



**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2007 - PM
CENTRAL TOWN HALL
1067 WEST MAIN STREET
CENTRAL, SC 29630**

Present: Mayor Mac Martin, Council Members David Donald, Tony Craig, Lynne Chapman, Tracey Reynolds, David Boyles, and Gary White; Town Administrator Philip Mishoe; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds, Finance Director Jerri Martin; Fire Department's Executive Director Ben Smith; Public Works Director Dean Martin; Police Officer Elijah Chapman; Judge Stan Thompson; Water Superintendent Dale Gillespie; Maintenance Worker Jonathan Sturmer; Fireman Jim Kennemore, Fire Lieutenant Jamie Reynolds, and Assistant Fire Chief Franklin Reynolds.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mac Martin.

Lynne Chapman rendered the invocation.

Chair moved to add an item to the agenda; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Chair moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Police Chief's position and the possible discipline of an employee; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Council returned from Executive Session where no votes were taken, only items discussed.

David Donald made a motion to add an item to the agenda, being the hiring of the Chief of Police; seconded by David Boyles. The vote was unanimous.

David Donald made the motion to hire Mr. Kerry S. Avery as the Chief of Police with his starting date of July 27, 2007; seconded by David Boyles. The vote was unanimous.

Reading of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes 05/14/07

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

Reading of Regular Council Minutes 06/11/07

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

Public Session

There were none.

Receipt and disposition of petitions

There were none.

Reports from Council Committees:

Gary White – Planning

The Planning Commission met this past month and approved the annexation of 34 acres on Vickery Drive, to be zoned R6. There will not be a meeting in July due to lack of business to be discussed.

David Boyles – Water & Sewer

For the month of June the Water and Sewer Departments completed 46 work orders. In addition to work orders they had to make several taps as well as test meters; flushed sewer lines and flowed fire hydrants. They also read meters and performed several disconnects. The water department installed new waterlines for the Streetscape Project. They worked to install PRV valves which will allow us to purchase water from the City of Clemson.

Tracey Reynolds – Finance

Everything is running as it should be.

Lynne Chapman – Recreation

The Recreation Department learned Friday, from the Dixie Youth Office that their bid to host the 2008 Twelve and Under Dixie Youth State Tournament was awarded to Central and Clemson. Games will be held at the new baseball complex at (Clemson's) Nettles and the (Central's) Community Park will be utilized as the official practice facility for the teams. Tom Cloer and Steve Figueroa will begin the planning process in about two weeks. They will be asking for many volunteers to help put the tournament on and hope that the Town Council will play an active role. The tournament will be sometime in July, 2008.

The recreation Department hopes to continue the Community Park improvements as soon as county grant funds become available. These were frozen at the June County Council Meeting while a review as done on these funds and the grant committee. They are hoping it will take place sometime this month.

Both Central and Clemson are in the middle of hosting the Allstar Tournaments for baseball, which are going well. Central-Clemson has one team still involved in the tournament.

Football camps will begin next week for all the participants. Cheerleading camp will begin in two weeks.

Laurel Maco reports that the Senior Center has lost quite a few of their member to nursing homes and moves. She is working on a bazaar at the senior center as well as assisting them with seeking new members. She is also scheduling more trips at the request of the seniors.

Tony Craig – Streets and Sanitation

For the month of June the Street Department completed 47 work orders, picked up 43 loads of brush, 9 loads of metal, and 42 loads of wood. They kept the streets cleaned, mowed grass, ran the weed eater, and assisted the Water Department with reading meters.

Reynolds Complete Yard Service mowed the cemetery June 8th and June 22nd.

David Donald – Public Safety

Police and Fire Department reports were in the packets. Mr. Donald mentioned we were all touched by the death of the Charleston Fire Fighters. According to what he read in the newspaper, all proper procedures were followed; this was just a tragic accident.

Ms. Maco has received a credit card for the Young at Heart Program. Several of the program participants wanted to extend their thanks to the administrator for the use of his car. She does have a trip planned in August to Highlands, NC.

Post budget discussion

Gary White made a motion to remove the amendment made last month to the 2007-2008 budget and replace it with:

AMENDMENT 07/09/07 – To eliminate the 2% cost of living increase. Award up to a 2% merit bonus paid on completion of annual review.

Distribute the extra 2% budgeted amounts in the following accounts:

Water – reduce the revenue estimate 2%

Sanitation – reduce the revenue estimate 2%

Victim Advocate – reduce the revenue estimate 2%

Sewer – place in the sewer improvement fund

General Fund – place in the water/sewer capital improvement fund.

Lynne Chapman stated she was very much against removing the 2% cost of living increase, because she thinks the employees deserve it and that she was very disappointed the Council could not come to an agreement on this issue. Ms. Chapman apologized to all the workers who were present. She also stated she hoped within the next few months something could be done about this.

David Boyles wanted to rebut what Ms. Chapman had stated. He stated that over the years the Council owed an apology to the people who paid the water and sewer rates. In the years past monies were taken from water and sewer to pay administration and where-ever else we were short. He stated they do owe gratitude to the town employees, but they also have a responsibility to the towns-people of Central to pay the water and sewer bills with taxes; and that we need to be very careful and have informed discussions about pay increases.

Mr. White stated this amendment doesn't change the raises; it only distributes the monies in the proper funds.

Mr. Donald stated that the employees are valuable to the Town of Central; but he felt the Council owed it to the citizens not to keep increasing the water and sewer amount on their bills. He also said they could look at the budget on a monthly basis and look for areas to reduce costs and then go back and add in the cost of living increase. He challenged employees to find ways to cut costs. He also pointed out that they are not eliminating raises – that they are going ahead with a possible 2% merit raise.

Mr. Boyles stated he wanted one more thing in the record: he has been talking to several Council Members, especially the ones who voted for the budget amendment and in years past – when he worked at Clemson (University), there were three different years that only the lower fraction of the work force that got a raise and it was across the board. He said we may need to look at this and they need to look at employee's salaries and the rates that are being paid by the citizens.

Mr. Donald made a motion to make an amendment to add water to the last line of the amendment; seconded by David Boyles. All were in favor with the exception of Lynne Chapman who was opposed.

Ms. Chapman stated that no matter what the vote is, the damage has been done; that the moral of the Town employees has been greatly affected and she feels very disturbed that this has happened and hoped that in the month to come any damage that has been done may be partially corrected, but she doesn't feel it will be.

Mayor Martin called for a vote to Mr. White's amendment with David Donald, Tony Craig, Mayor Martin, David Boyles, and Gary White in favor with Lynne Chapman and Tracey Reynolds opposed.

Ordinances already in possession of Council:

Town Clerk made corrections to the Ordinance and Council Member signed Ordinance #05-14-07 BU and Ordinance #05-14- 07 RB.

Introduction and consideration of new ordinances, policies, and resolutions:

A. First reading of Ordinance #06-11-07 ANNEX

To annex 34 acres on Vickery Drive

Gary White made the motion to accept the ordinance as presented; seconded by Tracey Reynolds. The vote was unanimous.

B. First reading of Ordinance #07-09-07 RATES

To allow 2 readings on rate changes

- C. Policy 07-07-09 COP, to require the Chief of Police to live in town limits
- D. Policy 07-09-07 WSS, to adopt Water and Sewer Standards

Reports from the Administrator and Mayor:

- A. Administrator
- B. Mayor
 - I. Fire Truck
 - II. Appalachian Council of Government to review Town Code Book including Zoning Ordinance

Miscellaneous business not included in any of the proceeding items

Adjourn