



**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007 - 7:00 PM
CENTRAL TOWN HALL
1067 WEST MAIN STREET
CENTRAL, SC 29630**

Present: Mayor Martin, Council Members David Donald, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, David Boyles, and Gary White; Administrator Phillip Mishoe; Clerk of Court Tina Fincannon; Finance Director Jerri Martin; Public Works Director Dean Martin; Interim Police Chief Ken Kirby; Police Officer Elijah Chapman; Recreation Director Tom Cloer; and Fire Department's Executive Officer Ben Smith.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mac Martin.

The invocation was rendered by Lynne Chapman.

Mayor Martin and Lynne Chapman recognized the 12 and Under Upper State Palmetto Championships: Jake Alexander, Brandon Joel Galloway, Windal Jamar Burke, Teldreous Durham, Tyus Gaines, Joseph Gree, Colin Brady, Deleetrci Greenlee, and Trey Alexander Telley. Coach Earl Gaines was also recognized. Tom Cloer stated Coach Earl has been coaching multiple sports for Central for years and it is always an honor to have him with us.

Mayor Martin stated May is National Foster Care Month and he has been contacted by Department of Social Services requesting volunteers for foster care. Mayor Martin has the number if anyone is interested.

Reading of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes 04/09/07

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

Public Session (30 minutes total):

David Austin of 212 Foot Street presented the Town with a petition with 31 names, for a speed bump on Foot or Watkins Street. He stated the streets have become a race track and (police) officers are not checking the streets. He said they have a serious problem and we don't need to wait until a child is killed before something is done.

Mayor Martin stated the petition will become part of the minutes.

Receipt and disposition of petitions (15 minutes total): none.

Reports from Council Committees:

A. Gary White – Planning

The Planning Commission will meet May 17th to discuss Land Development regulations and elect officers.

B. David Boyles – Water & Sewer

For the month of April the Water and Sewer Departments completed 40 work orders, made several taps, tested meters, flushed sewer lines, flowed fire hydrants, and performed several reconnections of water service.

Mr. Boyles made the motion to add an item to the agenda - the subject of speed bumps for the petition from Mr. Austin; seconded by Lynne Chapman. Mr. Donald requested the Public Safety Committee review the situation. He stated there is no doubt a speed bump needs to be installed, but more importantly now is the need of a sign. The Administrator, Public Works Director, and Police Chief stated one and possibly two signs were placed on Watkins Street and they were removed/stolen. Mayor Martin stated he had seen the sign. Mr. Mishoe stated the specifications for a removable speed bump presented by Design South Engineering Firm. Mrs. Chapman stated if the signs were stolen, what is to keep someone from stealing the speed bumps? Mr. Mishoe stated they will be secured into the ground/road. Mr. White asked if we have any input from the Police Department. Mr. Kirby stated there is no where to safely run radar because there are no sidewalks and the road is narrow.

Mayor Martin asked for a vote to add this item to the agenda. All were in favor. Mr. Boyles made the motion to address Mr. Austin's petition to place speed bumps and make another attempt to install signs; seconded by Traci Reynolds. Mr. Donald requested a clarification of where the bumps will be placed. Mr. Kirby stated it should be placed on the Hwy 93 side of Mr. John Robinson's house, in order to slow them down. Mayor Martin called for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

C. Tracey Reynolds – Finance

The reports were in the packets.

D. Lynne Chapman – Recreation

The new Community Park Building is slated to be completed either late this week or early next week. The Community Park baseball field dugouts will be completed by the end of this week. The Flag Football regular season will end tomorrow. Playoffs will begin Thursday and will be held in Easley at the J B Owen Complex. Our 7 - 10 age group is leading their division in the first place with an undefeated season; also our 15 – 18 age group is in first place in their division. We will begin taking quotes at the end of this month on a new block wall to be installed in place of the cross ties around the track at Bolick Field.

E. Tony Craig – Streets and Sanitation

For the month of April the Street Department completed 34 work orders, picked up 49 loads of brush, 25 loads of metal, 20 loads of leaves, 108 loads of wood; kept streets cleaned, read meters, and mowed grass. Reynolds Complete yard Service mowed the

cemetery on April 13th and April 27th.

F. David Donald – Public Safety

Police and Fire Department reports were in the Council Work Session Packets; any questions can be answered by Ken Kirby or Ben Smith.

Mr. Donald attended the Police Advisor Meeting this past week where officers were elected: Chairman is Joe Moss, Vice Chair is Al Cureton, and Secretary is Cindy Stone. Mr. Fred Crowe has requested to change positions with Delphine Ochiuto. Mr. Donald made the motion to add an item to the agenda to swap the positions of Mr. Fred Crow, representing the elderly group 2-year term with Ms. Delphine Ochiuto's 2-year term representing the minority group; seconded by Gary White. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Donald made the motion that Ms. Delphine Ochiuto replaces Mr. Fred Crow's 2-year term representing the elderly group and Mr. Fred Crow replace Ms. Delphine Ochiuto's 2-year term representing the elderly group; seconded by David Boyles. The vote was unanimous. One of the subjects brought up during the meeting was the mud on Tarrant Street. Ken Kirby is looking into this.

Mr. Donald stated he attended the Municipal Association's monthly meeting in Easley along with Phillip Mishoe and Gary White. The speaker was with the Big League World Series. They are excited about the games this year and about the police security Central will provide. He stated he was very proud to sit among the other towns and cities and hear compliments on Central's Police Force and the fine job they do with security. They are looking for volunteers. The championship game will be televised on ESPN this year.

Consideration of ordinances already in possession of Council

Second reading of Ordinance #04-09-07 DOGS - Chaining of Dogs

Chair moved to remove this item from the table; seconded by Lynne Chapman. All were in favor. There was a letter in the packets from our town attorney. Discussion of penalty clause by Ken Kirby – tape not audible. Mayor Martin called for a vote to which he, Lynne Chapman, Tony Craig, and Tracey Reynolds were in favor; David Donald, David Boyles, and Gary White were opposed.

Introduction and consideration of new ordinances and resolutions

A. Proclamation recognizing Mental Health Month

Clerk to enter proclamation into minutes.

B. Water Fund, Plan A - Plan B

After a brief discussion, Mayor Martin called for a vote on Plan-A. No one voted in favor. Chair moved to adjust water rates according to Plan B; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Sewer –

Chair moved to adjust sewer rates as outlined in the budget; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The rate increase will be \$1.13 per 1,000 gallons. After a brief discussion of rates, Chair called for a vote; he along with Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, and Gary White voted in favor. David Donald, David Boyles, and Tony Craig were opposed.

Mr. Donald requested the floor: He asked Mr. Mishoe if he had addressed the weekend checking of the sewer lift station, in order to save the town some money. Mr. Mishoe stated he had and they were investigating as to whether or not the person needed to be DHEC certified.

First reading of Ordinance #05-14-07 BU

To adopt the Town of Central's Annual Budget for the General Fund (10 Fund); Water Fund (30 Fund); Victims Advocate (20 Fund); Indoor Recreation Fund (TIF 40 Fund); Recycling Fund (60 Fund); Central-Clemson Indoor Recreation Fund (70 Fund); Hospitality Tax Fund (80 Fund); Streetscape Enhancement Fund (15 Fund); Street Paving Fund (45 Fund); Sewer Fund (30 Fund); Sewer Bond Fund (32 Fund); Sewer Repair Fund (33 Fund).

Chair made the motion to adopt the 1st reading of this ordinance; seconded by Lynne Chapman.

Mr. Donald asked if the Fire Department fell in the General Fund; which it does. He stated there is room for cuts in all budgets. He said he is not against employees getting pay raises; he is against across the board pay raise. He is against burdening our town, continuously with a payroll burden that has grown from year-to-year; the good times are over – we are in hard times. Payroll for 2002-2003 was \$841,335.61; for 2003-2004 it was \$904,584.61 with an increase of \$63,248.8, a 7.5% increase. Payroll for 2004-2005 was \$944,239.00, with an increase of \$39,654.59, a 4.38% increase. Payroll for 2005-2006 was \$1,040,353.00 with an increase of \$96,114.00, a 10.1% increase. There was an increase of \$199,017.40 from 2003-2006 which was a 23.6% increase.

On this note, he stated, this was a time when we were paying 2 administrators, 2 town clerks, 2 employees retire, and one death that forced us to pay out money we did not have. He stated the administrator has done a good job trying to "squirrel back" some money, but it is not enough. And, if a pay raise is granted, he would like to see a 2%, one-time bonus.

Lynne Chapman stated if some of the Council Members were so adamant about not including raises for the employees, then they should consider taking a cut in their council pay.

Mrs. Chapman made a motion to call for a vote; seconded by Mayor Martin. Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, Tony Craig, and Mayor Martin were in favor. Gary White, David Boyles, and David Donald were opposed.

First Reading of Ordinance #05-14-RB

To adopt the Town of Central's Budget for the Recreation Department (50 Fund)

Chair made the motion to adopt this ordinance; seconded by Tracey Reynolds. Mayor Martin, David Boyles, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, and Gary White were in favor; David Donald was opposed.

Reports from the Administrator and Mayor

A. Administrator

Work has started on the Allen House. They are trimming trees now and will trim more in the fall. The painting contractor has started scraping and painting the outside. This money will come from the Hospitality Tax Fund.

B. Mayor

Battle of Central Request

Chair moved to grant the request for \$500: seconded by Traci Reynolds. David Donald stated we need some type of policy to account for monies distributed. Mayor Martin asked that we start tracking where this money goes and ask the organizations to account for the money.

Chief Gibbs will be recognized by the Insurance Women of the Piedmont Monday, May 21st. Anyone wishing to attend will give the money to Sandy this week.

Lynne Chapman made the motion to discontinue the second notices for utility bills; seconded by Tracey Reynolds. David Donald stated he wanted to be clear on this that we are raising the employees salaries but cutting services to our citizens. Mayor Martin stated we are cutting a service to delinquent paying water customers. Mayor Martin, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, David Boyles, and Gary White were in favor. David Donald was opposed. David Boyles asked David Donald if he was the one who originally suggested the disconnect services.

Mayor Martin stated this is the last day for accepting applications for Police Chief. He said they applications will be reviewed by an outside source; at that time any Council Member who is not on the committee will be given 3 days to go to the Town Clerk's Office to review the applications and fill out a the attached form. However, the Council Member will be required to fill out all forms on all applicants, not a select few. The Mayor and 2 other Council Members will be on the committee, with the Administrator being exofficio giving input but not making decisions. The committee of 3 will narrow the applicants and they will then interview before full Council. The committee of 3 will go by seniority which the most 2 senior members being David Donald and Gary White. David Donald chose to serve, but Gary White relinquished his position to Lynne Chapman.

Miscellaneous business not included in any of the proceeding items

David Donald asked when they would get a true-copy of the budget. Mr. Mishoe told him within the week.

Executive Session

Chair moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter concerning a land contract; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Council returned from Executive Session; no decisions were made, no votes were taken, only information distributed.

Chair moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L Brown
Town Clerk

Approved by Council: July 9, 2007