

**Town of Yemassee Council Meeting  
March 11, 2014  
6:30 P.M.**

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

**INVOCATION:** Invocation was given by Council Member O'Banner.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

**ACTION ON MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2014:** Motion to accept minutes, as written, by Council Member O'Banner and seconded by Council Member Anderson. All were in favor.

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Mayor Cook and Entire Town Government were present.

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

**DISCUSSION OF THE YEMASSEE POST OFFICE:** Rick Hancock of the U.S. Postal service was present. His job is to help facilitate new post offices. There is a process involved in getting a new post office, and there needs citizens need to have patience. The first step is for him to come to town as the point of contact. The second step is a comment period, where the need is discussed and the project is initiated. At that point, they must wait 15 days before the next step. A letter is sent out after the 15 days, to say the postal service is moving forward with the project. After the letter goes out, there is a 30 day waiting period before the next action is taken. This process has to be followed. This gives the community a chance to reach out to Mr. Hancock if there are questions or information for him. Once they have looked at sites, and compiled a list, the information will be mailed to the Mayor and posted at the town hall. That will give citizens a chance to comment. The postal service looks at how economical stand point, and they pay fair market value for the site. Once the postal service selects a site, they will send another letter to the Mayor, which will be posted at the town hall. That will give citizens another 30 days for any comments or questions for Mr. Hancock. His goal is to expedite everything as quickly as possible. He stated that it usually takes about a year to get everything done. Mr. Hancock's goal is to have a new post office up and running before Christmas. He will give all interested citizens his email address, so that they can contact him. There were several questions from concerned citizens, and Mr. Hancock stated that there is nothing that he, nor the postal service can do about what happened in the past. All they can do is go forward. Council Member Anderson asked why the citizens have to pay box rent, when they have no post office box right now. Mr. Hancock said he will look in to that. Mayor Cook thanked Mr. Hancock, and stated that if the town has to wait until December, at least it will have a post office.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT – DOUG MIXSON:** Report given by Mayor Cook. There was one permit issued to Yemassee Heights. Total fees collected for the month was \$325.00.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT-CHIEF HAGY:** Month of February there were 562 calls and 5 arrests. There was a jail bill of \$50.00. The Police Department also purchased a new Ford F-150 and utility trailer through the drug fund money. Mayor Cook stated that the town also has a wish list for some other equipment that is needed. Council Member Jinks stated that if the town is able to get the equipment, the town needs to secure it and make sure nothing happens to it.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – ASST. CHIEF SMITH – PAUL HOLMES:** Mr. Holmes stated that it was a busy month. There were 43 calls and 33 were fire related, including a major fire on I-95. Four (4) young firefighters just completed the fire course.

**YEMASSEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT – BUTCH ALSING:** "See Report" Got parents and children involved in Family Fun and Fit Day at Fennell Elementary. This program is used to

help battle obesity in our youth. Subway provided gift cards for door prizes, and Mrs. Ethel Denmark provided health pamphlets. Parents and teachers volunteered to help out during the event, and Mr. White did stickers and certificates for the participants. Basketball is finishing up the season, and t-ball, softball, and baseball are now coming up. Mr. Alsing also asked for three sponsors for the teams.

**YEMASSEE SHRIMP FESTIVAL – FAYE ALLAN:** Ms. Allan reported that they held another meeting on March 10, 2014. She received a letter from the Watermelon Festival regarding advertising in their brochure. The committee decided to go forward with the color ad in the amount of \$150.00. The theme for the 2014 is “Coming Together in Harmony”. The new mud pit will be operational soon, and the website is being redone. Faye is also checking with DHEC to see what kinds of permits are needed for the festival. She has also mailed out donations and parade applications. The Tams will be paying for the street dance. The beauty pageant has been scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> at Fennell Elementary. There is a balance of \$1,814.80 in the bank.

**DISCUSSION OF THE HAMPTON COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL:** There are two members from the Yemassee Town Council needed to go on the board. A motion was made to nominate Council Member Anderson and Council Member Jinks to go on this board by Council Member Moore and was seconded by Council Member O’Banner. All were in favor.

**DISCUSSION OF YEMASSEE WEBSITE -** Faye Allan stated that a gentleman that works with her on another site, has agreed to update and give the town access to the site to do any updates. The cost will be \$477.14 and a monthly fee of \$12.14. Motion to approve the update to the Yemassee website made by Council Member Jinks and was seconded by Council Member Anderson. All are in favor.

**DISCUSSION OF FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION:** The month of April 2014 is to be adopted as Fair Housing month, and is adopted on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014. Mayor Jerry Cook is the contact person for Fair Housing, and Council Member Moore will be the alternate contact person. Motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution was made by Council Member Moore and was seconded by Council Member O’Banner. All were in favor.

**DISCUSSION OF TRAIN STATION DEPOT – Alton Searson:** Mr. Searson stated that the train station needs a waiting room with restrooms, so that the town can get rid of the porta-johns. It would take about \$12,000.00 to \$14,000.00 for this. Hospitality tax money could be used for this. The Mayor also stated that with the council’s blessing, he could get a loan for this amount, and get the work done. The paving of the parking lot projected date is April 5, 2014. Mayor Cook would like Ted from Frontier to be at the next meeting.

Mayor Cook stated that he also wanted to get a new, lighted sign for the Yemassee Town Hall. The bricks and labor for it have already been donated.

Mrs. Betty Herndon also suggested that the council chambers needed a sound system so that the citizens could better hear what is being said.

Motion to approve pursuing hospitality taxes for the waiting room was made by Council Member Jinks and was seconded by Council Member Moore. All were in favor.

**DISCUSSION OF CDBG GRANT:** Needs Assessment meeting for the grant will be held on March 24, 2014 at 6:00. All citizens need to come out and voice their opinion of what the town needs. The meeting will be held by Lowcountry Council of Governments.

Mayor Cook then opened up the floor for questions for concerns. Several comments were made by citizens.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Anderson and seconded by Council Member Jinks. All were in favor.