



TOWN OF WILLISTON

THOMAS R. RIVERS, MAYOR
ANGELA S. OVERTON, TOWN CLERK

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Williston Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting September 12, 2011

Minutes:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the Williston Town Hall and provided to The People Sentinel newspaper at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting in accordance with the S.C. Freedom of Information Act.

Members of Council present: Councilman Baxley, Councilman Benjamin, Councilwoman Matthews, Mayor Rivers and Councilman Holmes.

Members of Council absent: Councilman Frederick

Mrs. Angela Overton took minutes. Mr. Tom Boulware was also present.

Councilman Baxley gave the invocation.

Councilman Benjamin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order, stated that a quorum of Council was present, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councilman Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13th, 2011 Council meeting as presented. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes were approved as presented.

Councilman Baxley made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as information only. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All in favor. Treasurer's report accepted as information only.

Public Forum –

No Comments

TOWN COUNCIL

SAMMIE L. BAXLEY PHIL FREDERICK JERRY HOLMES MILTON WIDENER WANDA B. MATTHEWS MICHAEL BENJAMIN

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Barnwell County

Mr. Chris Carter stated that Barnwell County sent out a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for all of the towns. The purpose is to do early mitigation before a natural disaster occurs. Each town has its own section in the plan. Williston is the only town in the county that has not currently adopted the plan. The plan makes the town eligible for grants to help if/when a natural disaster occurs. He stated that after a natural disaster occurs and FEMA comes in to help they look for the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. He recommends that the town adopt this plan that was presented to them.

Councilman Holmes made a motion to approve a resolution to adopt the 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All in favor. Resolution confirmed.

ORDINANCE NO. 09-01 OF THE TOWN OF WILLISTON
A Resolution Adopting the 2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS:

1. The Lower Savannah Council of Governments in conjunction with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and FEMA Region IV has prepared an updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for Barnwell County; and
2. An adopted and updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is required in order for Barnwell County and participating communities to be eligible to receive FY 2011 Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding providing for pre-disaster mitigation planning and implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects prior to a disaster event; and
3. FEMA has tentatively approved the updated Barnwell County Mitigation Plan with final approval being subject to adoption by the County and the affected communities within the County along with a final public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN OF WILLISTON TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Williston Town Council does hereby adopt the updated Barnwell County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the Williston Town Council on September 12th, 2011.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:

Angela Overton, Town Clerk

Thomas R. Rivers, Mayor

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)

*The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program was authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC. Funding for the program is provided through the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to assist States and local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.

*All Applicants and Sub-applicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) if they have been identified through the NFIP as having a Special Flood Hazard Area (a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) or Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) has been issued). In addition, the Applicant/Sub applicant must not be withdrawn, suspended, or on probation from the NFIP.

*For the 2011 Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, applicants must have a mitigation plan approved by FEMA before funding can be awarded. An application can be submitted without the plan approved, but won't get funding unless the plan is approved once FEMA starts the award process. Based on the latest info from FEMA, the earliest any awards will go out is **June 1**. We are encouraging the plans to be adopted and approved as early as possible since applicants get extra points in the evaluation process for having an approved plan.

*Plans may be adopted with whatever protocol your local government uses. A Resolution would be preferable since it is quicker.

*Plans to be adopted as a multi-jurisdictional plan. A complete, final bound version will be sent as soon as we get final approval from FEMA.

*If the municipality wishes to apply for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant, it can do so even though the plan has not been adopted. As long as it is adopted prior to the grant award (around June 1) the municipality is eligible for that funding. PDM apps. were originally due February 14, however **THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FEMA REGIONAL DIRECTOR HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 14, 2011.**

It should also be noted that a FEMA approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is a required plan to have in place in order to be eligible for PDM grants.

Further, there is no financial cost or burden for municipalities to be part of the Plan. The County has a written agreement with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments to prepare and coordinate the development of the Plan with SC Emergency Management Division and FEMA. All municipalities are encouraged, and by law required to participate in the planning and update process of Plan development.

Appointments to the Town Planning Commission

Mr. Carter stated that the terms for Mr. Norman Duncan and Mr. Francis Flynn expired on August 31, 2011. He stated that they both have agreed to serve again if re-appointed. He recommended that Mr. Duncan and Mr. Flynn be re-appointed for three-year terms.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Duncan and Mr. Flynn to the Town Planning Commission for three-year terms. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Carter stated that the terms for Ms. Deborah Knowles, Mr. Pete Kulmala, and Ms. Ann Widener expired on August 1, 2011. He stated that all have agreed to serve again if re-appointed. He recommended that Ms. Knowles, Mr. Kulmala, and Ms. Widener be re-appointed for three-year terms.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Knowles, Mr. Kulmala, and Ms. Widener to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three-year terms. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All in favor.

Appointments to Museum Committee

Mr. Carter stated that Mr. Norman Duncan called and indicated that there are two vacancies on the Museum Committee. Mr. Duncan stated that Ms. Beth Dunaway has been assisting the Committee and he would like to see her appointed to one of the vacancies. Mr. Carter made a recommendation that Ms. Dunaway be appointed to the Museum Committee.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to appoint Ms. Beth Dunaway to fill one of the vacancies of the Museum Committee. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Carter spoke to council about an experimental change at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in alkalinity control. He stated that the town currently uses caustic to control the acid levels. He stated that this was very expensive and potentially harmful to the workers. Right now the WWTP uses 50% caustic. Mr. Carter spoke with Dr. Snider from Wiedman and Singleton, a consulting firm, and he stated that the town could use 25% caustic. More of the caustic would have to be used, but it comes at a lower price. In order to use the 25% caustic the town would have to purchase a bulk tank and a spill tank. The purchase of the 25% caustic would come at about a 50% discount of what the town is currently paying.

Mr. Carter stated that another alternative is the use of lime slurry or liquid lime. He stated that an experiment had been performed in August for two weeks to try to get the right numbers needed for the acidity levels. He stated that this method would save the town about \$45,000 annually. Mr. Carter stated that the upfront cost would be around \$150,000 to get set up and for all of the permitting costs. He stated that he found some used equipment that was being sold for half price. The equipment is four years old and still in good condition.

Councilwoman Matthews inquired if the readings would be more consistent with the liquid lime. Mr. Carter stated that the readings would be more stable and would not spike as much. Councilwoman Matthews also asked about the stirring rate for the liquid lime.

Councilman Benjamin stated that the stirring rate would be the same but the feed rate would increase with liquid lime. He stated that from a safety standpoint the liquid lime was much safer, but the feed rate could cause a problem and the town may have to hire someone for the maintenance.

More discussion ensued on the liquid lime alternative and the purchasing of equipment for the liquid lime.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to authorize Mr. Carter to contact the company to purchase the equipment for the liquid lime. Councilman Holmes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Carter wished to make the Council aware of the new bill passed for the Point of Sale Provision for real estate at 6% assessment levels (bill H3713). There is no change for owner occupied (4%) residential property. At the point of sale, taxable value of commercial properties and second homes (6% properties) are determined by the new taxable value. The new taxable value is based on a 25% exemption off the assessor's fair market value at the point of sale, but this new taxable value may not be less than the fair market value determined by the most recent assessment prior to the sale.

The flexibility to "bank" millage increases for future use allows cities, counties and schools flexibility to raise millage in one year by up to the previous three years of increases allowed by law but not previously imposed by council. The millage rollback calculation corrections corrects the millage rollback formula for cities, counties and schools so that the increase in taxable value for all property sold in a reassessment year is treated the same in the year of reassessment as in all other years.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rivers announced that the Christmas Parade would be held on Sunday, December 4th. He also stated that he and Chris Carter would be attending a Municipal Association meeting on September 30 in North Augusta. He stated that he would love for the other councilmen to go and to come see him if they wanted to go.

Mayor Rivers stated that an employee who served the Town for 28 years had resigned. He stated that he would like to see a policy put into place that would allow the Town to purchase a rocking chair with the town logo on it for anyone who serves the Town for over 20 years.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to recognize long-term employees of over 20 years with a rocking chair. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Rivers thanked Councilman Benjamin for serving the Town. He stated that Councilman Benjamin has served the Town well and helped accomplish a lot during his terms on Town Council. He also stated that Councilman Frederick had served well and would be missed.

Council Comments

Councilman Baxley thanked Chris for cleaning up Dicks & Kelly Streets. He also inquired if the Town still sprayed for mosquitoes everywhere. He stated that there are several areas that the mosquitoes seem to be very bad. Councilman Baxley stated that he has enjoyed serving with Councilman Benjamin and he would be missed.

Councilwoman Matthews stated that she is excited about the new payment on Main Street. She stated that she would miss Councilman Benjamin. She liked that he thought outside of the box and that would be missed.

Councilman Holmes stated that he would miss Councilman Benjamin. Councilman Benjamin has served the town for about 16 years and his perspective would be missed.

Councilman Benjamin thanked the past and current members of Council. He stated that he wished the best for the future of Williston. He thanked the people of Williston for placing their trust in his judgment and he enjoyed serving the Town.

Mayor Rivers called for a motion to go into executive session. Susan Delk from The People Sentinel request to pass some information out. She passed out a copy of the Freedom of Information Act to all of the councilmembers, the clerk, the administrator and the attorney.

Councilman Baxley made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in accordance with the provisions of SC Code 30-4-70 (a) 1. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All in favor.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Matthews, seconded by Councilman Holmes the Board voted unanimously to accept the resignations of Herman Hosey and Jim Berkenstock effective immediately.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Matthews, seconded by Councilman Holmes the Board voted unanimously to establish the hours of the court clerk from 8 AM to 5 PM in order that they be available to accept payments and otherwise deal more readily with public inquiry.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

TOWN OF WILLISTON, SOUTH CAROLINA


Thomas R. Rivers, Mayor

ATTEST:


Angela S. Overton, Town Clerk

10/10/11
Date