

**Minutes**  
**Town of Yemassee Town Council**  
**July 12, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting 6:30 PM**  
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945-3363

**Attendance:**

Present: Mayor Colin Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy O'Banner and Council Member Alfred Washington, Council Member Stacy Pinckney, Council Member David Paul Murray, Town Clerk Matthew Garnes, Chief Gregory Alexander, Police Captain Joe Loadholt, Human Resources Director Caroline Koger and Town Attorney Tom Johnson

Absent: None

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track, Ltd.

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**Call to Order:**

Mayor Moore called the Tuesday July 12, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation**

Council Member Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

**Determination of Quorum:**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented for July 12, 2022, Regular Town Council Meeting as presented. Council Member Murray made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed, Agenda Adopted.**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the June 14, 2022, Town Council Meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the July 1, 2022, Budget Workshop minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the July 1, 2022, Special Town Council Minutes as presented. Council Member Pinckney made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

### **Presentations:**

Ms. Ashley Kellahan, Field Services Representative from the Municipal Association of South Carolina introduced herself to the Council as the town's representative. She informed the Council about various technical assistance programs that are available from the association and training opportunities.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Moore read a proclamation regarding National Night Out 2022. Council Member Murray made a motion to adopt. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read Resolution 22-08, a Resolution to Appoint Two new members to the Section 504 Committee. Mr. Garnes reported that this is the ADA accessibility committee that is required to remain eligible for grant funding and the two new members would be Robert Steif, landowner at 4 Trask Pkwy and Brenetta Solomon, resident on Riley St. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to adopt the resolution. Second by Council Member Murray. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read Resolution 22-09, Adopting a new Employee handbook. Ms. Koger reviewed the proposed modifications which are in line with other towns. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner requested additional time to review the proposed changes and made a motion to table the resolution until the August Town Council meeting. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read Ordinance 22-12, An Ordinance Amending the Town of Yemassee FY22 Budget. Mr. Garnes explained that revenue shortfalls occurred, specifically for two grants that we anticipated receiving funds for this year but due to factors outside of the towns control, it did not occur during the budget year. Some income items were amended as additional revenue was generated that exceeded projections. Council Member Pinckney made the motion to approve first reading. Second by Council Member Murray. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

### **Department Reports:**

Police Department – Chief Alexander announced that National Night Out will be August 2 from 6-8PM at the Town Hall. Police Officers, Fire and other community organizations will be on hand. There will be backpacks loaded with school supplies for giveaways. Chief mentioned Zone A & B held a joint meeting and Zone D continues to meet monthly.

Administration – Mr. Garnes provided updates on the active grant projects. The PARD grant for the Willis Street Basketball Court was officially closed out last week. Staff from

SC PRT came down and conducted a walkthrough of the site. Mr. Garnes provided an overview of the project for anyone not familiar; the grant award was for \$25,000 plus a local match of \$6,250. The project included resurfacing of the basketball court, restroom renovations, security camera installation and the addition of a paved parking lot with sidewalk to the court and restrooms.

The Yemassee Clearance Project, also known as the Demolition Project, is still in the environmental stage. Terracon is expected on site this week to conduct asbestos testing on two more houses and upon completion of that, LCOG will be able to solicit bids for a demolition contractor.

The Water/Sewer Project has been slow due to difficulties in securing a commercial appraiser. The project requires obtaining easements from property owners, both residential and commercial, and an appraiser is needed to value the specific easements. Once an appraiser can be found and the properties appraised, work can continue.

Over the last month, the following permits were issued:

- New Commercial Building Permit (1)
- New Residential Accessory Dwelling Permit (1)
- Commercial Electrical Permit (1)
- Exempt Plat Application (3)
- E-911 Addressing Application (1)
- Mobile Home Placement Permit (1)

Public Works – No Report

Municipal Court – No Report.

### **Public Comment**

Ben Fennell (386 Tuliffiny Rd) – Mr. Fennell commented about ongoing safety concerns at the Maltese Arms Shooting Range on Pocotaligo Road. Mr. Fennell implored the Council to take action to close the establishment and remarked that its ironic the town is having a National Night Out against crime when there is this issue in our backyard.

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner stated that each month they will cover a portion of the elected officials handbook for ten minutes.

### **Executive Session:**

Mayor Moore requested a motion to enter executive session. Council Member Washington made the motion. Second by Council Member Murray. **All in favor.**  
**Executive Session entered at 7:09PM.**

Mayor Moore requested a motion to conclude executive session. Council Member Washington made the motion. Second by Council Member Pinckney. **All in favor. Executive session ended at 7:39PM.**

#### **Action from Executive Session**

Council Member Pinckney made a motion to appoint Loretta Beckett as Associate Judge. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

Council Member Murray made a motion to execute a lease on the Yemassee Depot to Paula Flowers and Sharon Mansell. Second by Council Member Washington. **All in favor, Motion Passed.**

#### **Adjournment**

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Council Member Pinckney made the motion to adjourn. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner. All in favor, **Meeting Adjourned at 7:42PM.**