Garnes advised this annexation petition was received last year and the request was put on hold as the parcel was not contiguous to the current Town boundary. When Staff received an annexation petition for 2 Ponderosa Cir, an adjacent property, this parcel is now contiguous. The parcel contains a single-family dwelling located on Ponderosa Circle, a private road just off Poston Drive within Ponderosa Subdivision. The current zoning designation under the Hampton County Zoning Ordinance is General Development and the requested Zoning designation with the Town of Yemassee is Residential ½ Acre (R2A). Council Member Washington made the motion to approve the first reading. Second by Council Member Murray. **All in favor, Motion Passed**

Department Reports

Police Department – Chief Alexander introduced a new Officer, Shavonna Bennett. He also advised that Cpl. Richard Pope has been tasked with code enforcement. The police department launched the “Care Program”, a program aimed to check on homebound individuals every day and individuals may sign up or be referred to the program by visiting the town website. Also, residents may now request an Extra Patrol of their property by visiting the Town website.

Administration – The Town was awarded a Good Neighbor Fund project from Beaufort County for the River Road Sewer Project totaling \$234,000, with no local match.

Public Works – None

Municipal Court – None

Recreation – Council Member Pinckney spoke as liaison to the Recreation Committee. Art camp is next week, and we are continuing the Friday Night Kickball events which have been a huge hit. Council Member Pinckney thanked the public for their support and reminded everyone about Bingo on Wednesday.

Executive Session

Mayor Moore advised that the Council needed to enter an Executive Session for Personnel Matters within the Public Works Department and to discuss an Economic Development matter. Motion by Council Member Pinckney to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Murray. All in favor, Executive Session entered at 7:10PM.

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Pinckney. All in favor. Regular Session resumed at 7:50PM. Mayor Moore advised no action was taken and discussion only occurred.

Adjournment

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to adjourn. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Meeting Adjourned at 7:56PM.**