

Minutes
Town of Yemassee Town Council
July 13, Town Council Meeting; 6:30PM
101 Town Cir, Yemassee, SC 29945

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Colin Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem Peggy O'Banner, Councilmember Alfred Washington, Councilmember Charlie Simmons, Town Clerk Matthew Garnes, Police Chief Gregory Alexander and Police Captain Joe Loadholt

Absent: Councilmember Michelle Hagan

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track Ltd.

Call to Order:

Mayor Moore called the Tuesday July 13, 2021, Town Council Meeting to order at 6:36PM.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation:

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner gave the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent of the Agenda:

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

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the June 8, 2021, Town Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Council Member O'Banner made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Simmons, all in favor. **Motion Passed**

Old Business:

Mayor Moore read proposed Ordinance 21-15, Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Yemassee Schedule of Rates & Fees. This is the second reading of the Fee Schedule Ordinance and included updates requested by Town Council at the June meeting. Mr. Garnes explained that Staff desired to add application fees for the submission of a Development Plan, PUD Master Plan, PUD Concept Plan and Sign Permits. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to approve second and final reading on the schedule of rates & fees. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Motion Passed**.

New Business

Mayor Moore introduced Resolution 21-21, Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Yemassee and the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice for the detention of juveniles during Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Mr. Garnes informed the Town Council that this a standard annual renewal with DJJ. In the event an officer must detain a juvenile offender they are not able to be housed in a county jail, but rather a local STEP location or DJJ Columbia. State law sets the daily per diem at \$50.00 a day for any juvenile housed and the Town would not be responsible for paying if the service is not utilized. Mr. Garnes added that this past year, they have not needed to utilize DJJ at all, but this can change anytime which is why the agreement is required. If the Police do detain a juvenile offender, the Yemassee Police Department is responsible for transporting the juvenile to DJJ Columbia. Staff requested Town Council adopt the Resolution and issue an open purchase order to SC DJJ in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the period covering July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to adopt Resolution 21-21, Authorizing the Execution of the MOA and issuance of an open purchase order in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore introduced Resolution 21-22, Consideration of a Resolution Recognizing the Accomplishments of Hala Fattouh on Qualifying to compete at the Summer Tokyo Olympic Games. Mayor Moore informed the Council that we have an Olympic Athlete that resides in the Town of Yemassee, Ms. Hala Fattouh. She is unable to be here tonight to accept the Resolution as she is quarantining for fourteen days prior to her departure to Japan. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to Adopt Resolution 21-22. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Simmons. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner asked that we give a round of applause for Hala's accomplishments. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore introduced Ordinance 21-16, Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Yemassee FY21 Budget to Recognize Additional Expenditures and to Allocate Sources of Revenue for all Funds. Mr. Garnes advised that since the Town received grant funding this year for multiple grants with local matches being paid out on most, some income shortfalls on some lines as well as having two officers out on workers compensation for several months the budget needs to be amended to balance. The original FY21 budget was adopted in August 2020 in the amount of \$1,601,836.60. The amended General Fund Budget totals \$1,671,800.59. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to approve first reading on Ordinance 21-16 as presented. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Simmons. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore introduced Ordinance 21-17, Consideration of an Ordinance Approving Annexation of Approximately 266.31 Acres of Land, located on Bailey Road, and further

identified as Beaufort County TMS: R700 020 000 0059 0000 and R700 020 000 0101 0000, to be effective contingent upon approval of the State of South Carolina Department of Administration/State Fiscal Accountability Authority. Mayor Moore asked Mr. Garnes to provide some background information on this annexation. Mr. Garnes advised this annexation is two parcels that are owned by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Contiguity is established to the west by Tomotley Plantation which was annexed by Ordinance 21-05 in February 2021. The first parcel that establishes the contiguity starts on Bailey Road near the fishing area and 240 acres of the first parcel includes the Huspah Creek watershed. The first parcel ends at US-17 just before Bull Point Plantation. The second parcel is on the opposite side of US-17 (Trask Pkwy) and is adjacent to Bull Point on the southern portion of the Huspah Creek. The parcel is state owned and accordingly there can not be any tax or fees levied on the property indefinitely. Town Staff recommend a zoning designation of Conservation Preservation District. Town Staff plan on working with regional, county, and local stakeholders to ensure this critical natural resource remains undisturbed for years to come. Council Member Simmons made the motion to approve first reading on Annexation Ordinance 21-17. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Department Reports

- Police Department – Chief Alexander presented the report for the Police Department. It was a busy month with a lot of activity. Chief Alexander wished to commend officers that responded to a suicide attempt, preventing a tragedy. There were three fatality auto-accidents on Interstate 95 this past month. Two occurred at mile-marker 37 northbound and the third occurred at mile-marker 39 northbound near the turnaround. Chief reported that his patrol vehicle was struck by a vehicle last month which totaled the SUV. Chief Alexander expressed serious concerns regarding the emergency response that came out to his collision. Chief said that Hampton County Fire/Rescue was not adequately prepared to handle the emergency and the hurst tools (jaws of life) that were on the truck that responded out of Cummings was not working. Colleton County Fire Rescue responded shortly thereafter and extricated the entrapped victim. Chief asked for residents to join him at the Hampton County Council Meeting on the 19th when he plans on expressing the concerns and failure of the Hampton County Fire Department. Finally, officers located a missing endangered person earlier today that was missing since the 10th. The subject was an Active-Duty Marine and after a few days of looking, utilizing air assistance from SLED's helicopter, the subject was found unharmed. Also last month, Yemassee Police responded mutual aid to the Town of Hampton for a jailbreak at the County Detention Center. Officer Cody Altman responded and ultimately apprehended the suspect within the drop ceiling above the jail.
- Administration – The LED lighting project from Dominion is complete. It has been a busy month with permitting and event rentals as people are starting to get back to normal.

- Public Works – No report
- Municipal Court – No Report

Public Comment:

- 1.) Bobby Williams, Pine St – Mr. Williams expressed disdain over an incident that occurred this past month next door at Yemassee Baptist Church. The Police Department issued a citation to Wiggins Concrete Co for operating within the Town Limits without a business license. The gentleman that was cited went back to his employer, and his employer procured the license, and the ticket was dropped. Mr. Williams stated it is a poor use of resources when there are drug issues.
- 2.) Stephen Henson, Mixson St – Mr. Henson commented on the traffic safety issue that is occurring at the caution light at US Highway 17 A and Salkehatchie Road every time the Interstate gets congested for an accident. Mr. Henson asked about the feasibility of a traffic study being done and potentially installing a full traffic signal that would let traffic flow freely on US Highway 17A until a vehicle approached the light on Salkehatchie Rd. Chief Alexander remarked that he has contacted Jerry Gosnell with SCDOT, and a traffic study has been ordered.

Citizen Appearance:

Ms. Garey Gibbs, the Zone D commander who lives on Salkehatchie Rd asked questions regarding Hampton County Fire Department, the caution light, and the ongoing littering problem.

Executive Session:

Mayor Moore advised the Town Council needed to enter executive session for the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim. (Pursuant to SC Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70[a][2]) Topics include Hampton County Central Dispatch Services, Animal Control Services within the Town of Yemassee and the contract with the Hampton County Fire Department. Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to enter executive session. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Motion Passed. Entered Executive Session at 7:27PM**

Mayor Pro-Tem O'Banner made the motion to leave executive session at 8:06PM. Second by Council Member Simmons. All in favor, Motion Passed. Mayor Moore advised that there was discussion only and no action was taken.

Adjournment

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Council Member Washington made the motion to adjourn. Second by Council Member Simmons. All in favor, **Meeting Adjourned at 8:06PM.**