REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7:30 P. M. January 9, 1995
Central Town Hall
105 Werner St., Central, S. C.

Present: Mayor Stan Thompson; Councilmen: Bobby Busha, Harry Holladay, Joe Head, James Teal, Frank Chaka, Ed Reynolds.
David Donald (Merchants Guild); Rick Powell, Lou Robinson, Randy Hayes, Dan Phillips, Jesse Cranford (Planning Commission member) Wendy Marshall and Greg Oliver, The Messenger.
Grace Towe, Clerk.

Mayor Stan Thompson called the regular meeting to order. Invocation had been rendered in work session.

Minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 5, 1994 were presented. Motion by Frank Chaka, second by Harry Holladay to approve. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 12, 1994 were presented and motion by Frank Chaka, second by James Teal to adopt. The vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Wendy Marshall, Project Manager for the Main Street Program. Ms. Marshall thanked the Town employees for all the help she received in carrying out the different projects. The old Christmas decorations were made into new ones which proved a success. The help with the banner experiment, tree lighting ceremony. She invited the Mayor and Council to the CRA meetings which are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, January 17, 1995 being the next meeting at 7:00 P. M. at the Planning Office. All are welcome to come to see what is being done. The South Carolina Downtown Development Association, the organization that manages the Main Street program in South Carolina on a statewide level periodically comes to the local Main Street Program to develop certain statistics and reports. Recently a report was put together on economic factors in Central. Ms. Marshall shared this report with Council to help each understand where Central has been and where it is going. Ms. Marshall stated that Council will probably be surprised at what has happened in Central. A report was passed out to Mayor Thompson and Council showing important economic indicators. The SCDDA has requested that a report be made quarterly and since one had not been made for Central she went back to 1990 and brought forth the information to give a better understanding of where the town is going.

Randy Hayes, 519 Gaines Street, business owner at 111 Main Street was recognized. He noted that his concern about the condition of the sidewalks in Central was the same in 1995 as it had been in 1994. The west side of Main Street has some curbing and sidewalks that are in serious need of repair as they could be a hazard to those who walk on them. He noted that C funds would have new computations in 1995 and different guidelines as to how they could be spent. How this will be done he did not know but liability for the danger could be much more than the cost of repairs. Mayor Thompson stated that he would try and have our representative at the next work session to try and describe the process of how C funds are distributed and what we might expect. This is a valid concern and care will be taken to look into the matter.

David Donald, businessman in Central was recognized. He stated that everyone had so many positive comments that he hated to come here with negative comments but felt that there were some matters that needed to be addressed. A packet of papers was distributed. Mr. Donald stated that he was not only a businessowner in the Town of Central but his personal residence was in this town. He congratulated each of the three new council members. He stated that the problem he was addressing had been going on for quite while and needs to be resolved. Since the Central Revitalization Association hired Ms. Marshall with funds provided by the Town of Central, Mr. Donald stated that he felt she had been on a personal vendetta against him and his business. Mr. Donald stated that some of the incidents were small but the cumulative effect is tremendous. The incidents began to occur immediately after Ms. Marshall was hired by the CRA. The first incident was the key to the Planning office. Mr. Donald stated that he was given a key to the Planning office by the Mayor at that time, Mayor Alton Cumbie. He stated that he was honored by the trust shown him by the Town of Central to present him with a key. He was given this key so that the Merchants Guild could hold the meetings there. Soon after Ms. Marshall was hired, Mr. Donald stated that Mr. Herbert Thompson came to him and advised him that the town had decided to secure the building like is done with other town property. He advised Mr. Donald that he could come to town hall and check out a key. He stated that this did not bother him at first, except that the process sometimes meant that he would have to make three trips to town hall and at times Herbert would still have to bring him a key. He stated that since he had returned his key he had noticed that there are numerous people out there with keys, some that are not residents of Central. Another problem that he stated was that as he understands Ms. Marshall was in charge of advertising for the Central Railroad Festival this year. He stated that as he made his way around town this year he noticed that a few select businesses had T-shirts and posters for the Railroad Festival, but he was not one of these select few. He stated that this is an event that in the past two years he had orchestrated $570.00 worth of T-shirts for the Railroad Festival. He stated that Mr. Joe Head did bring him a poster this year for his horseshoe tournament which he proudly displayed on his front door. Mr. Donald stated that another incident occurred when he went to the Planning office to ask for a copy of the bylaws for the CRA after Al Cumbie had told him that they were real similar to the Merchants Guild. He stated that he asked Ms. Marshall for a copy and she stated, he quotes, "any request for information on the CRA must be in writing and sent to the board." He did this and was sent the bylaws, but his questions was "is this process necessary"? Later on in the year Ms. Marshall came before the Merchants Guild with a proposal to use a certain type of lettering and design that had been officially adopted by the Town of Central as a logo. The Merchants Guild approved and adopted this logo also. At the same meeting Ms. Marshall mentioned that the town would do some coop advertising and the CRA might be selling wreaths, but she did not have final cost figures. He did some research on the logo that Ms. Marshall presented and found out that it was designed by Roxanne Chase who was running an unlicensed, unpermitted business from her home. He stated that he went to the Central Planning office to check on the dollar amount about the town's advertising and the dollar amount of the wreaths. He stated that he also had another reason for going because he wanted to tell Ms. Marshall exactly the problem. He stated that he did not appreciate her coming before a group of completely licensed business people presenting an officially adopted Town of Central logo that was designed by an unlicensed and unpermitted

business. He stated that he told her it was fine to pull the wool over the Council's eyes but not mine. He said that he was called such a vile and disgusting name that he would not repeat it in public, and that he was ordered by Ms. Marshall at this particular time to depart from the building. Mr. Donald stated that he went back to his office and called Herb Thompson. Mr. Thompson was out of town but he later came by and told me that he did not think there was anything he could do about this. Mr. Donald said that he did not get any prices on the town's advertising or the wreaths. This is the lady that is hired by the CRA and paid for by funds from the town. Mr. Donald reminded Council that the agreement between the Town of Central and the CRA was in the documents he had passed out and article #1 quotes that it will assist in the recruitment of new business, business retention and other economic development projects in the Central business district including development of the downtown marketing and business recruitment program. Article #2 states to serve as a coordinating agency for the town in promotional activities for the Central business district including the planning of the events. Serve as liaison between the town Council, Central business district and other organizations as agreed on by the CRA board and Town Council. After this namecalling incident Mr. Donald stated that he talked with a few other business owners about what he should do. Their advice was to stay away from Ms. Marshall, but he did not feel that this was an answer to this problem. There have been other incidents that have occurred. Mr. Donald stated that he was eating lunch one day at Sonnyburger when Ms. Marshall came in and offered to sell the Sonnyburger a wreath. She never cme by my place of business, he stated. Then the newspaper ad came out and he stated he was not asked to be on it. A copy is on the wall in Town Hall. At this time Mayor Stan Thompson interrupted Mr. Donald to tell him his five minute limit had expired. After Council's consent, Mayor Thompson allowed Mr. Donald another five minutes. Mr. Donald stated that for the Christmas tree lighting posters he again was not selected to participate in this. At the Christmas Tree Lighting Program for the Town of Central which was sponsored by the CRA, Mr. Donald stated that his wife was handed a calendar of which Council had been presented a copy and on the 10th day of December, the day of the Christmas Parade, of which Mr. Donald was coordinator the telephone number is wrong. The correct numbers were posted on a flyer on the door of the Central Planning Office, Ms. Marshall's office. Then on December 11th Mr. Donald stated that he received what he felt was the final straw, a certified letter from the Chairperson of the CRA. In it was stated "in the best interest of all concerned I am to refrain from private and personal interaction with Ms. Marshall." Mr. Donald then asked if the town did not want his business in the town and if so he would solicit Council's help in resolving this conspiracy of discrimination and misinformation against his business and my person. Thank you.

Mayor Stan Thompson stated to Mr. Donald that much of his concerns had come as news to him. He did state that last week there was some difficulty in locating a key but that should be a simple matter to rectify. Mayor Thompson stated that, instead of taking up all of Council's timehe would offer this Friday afternoon after 2:00 P. M. to sit down and listen and carefully consider Mr. Donald's concerns and the concerns of others also. These have not been discussed in a town Council meeting at all.

RESOLUTIONS AND POLICIES: Roll cart policy had been covered in work session. Though no policy has been adopted, the carts are not to be rotated from one Councilperson to another.

Political sign permit deposit. Consensus of Council that the policy state

the fee should be stated -0- dollars. Motion by Frank Chaka, second by James Teal to state zero dollars. Harry Holladay stated that it might be just as well for the town crew to take the signs up in lieu of taking the money and having to refund it after the signs are removed. The time factor is to be considered. Mayor Thompson called for the vote on the motion to state zero fee for political signs. The vote was unanimous.

RECEIPT AND DISPOSITION OF PETITIONS: None

REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:
Mayor Thompson at this time assigned chairperson to each committee.
Finance - Frank Chaka
Recreation - James Teal
Planning - Harry Holladay
Public Safety - Edward Reynolds
Water & Sewer - Joe Head
Streets & Sanitation - Bobby Busha
He instructed that there was nothing in writing as to these particular assignments. It is basicallly working with the Administrator and heads of departments. He remarked to Councilman Joe Head that the 18 Mile Creek meetings would need to be attended to keep up with where the project is and is headed. Mr. Head stated that he would get with Mr. Herbert Thompson when he is back at work and get the update on this project.

Finance report. Councilman Frank Chaka give the report and stated that it was good to stay under budget since some bills had been paid in advance. Mr. Chaka stated the the high water bill in the sewer department was due to the county not taking over at the proper time. Mayor Thompson stated that the lift stations were beginning to require more and more repairs and at some time in the not distant future some of them would have to be replaced.

Recreation report - Councilman James Teal. Mr. Teal stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee would hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 1995 at 7:00 P. M. Mr. Teal presented an overview of Tom Cloer's activities for the year 1994 and stated that future plans are to pursue a sports facility in conjunction with SWU but Mayor Thompson stated the facility at SWU was a different type facility and Southern Wesleyan University has had to put that plan on hold for the time being. The plans for a possible gym had already been discussed. Many of the proposed projects for the coming year were discussed. April 22, 1995 an event is planned for the seniors in Pickens County and all who are 55 and older are invited to attend.

Planning report - Councilman Harry Holladay- Mr. Holladay reminded Council of the Winter Municipal Meeting of February 15, 1995 in Columbia and noted that all those who could would need to attend. Several items on the agenda will be of help to many. Mayor Thompson encouraged all who could to attend the meeting. He stated that he would be in Columbia anyway and would be able to attend the night meeting. Some funds should be available to help with these expenses for Council. Mr. Holladay stated there would be no refund after the 8th of February. Mayor Thompson asked that all who could attend to let Grace Towe, Clerk know by the 23rd of January, 1995 so that money could be allocated and the checks cut and the registration forms could be sent in. Mayor Thompson reminded Council that the Planning Commission meets each 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P. M.

Public Safety report - Edward Reynolds - No report.

Water & Sewer report - Joe Head No report.

Streets & Sanitation report - Bobby Busha - No report.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES IN POSSESSION OF COUNCIL: None.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR AND MAYOR:

Administrator Herbert Thompson out sick. Mayor Thompson reported that he had talked with Herbert the prior night and Herbert had nothing to be discussed at this time. Herbert had worked three hours this date and is responding well.

Mayor's report:
Mayor Thompson reported that he had sent a letter to the Merchants Guild thanking them for the good job they did with the Christmas parade.

The M. A. S. C. Winter meeting for February 15, 1995 had already been discussed.

Dedication of the new press box/concession stand. Mayor Thompson reported that this had been considered as a memorial for the late Councilman Calvin "Doc" Evatt. Wanda Evatt has been informed of these intentions and she was pleased to know that "Doc" would be remembered in this manner. Mayor Thompson called for a motion for the Town of Central to dedicate the press box/concession stand at Bolick Field in memory of former Council member Calvin "Doc" Evatt. Motion by James Teal, second by Bobby Busha to adopt this motion. The vote was unanimous.

Disposition of property on Watkins Street. Mayor Thompson reviewed for the new Councilmen that the property had been researched and Building Codes official Richard Davidson had written to the owner and asked them to bring bring the property up to code or have it torn down and hauled off. The owner then offered to donate the property to the town with the stipulation that the town make a playground on the property. This seemed to be a good idea, but after the Administrator and Recreation Director and Chairman of the Recreation Committee got together and looked at the property, and after considering the size of the property after buffer requirements were met it was recommended that Council not accept this offer because the lot would be too small to make a playground to be of any service to the citizens. Mayor Thompson reported that he had written a letter to the owner and informed them that the town had decided not to accept the property. This letter was sent by certified mail on Friday, January 6, 1995.

Suggestions for utilization of Town-owned property at the intersection of Church Street and Hwy. 93 ("rock station") Mayor Thompson reported that over the years discussions had been held concerning the rock station. The town owns the building and the railroad owns the property that it sits on. Several people over the years have expressed interest in the building for different types of business, but at the present there is no interest. Harry Holladay suggested that it be leased and let the person leasing bring the building up to code. Discussion only and it was consensus of Council to think about what to do with the building. Harry Holladay had suggested that it be made into a place for teenagers to gather, but after discussion Frank Chaka stated that when the old school building was repaired it would

have plenty of room for the teenagers to meet. Mayor Thompson reported that the adjusters had been here and the check for the damages to the old high school should be forthcoming soon.

Other business: Mayor Thompson again welcomed the new Councilpersons and asked that they present their views as the need arises. He stated that he looked forward to working with each.

No further business Frank Chaka made a motion to adjourn, this was seconded by Harry Holladay. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Towe

Grace S. Towe
Clerk
01/09/95