

Minutes
Town of Yemassee Town Council
May 11, 2021, 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, Town Attorney Tom Johnson and Police Chief Gregory Alexander.

Absent: Councilmember Michelle Hagan

Media Present: Lowcountry Inside Track Ltd.

Call to Order:

Mayor Moore called the Tuesday May 11, 2021 Town Council Meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation:

Council Member 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 Council Member Washington, all in favor. **Motion Passed**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve the April 13, 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**

Proclamations & Hearings:

Mayor Moore read a Proclamation designating the week of May 22 – 28, 2021 as National Safe Boating Week within the Town of Yemassee.

Old Business:

Mayor Moore read proposed Ordinance 21-11, Consideration of an Ordinance Approving Annexation of One Parcel of land, totaling 0.88 Acres located on Thomas Street, Hampton County TMS: 198-00-00-068. The applicant is Willie Williams, and the

property is currently undeveloped. The parcel is currently zoned General Development by the Hampton County Zoning Code. The proposed zoning upon annexation would be General Residential. General Residential allows for single family dwellings as well as mobile homes. There is no proposed change in use because of the annexation. Mayor Moore asked for a motion to approve second and final reading. Council Member Washington made the motion. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member O'Banner. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read proposed Resolution 21-19, Approving Adoption of the 2020 Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Garnes advised the Council that the mitigation plan identifies ways for the Lowcountry region to avoid property damage because of natural disasters. By approving adoption, Lowcountry Council of Governments remains eligible to apply for grants pertaining to disaster planning/mitigation within the Town of Yemassee. Mayor Moore asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 21-19. Council Member Simmons made the motion to adopt the Resolution. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member O'Banner. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read proposed Resolution 21-20, Encouraging the Use of Facial Coverings within the Town of Yemassee. Mr. Garnes reminded the Town Council that the mask ordinance expired this past Sunday morning at 12:01am and this resolution merely encourages people to wear masks when one cannot adequately social distance. Store owners now retain the right to require facial coverings within their business as a condition of service. Council Member O'Banner remarked that we need to follow the science and we are not quite out of the woods yet. Council Member Simmons stated that he didn't agree with it. Mayor Moore responded that this is not a law or ordinance, simply a resolution encouraging use. Council Member O'Banner made the motion to adopt the Resolution. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. Council Member Simmons Nay, Mayor Moore Aye, **Motion Passed.**

Mayor Moore read proposed Ordinance 21-14, Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Portions of the Town of Yemassee Code, within Chapter 12 (Parks & Recreation), including renaming the chapter to "Parks, Recreation & Public Property". Mr. Garnes reported that this cleaned up several outdated portions of the chapter. Council Member O'Banner made the motion to approve first reading. There was no discussion. Second by Council Member Washington. All in favor, **Motion Passed.**

Department Reports

- Police Department – Chief Alexander advised the Police Department continues to be down two officers who are out on Workman's Comp due to injury. Chief and some Officers attended the Zone D meeting which was a success.

- Administration – Town Clerk Basketball Court Project is underway, there is a COVID-19 testing event on the 17th.
- Public Works – No report
- Municipal Court – No Report

Public Comment:

See attached.

Adjournment

Mayor Moore asked for motion to adjourn. Council Member Simmons made the motion to adjourn. Second by Council Member O'Banner. All in favor, **Meeting Adjourned at 7:10PM.**



May 11, 2021

Yemassee Town Council
Attn: Town Clerk, Mr. Matthew Garnes

Mayor Moore and Council Members,

Please accept these written comments in support of the Request for Proposal for a Comprehensive Plan update on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League, agenda item VI A. Due to a scheduling conflict, I regret I am not able to attend your meeting this evening in person but appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment.

As we have indicated in previous public comment over the past several months, an update to the Comprehensive Plan is critical in order to ensure Yemassee grows responsibly over the next 10 years. An updated Comprehensive Plan will be a helpful tool to protect the Town's historical, cultural, and natural resources. The update process allows the Town to take stock of its current population demographics, economic status and opportunities, resilience status, housing stock, and natural and cultural resources. With that baseline information and understanding, the Comprehensive Plan will then lay out a plan for future growth, development, and conservation, including recommendations for updates to zoning and building codes and ordinances. We further hope the updated plan includes recommendations for implementing an urban growth boundary.

Considering Yemassee's current growth patterns—the Town has expanded more than 5 square miles in just 3 years—the time to update the Comprehensive Plan and relevant zoning codes and ordinances is now. We urge Council to approve the release of the request for proposals so that the process of updating the plan may begin as soon as possible.

We applaud the Town taking this major step toward thoughtful growth planning and commend staff's efforts, especially Mr. Garnes, in working to initiate this process. The Coastal Conservation League is invested in the success of this endeavor. We look forward to participating in stakeholder meetings and providing resources and support for the chosen contractor and the Town as progress is made toward this important goal.

Respectfully,

Juliana M. Smith
South Coast Project Manager
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