

TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2003 – 7:00 P. M.
CENTRAL TOWN HALL
1067 WEST MAIN STREET
CENTRAL, S. C. 29630

Present: Mayor Harrison R. Holladay, Jr.; Councilpersons: David Donald; Mac Martin; Frank Chaka; Stan Thompson; Joe Head; Gary White. Administrator Herbert Thompson; Police Chief Joe Gibbs; Assistant Fire Chief Edward Reynolds; Ross Norton, Easley Progress; Ben Smith; Dean Martin; Chris Evatt. Clerk Grace Towe.

Mayor Holladay called the regular Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 P. M. and rendered the invocation.

Minutes of the April 14, 2003 regular Town Council meeting were presented. Some corrections were made and after corrections a motion was made by Frank Chaka and seconded by Gary White to adopt as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes of the Special Called Council meeting of April 21, 2003 were presented and some corrections were made. After corrections a motion was made by Gary White and seconded by Mac Martin to adopt as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

Public Session: (30 minutes) Police Chief Joe Gibbs addressed Council with concern for the upcoming budget concerning his department. Chief Gibbs expressed his concern for the cost of living increase and the merit increase. He asked Council to consider this as a valuable tool that he has as Chief of Police for new hiring of competent and well-trained individuals. Chief Gibbs stated that this is one of the tools that we have as a smaller institution versus a larger one. Chief Gibbs again asked Council to consider this valuable tool in the upcoming budget.

Receipt and Disposition of Petitions: (15 minutes) None.

Report from Council Committees:

Councilman David Donald presented his request to appoint Ms. Jane Funchess and Mr. Ralph Hayes to the Beautification Committee. These individuals have shown great interest in the beautification program and are highly recommended by the Chairperson Debbie Austin, also Mr. Donald as liaison. Mr. Donald made a motion to appoint these two individuals to the Beautification Committee. Joe Head seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilman Donald presented a proposal from the Central Beautification Committee to make improvements to the triangle at Watkins Street, Werner Street and Hwy. 93. The request was for the town personnel to remove the broken sidewalk and some shrubbery and make sure the water for that area is working. Mr. Donald made a motion for the Beautification Committee to perform this improvement.

Councilman Gary White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Holladay and Councilman Frank Chaka presented the proposed budget for F.Y.E.6-30-04. The budget was presented with a 3-mill increase in taxes and eliminating merit increases for employees and retaining the 2% cost of living increase for employees.

Pending Resolutions: None

Gary White – Planning - Mr. White reported that there would be no meeting this month of the Planning Commission unless a specific need arose. Mr. White reported that an engineering firm for the streetscape project had not been chosen as of this date.

Joe Head – Water and Sewer – Mr. Head stated that since we are voting on a water and sewer increase he would like to make sure that the minutes reflect the reason for the increase. The water rate increase is brought about by the increase passed on to us by Easley/Central Water District and we have to pass this increase on to our customers. The sewer increase is the result of the arbitration agreement and the rates will take place July 1, 2003.

Stan Thompson – Public Safety – Mr. Thompson reported that our police department had been very active in the month of April and the fire department had a relatively slow month. Mr. Thompson reported that the Police Advisory Committee met this past Thursday night for good discussions and decided to cancel the July session for the committee. The next scheduled meeting is set for September 11, 2003.

David Donald – Streets and Sanitation – Mr. Donald expressed his appreciation to the public works department and recreation department for the good job done installing the CATS bus shelter across the street from Nick's café. Mr. Donald again reminded Council that the speed bump still is not up on Eaton Street.

Mac Martin – Recreation - Mr. Martin reminded Council that football signups were in progress this week. He reported that the grant had been received for the work at Bolick Field. Mr. Martin reported that the Indoor Recreation Center is on target with the programs there.

Frank Chaka – Finance – Mr. Chaka presented the financial report with favorable conditions.

Ordinances in Possession of Council:

First reading of Budget Ordinance #06-01-03-B, to raise revenue and adopt a General Fund, Utility Fund, Indoor Recreation (TIF) and Central, Clemson (CC) Indoor Recreation Budget for the Town of Central beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004 was presented. Motion by Frank Chaka to adopt the Budget Ordinance #06-01-03-B on first reading. Gary White seconded the motion. Councilman Joe Head made a motion to amend the previous motion and reduce the cost of living raise to 1% and hopefully this would eliminate the need to raise taxes. After discussion Mayor Holladay

called for the vote on the amendment. The vote to reduce the cost of living raise to 1% was defeated. Joe Head, David Donald and Frank Chaka in favor and Mac Martin, Stan Thompson, Gary White and Mayor Holladay were in opposition. Mayor Holladay then called for a vote on the original motion to adopt the budget as presented. Councilpersons Mac Martin, Stan Thompson, Frank Chaka, Gary White and Mayor Holladay voted in favor. David Donald and Joe Head opposed. The budget was approved on first reading. The votes were by the show of hands.

First reading of Ordinance #06-02-03-R.B., to raise revenue and adopt a Recreation Budget for the 50 Fund for the F.Y. beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004 was presented. Motion by Stan Thompson and seconded by Frank Chaka to adopt on first reading. Those in favor of adopting this ordinance were David Donald, Mac Martin, Frank Chaka, Mayor Harrison R. Holladay, Jr., Stan Thompson and Gary White. Opposed was Joe Head. The ordinance was adopted on first reading. The votes were by the show of hands.

First reading of Ordinance #06-03-03-WSR, to increase sewer and water rates. The amount the Town pays for sewer was increased by Pickens County and the increase in the cost of water is due to the increase by Easley/Central Water District. Mayor Holladay presented the ordinance and called for a motion. A motion was made by Joe Head and seconded by Gary White to adopt. The vote was unanimous by a show of hands.

First reading of Ordinance #06-04-03-Sant. To increase sanitation fees for residential and commercial accounts. Motion by David Donald and seconded by Frank Chaka to adopt on first reading. The vote was unanimous by show of hands.

Second reading of Ordinance #04-01-03-DMP Drought Management Plan and Response Ordinance. Motion by Joe Head and seconded by David Donald to adopt on second reading. The vote was unanimous.

Second reading of Ordinance #03-02-03-BL to amend Business License Ordinance #93-11-10BLA whereas to increase business license fees. Motion by David Donald and seconded by Frank Chaka to adopt. (Councilman Mac Martin excused himself from the room because of a possible conflict of interest) Mayor Holladay called for any discussion on the ordinance. Councilman Joe Head made a motion to amend the previous motion and double the base rate and change the 50% rate to 25% for all over the base rate. The motion was seconded by Stan Thompson. The vote on this motion was five for and 1 opposed. Frank Chaka, Mayor Holladay, Stan Thompson, Joe Head and Gary White voted for and David Donald opposed. Mayor Holladay called for a vote to adopt Ordinance #03-02-03BL as amended. The vote was five for and one opposed. Frank Chaka, Mayor Holladay, Stan Thompson, Joe Head and Gary White voted for and David Donald opposed.

Report from Mayor and Administrator:

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Herbert Thompson went over the results of the short and

long term goals from the planning retreat.

Clear Sky Network's request to place an antenna on the water tank has not been resolved. A fee of \$350.00 a month would be more feasible but the issue has not been negotiated.

Mr. Thompson reported on the county's report on the growth of the town in the last few years. Many new facilities and family dwellings have been put into place, even in the last year. This brings more services to be provided by the town's employees, fire department and police department.

Mr. Thompson presented the request from Central Fire Department for the use of the Old Town Hall. It was consensus of Council to discuss this further in the next work session.

Back to Clear Sky Network, a motion was made by Joe Head and seconded by David Donald to allow Administrator Thompson to negotiate a contract with Clear Sky Network for a fee for rental for their request. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Holladay reminded Council of the May picnic and a head count was given: Mac Martin, Stan Thompson (2) Mayor Holladay (2).

Mayor Holladay announced that a meeting would be held in Clemson with community leaders and members of the S. C. National Heritage Corridor. The meeting will be held May 14, 2003. The subject will be trends in tourism in the future.

Mayor Holladay called for a motion to go into executive session for discussion of a legal matter. Joe Head made the motion and the motion was seconded by Frank Chaka. The vote was unanimous.

After executive session Mayor Holladay recalled regular session and announced that no action or votes were taken in executive session.

Councilman David Donald made a motion to add an item to the agenda reference the Downtown Streetscape proposal. Gary White seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Councilman White made a motion that the town contract with the company of Milone & MacBroom Engineers out of Greenville, S.C. to design our streetscape for the Town of Central. The motion was seconded by David Donald and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Holladay called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Councilman Stan Thompson and seconded by Councilman Joe Head. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Towe
Clerk to Council