

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
1067 WEST MAIN STREET, CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY – MAY 11, 2009 – 7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Mac Martin; Council Members David Donald, Tony Craig, Lynne O'Dell Chapman, Harry Holladay, and Gary White; Clerk of Court Tina Galbreath; Finance Director Jerri Martin; Police Chief Kerry Avery; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds; Fire Department's Executive Director Ben Smith; News Media Vince Jackson; Citizens Vicky Craig, Joe Moss, Ted Osborne, Jonathan Taylor, William Pepper, Stevie Bennett; and Town Clerk Sandy Brown.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mac Martin.

Lynne Chapman rendered the invocation.

Mayor Martin made the motion to move 8B-1 to the beginning of the agenda and to add 8B-3 Resolution 05-11-09 and 8B-4 the Upgrading of Road Eighteen to the agenda; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Lynne Chapman made the motion to reappoint Joe Moss to the Police Advisory Committee; seconded by Harry Holladay. The vote was unanimous.

Reading of Special Called Meeting Minutes 04-13-09

Lynne Chapman made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Tony Craig. The vote was unanimous.

Reading of Regular Council Meeting Minutes 04-13-09

Lynne Chapman made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Harry Holladay. The vote was unanimous.

Public Session

Stevie Bennett of The Brighter Vision Foundation addressed Council. The foundation is a mentor program for young males who are under privileged and less fortunate. They will provide not only monetary, but also moral and spiritual support to the young men in the community. The ones that are qualified will go to summer camps and receive scholarships. The purpose for presenting the program to the Council is to get the word out into the community. Lynne Chapman asked Mr. Bennett if the program was for the local community only. Mr. Bennett stated it was for Central and Clemson only at this time. Ms. Chapman stated she thought it was wonderful that they are focusing on the Central area and that it was much needed. She stated when she was a teacher at the elementary school, there were so many black males that needed something like this so badly; therefore, she applauded him for his efforts. Ms. Chapman also offered her assistance in contacting the school principals if needed. Harry Holladay suggested the group contact David Austin, who ran for Council the past election. Mr. Bennett expressed his appreciation to the Council.

Receipt and disposition of petitions

There were none at this time.

Reports from Council Committees:

A. Gary White – Street & Sanitation

Mr. White reported for the month of April the Street Department completed 15 work orders. In addition to work orders they had 17 stops for leaves, 59 stops for wood, 8 for metal, and 73 for brush. The Street Department cleans Main Street from Werner to Church every Friday. They assisted the Water Department in reading meters, mowed the grass, and worked on the Rail Road Museum landscaping. Mr. White stated they did a great job on the landscaping.

B. Harry Holladay – Planning

Mr. Holladay did not have anything to report at this time but did mention that the Council would meet to vote on a zoning change May 21st.

C. Tracey Reynolds – Water & Sewer

Ms. Reynolds was absent, therefore Mayor Martin gave the report.

For the month of April the Water and Sewer Department completed 59 work orders. In addition to work orders they repaired water leaks, installed 4 new irrigation meters and upgraded 2 old existing sewer taps. Meters were read on the 20th; rechecks were done on the 20th and disconnects were done on the 28th. They flushed sewer line and pulled water samples. Two warnings were issued for tampering with a water meter.

D. Lynne Chapman – Finance

Ms. Chapman stated everyone should have received the reports in their packets. Presently the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fun is in the black which is good. The Sanitation Fund is in the red a little, but it is foreseen to improve.

E. Tony Craig – Public Safety

Mr. Craig reported for the month of April the Fire Department responded to 2 outside rubbish fires; 1 smoke detector activation; 3 alarm system activation; 2 arcing, shorted electrical; 1 no incident found; 1 building fire; 1 passenger fire; 1 bomb scare; 1 smoke or odor removal; 1 vehicle accident and 1 detector activation. They attended a training meeting April 14th with 33 members present and a training meeting April 28th with 26 members present.

The Police Advisory Committee met Thursday, May 7th and Brooke Donald was introduced as a new member from Daniel High School. The Police Department is thinking of implementing a CEAL (Central Elderly Assistant Line) Program and a Vial of Life Program. Wal-Mart and the Police Department will work together doing DNA and identification kits for children and the same day they plan to check baby car seats and seat belts. The Police Department is preparing for their re-accreditation.

Mr. Craig reminded everyone the Central Rail Road Festival is May 15th and 16th.

F. David Donald – Recreation

Mr. Donald reported that football and cheerleading sign-ups are running from May 11th, until May 28th. The Recreation Department and Southern Wesleyan University are partnering to offer a band concert featuring Stahl High School Marching Band on Friday, August 7th from 6 pm to 7 pm at Bolick Field. The concert will be free to the public and is part of Southern Wesleyan's Band Camp Program. Stahl High School Marching Band is known for their flamboyant music and style and should be exciting to watch. Super Saturday Kickoff Classic has been set for Saturday, August 29th beginning at 10:00 am. Games will be 10:00 am, 12 noon, and 2:00 pm.

From the Indoor Recreation Center: Joe Crosby states that the Relay for Life will be June 26th at the Indoor Recreation Center from 11:59 pm to 6:00 am. Also, Joe is working with area businesses on a discount card for facility members. Businesses that display the Recreation Center's logo in their storefront will give facility members a 10% discount. Summer swim lessons start May 18th. The Recreation Center will run Start Smart football and soccer this summer and utilize the Community Park and Bolick field for the programs.

From the Young at Heart Program: The first Breakfast with Kim at Hardee's went well. She introduced herself to the group of gentlemen that meet there on a daily basis to let them know who she is and what the program is all about. Four ladies joined Kim that morning to hear updates on scheduled activities. Kimberly spoke to the Alzheimer's Support Group that meets monthly at the activity center at Clemson Downs on April 22nd. The group participants shared their stories and their needs. Kimberly also spoke to a widow's group at Clemson Presbyterian Church on April 23rd. This group was very interested in the Young At Heart offerings. About half of this group already received the newsletter and by the end of the meeting, the rest of the group signed up too. The monthly Breakfast For Your Brain program doubled in attendance in April. The speaker was a nurse from Interim Healthcare who spoke on Arthritis. The Bridge group took the month of April off because everyone had too much to do. They are going to try to get started May 13th. There has been a request for beginning Bridge lessons, so Kimberly is looking into finding an instructor to start lessons

Introduction and Consideration of New Ordinances

- A. First Reading of Ordinance #05-11-09 ATT - A T & T Franchise
Mayor Martin read the ordinance in its entirety. Lynne Chapman made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Gary White. The vote was unanimous.
- B. First Reading of Ordinance #05-11-09 BU Budget
Mayor Martin read the ordinance in its entirety. Lynne Chapman made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Chair Mayor Martin. Mayor Martin, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Harry Holladay, and Gary White were in favor; David Donald was opposed.
- C. First Reading of Ordinance #05-11-09 RB
Recreation Budget
David Donald made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Tony Craig. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Ordinances Already in Possession of Council

- A. Second Reading of Ordinance #04-13-09 BRE - Blue Ridge Electric
Mayor Martin read the ordinance. Tony Craig made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Harry Holladay. Mayor Martin, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Harry Holladay, and Gary White were in favor; David Donald was opposed.
- B. Second Reading of Policy #03/09-09 BASE Rate Increase for Water & Sewer
Mayor Martin stated everyone has a copy of the ordinance with the changes and they will be made a part of the minutes. Lynne Chapman asked if this was the 1st or 2nd reading. The Town Clerk pointed out that the 1st reading for the water increase was March 9, 2009 and the 1st reading of the sewer increase was April 13, 2009. This ordinance is the 2nd reading of both water and sewer. Lynne Chapman made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Harry Holladay.

David Donald asked Phillip Mishoe if Pickens County Council had passed the increase in their budget, on the 1st reading. Mr. Mishoe stated he assumed they had because he had not heard differently; the County has 3 readings on an ordinance. Mr. Donald stated he understood the County raising the rates but the part he did not understand was the effective date of May 1st on the ordinance, because Easley-Central Water rate increase will not take place until July 1st and if the sewer passes on 3 readings that would be the same date. He said he thought they (the Town of Central) were getting ahead of their rate increase by 2 or 3 months. Mayor Martin stated this was the date they put on the ordinance for the 1st reading. He then asked the administrator if they changed the date to May 31st, when would the revenue come in. Mr. Mishoe stated that is the day the bills go out and they (the Town) would start getting the revenue the end of June. Mr. Donald stated the May bill is for the April consumption. Mr. Mishoe stated it would be May 15th back to, in/or around the middle of April; that would be correct from April 15th to May 15th. Mr. Donald pointed out that the actual rate increase from Easley-Central (Water District) didn't take place until July 1st. Mr. Mishoe stated he would have to find out when the bill (from Easley-Central Water District) would actually come out. He had already discussed it with them so that when the revenue came in, the bill would come in at the same time. However, he stated he would check it again; and that he had had the discussion with Mr. Donald. Mr. Donald stated he did not agree with it; he had a memo from Mr. Mishoe dated April 16th that the effective date was July 1st. He stated the dates did not "jive" with him. He (Mr. Donald) stated the citizens were being billed on the April/May billing for a July 1st increase, then it is being done too early. Lynne Chapman stated it was her understanding, per Mr. Mishoe, that if the billing goes into effect on May 31st, the Town would not get the revenue until July. Mr. Mishoe stated the bills would go out May 31st or June 1st and the revenue would start coming in near the end of June, around June 20th; then the Town would get a bill for the new rate July 1st. Mr. Donald stated if they passed the ordinance on the 2nd reading the rates would be effective May 31st. Mr. Mishoe stated that was correct; on the bill that goes out (May 31st) they would collect the revenue somewhere around June 20th, and the bill that Easley-Central (Water District) delivers to the Town is based on the new rate. Therefore, the revenue collected around June 20th will pay for the bill that comes in July 1. Ms. Chapman stated if the ordinance was not passed for May 31st there would be debt to the Town and no money to cover it. Mr. Mishoe confirmed she was correct. Harry Holladay asked which bill they were

discussing, and was it the May 31st bill. Mr. Mishoe stated on the bill, that goes out to the customer, either May 31st or June 1st, somewhere in that vicinity, the revenue would not be collected until June 20th. Mr. Holladay stated that is not in accordance with the ordinance. Mayor Martin stated if the bill comes July 1st they are approving their rates on the previous month also. Mr. Holladay stated this (the ordinance) is really 2 months. Mr. Mishoe stated it was not. Mayor Martin stated there was about a 10 day difference because of the reading cycle; therefore, they (the Town) would have to pay for 20 days or collect for 20 days. Mr. Mishoe stated the bill would go out either May 31st or June 1st. Mr. Holladay stated that was clear, but the ordinance was stating the rate increase is effective on that bill (May 31st). Lynne Chapman asked if the ordinance could be tabled and discussed later. Mr. Mishoe stated it would throw them off; they needed to have the discussion at that time or have a special called meeting. Mayor Martin stated a motion was in order to amend the date. Mr. Mishoe stated it is right the way it is. Mayor Martin stated the County had a billing cycle and the Town has a billing cycle and there is about a 10 day difference and they (the Town) would not be able to get it exactly the same time. Mr. Mishoe stated the July 1 bill that Easley-Central (Water District) delivers to the Town will have the new rate on it; therefore, the Town needed to already have the funds in hand to pay it. Lynne Chapman stated actually it was only 1 month ahead. Gary White asked when the bill had to be paid. Mr. Mishoe stated within 20 days. He stated he would use the funds collected the end of June to pay the bill July 1, that is why the ordinance is May 31st; and if they (the Council) changed it, the Town would be in the hole. Mr. Holladay state he understood it. Mayor Martin stated they could be ahead 10 days or behind 20 days.

Mayor Martin then called for a vote: Mayor Martin, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Harry Holladay, and Gary White were in favor; David Donald was opposed.

Reports from the Administrator and Mayor:

A. Administrator

1. The Pickens County Municipal Association picnic would be May 29th 6:00, in Liberty. All Council Members should have gotten an invitation in the mail and can RSVP to the number on the invitation.
2. North Plant – Mr. Mishoe stated he met with Brian O’Kelly, with the County (Pickens), on the possibility of getting stimulus money to upgrade the North Plant, but it did not work out. He is working on a Rural Development Grant and will keep the Council updated on the status. The process usually takes about a year.
3. The Rail Road Festival is Friday, May 15th and Saturday May 16th and it will be similar to past festivals where the street is blocked off. The Mayor has a resolution to declare this week Rail Road Festival Week. Gary White asked if the vendors would be on Church Street as in the past or on Main Street. Mr. Mishoe stated the food vendors would be on Church Street and the craft vendors would be on Main Street.

B. Mayor

1. Condemning Building on Main Street
Chair, Mayor Martin made the motion to authorize the Administrator to commence with the procedures to raze the building on Main Street, as previously discussed; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.
2. Resolution #05-11-09
Mayor Martin read the resolution in its entirety. Chair, Mayor Martin made the motion to accept the resolution as accepted; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.
3. A property owner of Highway 123 and Road 18 is willing to possibly sub-divide and annex so that the Town could proceed with grants and procedures to clean the underbrush, etc., at the intersection. The property owner wants to know if the Town is interested in proceeding with the process, at no financial obligation. Mayor Martin asked for a show of hands supporting the process. The vote was unanimous.
4. Mayor Martin stated there will be a Special Called Meeting Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 pm for a proposed zoning change and the 2nd reading of the AT&T Franchise Ordinance.

5. Gap Hill Church of God is having a Honor our Heroes Day, June 28th and all Council Members are invited.

6. The Pickens County Planning Commission is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan and they are asking for representatives from the Town of Central to participate.

Miscellaneous business not included in any of the proceeding items

Harry Holladay ask for support of the Freedom Flight. Mayor Martin stated they could discuss it with the Administrator and propose it at the Work Session.

Gary White asked everyone to attend the Rail Road Festival.

With no objections Mayor Martin adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Clerk Sandra L. Brown, CMC

Approved: June 8, 2009