



MINUTES

South Congaree Town Council

Council Meeting 6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

South Congaree Town Hall, Council Chambers
119 West Berry Rd., West Columbia, SC 29172

Members in Attendance: Mayor Cindy Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Kitty Spires (Absent),
Councilmembers: Brian Jackson (Absent), Debbie McIver, and Dwayne Prosser.

Attendees Present: Interim Town Administrator Ted Luckadoo, Municipal Clerk Kerri Charlton (Via Teams), Chief Jonas, Town Attorney Joseph Dickey

The public was duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

I. Call to Order.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present.

Mayor Campbell led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Gerald Watford, Dunn's Chapel Church led the Invocation.

Meeting complied with the FOIA.

Mayor Campbell introduced Joseph Dickey, new Town Attorney.

Before moving to the agenda, Mayor Campbell made a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session item to discuss and receive legal advice relating to a lawsuit settlement. Seconded by Councilman Prosser. No Discussion. Roll call vote:

Motion carried.

Council Member McIver: Yes.

Council Member Prosser: Yes.

Mayor Campbell: Yes

II. Approval of Minutes:

September 17, 2024- Council Meeting

Councilmember Prosser made a motion to approve the minutes from September 17, Seconded by Councilmember McIver. Roll Call Vote:

Motion carried.

• *Mayor Campbell- Yes*

• *Councilwoman McIver- Yes*

• *Councilman Prosser-Yes*

III. Old Business:

1. Opening of the RFP-LS 09-2024-01 for a Town Sign Beautification Landscaping project

Motion: Council Member McIver moved to accept the RFP from Old Countryside Assets Management and Services LLC, d/b/a Countryside Mowing and Maintenance, and authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate the fees, price, and layout. **Second:** Council Member Prosser. **Discussion:** The motion was approved to move forward with the company, subject to renegotiating the terms for the fees and price. Roll call vote:

Motion carried.

• *Mayor Campbell- Yes*

• *Councilwoman McIver- Yes*

• *Councilman Prosser-Yes*

2. Town Sign Policy rewrite review

Motion: Council Member McIver moved to approve the revised Town Sign Policy. **Second:** Council Member Prosser. **Discussion:**

- a The wording in the "Purpose" section was revised to "Town of South Congaree's electronic business sign to promote town events and information," replacing "local business and town events."
- b Council members discussed whether the policy should specify which events are considered town events. It was clarified that only town-sponsored events would be eligible to be posted on the sign.
- c Concerns were raised regarding the wording in the "Compliance and Liability" section, specifically related to advertising. The term "advertisement" was clarified to refer only to the promotion of town events, not businesses.
- d An amendment to remove the third bullet point under "Compliance and Liability" was proposed and accepted.

Roll call Vote:

Motion carried.

- *Mayor Campbell- Yes*
- *Councilwoman McIver- Yes*
- *Councilman Prosser-Yes*

IV. **New Business:**

Swearing-In of New Officer Lieutenant James Marchant.

- a. **Chief Stephen Jonas** conducted the swearing-in ceremony for James Trenton Marchant as the new Lieutenant.
- b. **James Marchant** took the oath of office; Lieutenant Marchant expressed his commitment to building trust with the town and the police department.
- c. **Mayor Campbell** introduced special guests present for Lt. Marchant's swearing in: Dana Marchant, Olivia Marchant, Bob and Cindy Moore, Jeff, and Kelly Counts, and Keala Hillman.

V. **First Reading: ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07, FIREWORKS- SECTION 92.30**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING SECTION 92.30 OF THE SOUTH CONGAREE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE DISCHARGING OF FIREWORKS:

Motion: Council Member McIver moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2024-7, amending Section 92-30 of the South Congaree Code of Ordinances regarding the discharge of fireworks. **Second:** Council Member Prosser. **Discussion:** A question was raised regarding the 25 ft restriction from occupied structures, but it was confirmed that there were no changes made to that section. Roll Call Vote:

Motion carried.

- *Mayor Campbell- Yes*
- *Councilwoman McIver- Yes*
- *Councilman Prosser-Yes*

VI. **Departmental Reports**

1. **Police Department Report:** Chief Stephen Jonas provided an update on recent activities:

- a. **Severe Weather Response:** Conducted an inventory of emergency equipment in preparation for severe weather and potentially cold weather. A full quote will be presented at the next meeting.
- b. **Retirement of Chief Mike Gordon:** Former Chief Gordon has retired and is spending time with his family.
- c. **IT Upgrades:** Successful upgrade of software and hardware systems in collaboration with the IT department.
- d. **SLED Audit:** The department passed its two-year audit with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).
- e. **Felony Arrests:** Several felony arrests were made relating to shoplifting and other crimes. Progress has been made in apprehending suspects.
- f. **Vehicle Recalls:** The department completed several vehicle recalls and is moving forward with other administrative tasks.

2. **Code Enforcement- No Report**

VII. **Public Comments:**

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

Citizen comments made by:

- *Jean Wilson*

- Mechelle Mabry

VIII. Executive Session Entered at 6:39 PM:

S.C. Code 30-4-70 (A) (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body. (Town Administrator,)

Section 30-4-70 (A) (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of Legal Advice where the Legal Advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim. (Receive legal advice regarding proposed contractual franchise agreement with Ripple Fiber, Employee Policy and Procedure Manual and Job Descriptions, Code Enforcement, Town Administrator Contract, Town Sign Landscaping Contract)

Mayor Campbell made the motion to enter Executive Session at 6:39 PM, Motion seconded by Councilmember Prosser, Motion carried by unanimous vote of council present.

Invitees: Ted Luckadoo and Joseph Dickey

Mayor Campbell made the motion entered into Public Session at 7:42 PM and reconvened to public forum as the regular Council meeting, Motion seconded by Councilmember McIver Motion carried by unanimous vote of Council present.

No Votes were taken during Executive Session.

Upon returning to open session, action may be taken by Council regarding matters discussed in the Executive Session.

Mayor Campbell made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to move forward with the legal matter as discussed in Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Prosser. Motion carried by unanimous vote of Council present.

Council Member McIver made a motion to appoint Town Attorney to move forward with a franchise fee agreement with Ripple Fiber, Seconded by Council Member Prosser. Motion carried by unanimous vote of Council present.

IX. Adjournment of Council Meeting:

Mayor Campbell made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Kerri Charlton

Attested by:
Kerri Charlton, Municipal Clerk

Cindy Campbell

Approved by:
Cindy Campbell, Mayor

12.17.2024

Date Approved

Civility Pledge

I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others, and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town.

**The public was duly notified of the date, time, and place of the upcoming meeting.
The Town of South Congaree is a handicapped accessible facility.**