



MINUTES

South Congaree Town Council
Council Meeting 6:00 PM
Tuesday, August 20, 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

Councilmembers: Brian Jackson Debbie McIver, and Dwayne Prosser.

Attendees Present: Interim Chief Mike Gordon, Town Attorney John Rakowsky, Clerk, Kerri Charlton

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 and Pastor Jeffrey Bradley; Lighthouse Baptist Church led the Invocation. The Town is in compliance with the FOIA, posting 24 hours in advance.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. July 29, 2024-Special Called Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem Spires made a motion at 6:01 PM to approve the minutes listed on the Agenda, Seconded by Councilmember Prosser, No Discussion. Councilmember McIver recused herself from voting due to being absent from the meeting. Roll Call Vote:

Motion carried at 6:02 PM

- Mayor Campbell- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Spires- Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman McIver- Abstain
- Councilman Prosser-Yea

III. Committee Reports Entered at 6:03PM: Planning Commission Report- Wally Shangle

Mr. Shangle provided an update to the Council on the New Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission had worked with Gregory Sprouse of the Central Midlands Council of Government to ensure the accuracy of mapping, future land use, and legal compliance. The Commission planned to present the finalized Comprehensive Plan to the Council for review and adoption in September. A digital copy of the Comprehensive Plan was available upon request. Council members were invited to request the original draft if needed, and arrangements would be made to provide it.

IV. Old Business: Hospitality Tax

The Council reviewed the Hospitality Tax Packet and considered hosting a meeting with local business owners to discuss it collectively rather than individually. It was suggested to offer multiple dates and times for this meeting. Mrs. Charlton will contact Naomi Reed at the Municipal Association to arrange suitable dates. This meeting will provide an opportunity for businesses to review the document and ask any questions.

V. New Business: County of Lexington Roads and Storm Drainage Agreement

The Council discussed the County of Lexington Roads and Storm Drainage Agreement. Present were Lexington County Administrator Mr. Lynn Sturkie and County Councilman Todd Cullum, who addressed questions regarding the agreement. The agreement, unchanged except for updated dates, permits the County to maintain subdivision roads built to its standards. Councilman Cullum provided an update on Ramblin Road improvements, noting that resurfacing from Platt Springs Road to Highway 302 is expected to be completed by the end of November. He will confirm the full scope of the project and provide further details to the Council.

VI. Introduction of Ordinances

Second and Final Reading Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance 2024-02-B

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AS AMENDED, THE COUNTY OF LEXINGTON'S ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE 24-03, CHAPTER 10-ANIMALS, ARTICLE II, ANIMAL CONTROL, DIVISION I, GENERALLY, AMENDING SECTION 10-32-COMMERCIAL BREEDING KENNELS/CATTERIES, SECTION 10-33-DOG IDENTIFICATION, SECTION 10-38-REDEMPTION, MANDATORY STERILIZATION AND MICROCHIPPING OF CERTAIN CATS AND DOGS, AND SECTION 10-41-PER REGULATION-COMMERCIAL PURPOSES INTO THE SOUTH CONGAREE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Councilmember Prosser made a motion to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2024-02-B to amend the County of Lexington's animal control ordinance 24-03, chapter 10-animals, article ii, animal control, division I, generally, amending section 10-32-commercial breeding kennels/catteries, section 10-33-dog identification, section 10-38-redemption, mandatory sterilization and microchipping of certain cats and dogs, and section 10-41-per regulation-commercial purposes into the South Congaree code of ordinances, Seconded by Councilmember Jackson, No Discussion. Roll Call Vote:

Motion carried at 6:18 PM

- *Mayor Campbell- Yea*
- *Mayor Pro-Tem Spires- Yea*
- *Councilman Jackson- Yea*
- *Councilwoman McIver- Yea*
- *Councilman Prosser-Yea*

VII. Departmental Reports

A. Interim Police Chief Mike Gordon provided the following update:

The report covers activities from July 1 to the present. Key points include:

- **Traffic Tickets:** 20 issued.
- **Misdemeanor Arrests:** 17 made.
- **Warrants:** A mix of resolved and pending cases, covering a variety of charges.

Regarding calls, Interim Chief Gordon confirmed that the report includes only those handled directly by his department. For calls occurring outside regular hours, he reviews and adopts these from County deputies to ensure complete investigation and avoid duplication of effort.

Current Statistics:

- **Total Cases for 2024:** 152 as of today.
- **Previous Year's Total:** 424 documented incidents, with some cases related to code violations in mobile home parks.

Homeless Situation: The department continues to address homelessness, which is not a crime but does present challenges. Efforts include managing individuals found in various locations and local businesses. There have been cases involving charging individuals for loitering or vagrancy, and Interim Chief Gordon noted frequent interactions with homeless individuals.

B. Code Enforcement Report – Ronnie Hingleton-Report given by Major Jonas

The Council received an update presented by Major Jonas on behalf of Code Enforcement Official Ronnie Hingleton. Key highlights include:

- **Expertise and Progress:** Per Major Jonas, Mr. Hingleton has shown significant knowledge and experience, making substantial progress in addressing issues with older mobile homes and properties with excessive code violations.
- **Identification of Problem Areas:** Mr. Hingleton has effectively pinpointed problematic locations, including areas frequented by homeless individuals.
- **Compliance Efforts:** Notable progress has been made in achieving compliance through proper notifications and enforcement actions. An extensive list of these efforts has been provided to the Mayor and Council, along with positive feedback.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Ongoing efforts are being made to explore matching grants and 100% funding from the Department of Public Safety and the Municipal Association to address specific property issues.

VIII. Public Comments

At the town council meeting, 14 citizens signed up to speak, though only 8 addressed the Council with their concerns and issues. The Council was presented with an 8 question handout from Danny Jones for review and consideration.

IX. Executive Session

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. (**Chief of Police, Town Clerk, 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 potential claim and settlement.)

Mayor Campbell made the motion to enter Executive Session at **7:02 PM**, Motion seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Spires, Motion carries by unanimous vote.

Mayor Campbell made a statement: let the record reflect for the minutes that the Council exited Executive Session at **9:01 PM** and reconvened to public forum.

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 Pro-Tem Spires made a motion to promote Major Jonas to the position of Chief, with the following terms: A personnel review will be conducted three months after the promotion, with a subsequent review six months later. These reviews will be in accordance with our town Personnel Manual., Seconded by Councilmember Jackson No Discussion. Roll Call Vote:

Motion Carried at 9:02 PM

- Mayor Campbell- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Spires- Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman McIver-Yea
- Councilman Prosser-Yea

Major Jonas accepted the position of Police Chief, and the Council discussed planning a community event to officially introduce him in his official capacity as Chief.

Mayor Pro-Tem Spires made a motion to engage with Ted Luckadoo as a part-time Town Administrator. To help with urgent projects, including:

Two meetings related to the hospitality tax and business owners.

Working with Chief Jonas on policies and procedures for the police department.

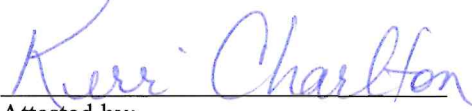
Seconded by Councilmember Jackson, Discussion: Councilmember McIver, discussed the prioritization of tasks, with a focus on: Hospitality tax and job descriptions. Employee handbook and police department policies. Assistance with ordinances if time allows. Roll Call Vote:

Motion Carried at 9:03 PM

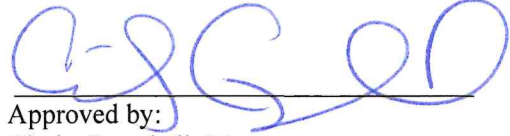
- Mayor Campbell- Yea
- Mayor Pro-Tem Spires- Yea
- Councilman Jackson- Yea
- Councilwoman McIver-Yea
- Councilman Prosser-Yea

X. Adjournment of Council Meeting:

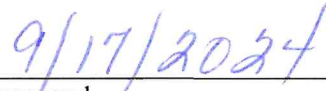
The council, on the motion of Mayor Campbell, voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. Motion carried with unanimous vote of council.



Attested by:
Kerri Charlton, Municipal Clerk



Approved by:
Cindy Campbell, Mayor



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.

For the YouTube video please use the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5PCO9jW2to&t=3235s> PT 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C60EgRgIBxI> PT 2.

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.

I have questions that many of our citizens and other interested parties would like for Council to address. Because the citizens are asking these questions, I am requesting additional minutes to speak.

ARE we LIVE so that all citizens can hear these questions and your responses?

The Citizens of South Congaree would like to know:

1. Why have we had so much employee turnover in the Town Clerk position?

Patt Shull, Sharon Williams, Tara Spires, Teresa XXX, Kelly Clark, Kerry (Current)

2. Why has

1 Police Chief

4 Police Officers

Walker - Springdale

Brooks - Richland County/Cayce

Garner -

Sharpe - Myrtle Beach

1 Resource Officer - Pineridge

2 Reserve Officers

Kevin Miller

Gerald

Winky Wilson

Left their positions in a relatively short period of time

We have a Code Enforcement Officer ticketing our citizens but no Police Department to Protect our Citizens

3. According to your Special Called meeting (7/29/2024) you voted to submit a contract and earnest money on the purchase of property for the town. Will you explain to the town citizens what the plans are for this purchase?

1. Where is the property located?

2. Are you planning to build? If so, what? Is this in the Comprehensive Plan for the town?

3. What is the cost?

4. Would we be tapping into sewer or would septic need to be installed?

It appears you contracted GMK on two different occasions for services, what were those costs and what services did we receive?

4. Does the Council understand that the council's duty is to perform the will of the people? Do you understand the people of the town should be involved in decisions that are greater than keeping the lights on.

5. Is there a Town Clerk and a Clerk of Court on site at town hall to serve the people at least 8 hours a day?

6. Why was the Workshop Meeting changed to 5:30 and the Regular Meeting changed to 6:00 when most people don't get off work early enough to come to the meetings.

7. Would you please increase the volume of the town's sound system for the citizens watching on social media. Why is the sound system and video only working at select meetings.

8. Has the council discussed unincorporating the Town of South Congaree?

Town of South Congaree Council Meeting
Sign-In Sheet



Meeting Type Town Council Regular Meeting Date: August 29, 2024 6PM

Name	Phone #	Address	Area of Concern
6:30 <u>Bob Van (winning)</u>		<u>163 W Bony Rd</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
<u>Jenny Jones</u>		<u>603 Chapel Rd.</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
6:35 <u>Jenny Jones</u>		<u>811 Church St</u>	
<u>Judith Jones</u>		<u>811 Church St.</u>	
<u>Brooke Gyles Breiman</u>		<u>1427 Pine St.</u>	<u>TAKE</u>
<u>Patt Shuel</u>		<u>451 Chapel Road</u>	
<u>Rebecca Janny Esks</u>		<u>1210 Colonial Dr</u>	
<u>Steve Maxwell</u>		<u>423 Sunset</u>	<u>SPEAK</u>
<u>Jeffrey Bradle</u>		<u>254 Loop Road</u>	
<u>Addie Elfingers</u>		<u>1608 Rise St,</u>	<u>SPEAK</u>
<u>Wendell Mahan</u>		<u>5000 Pauline Rd</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
<u>Feta + Shereq Spunkie</u>		<u>525A Rabbie Rd</u>	
<u>Rebecca Klobbs</u>		<u>3910 Church St</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>

Highlighted to SPEAK

Town of South Congaree Council Meeting
 Sign-In Sheet



Name	Phone #	Address	Area of Concern
Vina Grant		302 Hwy	Speaker