



TOWN OF WILLISTON

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

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Williston Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting October 10, 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 Williams, Councilwoman Matthews, Mayor Rivers, Councilman Holmes, Councilman Valentine, and Councilman Stapleton.

Members of Council absent: None

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

Councilwoman Matthews gave the invocation.

Councilman Holmes 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 Baxley made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 Council meeting as presented. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes were approved as presented.

The Administration of the Oath of Office was given to the Newly Elected Council Members: Brett Williams, Jason Stapleton and Scott Valentine and to the Returning Councilman Samuel Baxley.

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

TOWN COUNCIL

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

Public Forum –

Judge Flynn stated that it was a pleasure to see young new members on the council. He was especially proud of his son-in-law Scott Valentine.

Mr. Keith Sloan wished to congratulate the new Councilmen. He extended an offer of corporation from the County Council and said it would be a pleasure to answer any questions they may have about his work with the town.

Judge Cooper stated that he looked forward to working with the new council.

Consideration of Administrator's request to waive the competitive bidding requirement of Section 2-212 for work related to the placement of chemical feed equipment at the Waste-Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Chris Carter stated that it was discussed at the previous council meeting to buy, prepare and set up new equipment at the Waste-Water Treatment Plant to start using Lime Slurry for the chemical feed process. He stated that to bid competitively would be a very expensive process because of having to get specifications and drawings. He stated that there is a Town Ordinance that allows the Council to approve an exclusion for situations.

Councilman Baxley made a motion to waive the competitive bidding requirement of Section 2-212 for work related to the placement of chemical feed equipment at the Waste-Water Treatment Plant. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All in favor.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Carter stated that the supervisor for the Waste-Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) had retired. The Town has engaged Thomas Environmental to be the contract operator until the space was filled. The Town agreed to pay Jimmy Thomas \$2,700.00 a month in a written day to day agreement. The replacement supervisor must have certain water certifications in order to run the WWTP.

Mr. Carter also stated that he would like to have a short orientation for the new Council Members on October 25th to show them what and how the Town runs.

Mr. Carter requested that the Council consider implementing policy requiring probationary status in employment. He stated that every place that he has worked has had a policy of probation. He requested that a policy be put in place that would require a newly hired employee or a promoted employee to serve a six month probationary period. During that period the employee would understand that he/she would be considered

temporary status while they learned the job. During the probationary period or after the probationary period the supervisor would decide if the employee was suitable for the job.

Mayor Rivers stated that he believed the Town practiced that now, but did not have an official policy on the matter.

Councilwoman Matthews requested that Chris put it in Resolution form for the November Council Meeting so the Council could review it.

Chris introduced Mr. Tommy Burkhalter who had been hired to upgrade the Town Website.

Mr. Burkhalter stated that appreciated the opportunity to redo the website. He stated that it was ready to go live with the exception of the updates of the new Council Members. He reported to Council that customers now have the ability to log onto the Town website and pay their water bills online with a credit card. He stated that a "test-run" had been done and referred to the Town Clerk/Treasurer to report on how it worked.

Angie Overton reported that the payment came through fine, but there was a problem with the payment reports that are run at the end of each day. She stated that the reports are not separating the credit card payments from the cash/check payments. These need to be separated because deposits are made each day with the cash/check payments. She stated that the software company had been notified and were working on a solution.

Mr. Burkhalter stated that he would put going live with the website until the kinks were worked out. He also wished to thank Mr. Bob Cothran for all of his help putting together the history of the Town.

Mr. Burkhalter also notified the Council that he has set up a Facebook page and Twitter Account for the Town.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rivers stated that he and Mr. Carter attended the Municipal Association's Regional Meeting in North Augusta. He said that zoning changes and retirement plans were discussed.

Mayor Rivers also requested that three Resolutions be passed, one for each outgoing Councilmember. He suggested that they be presented to the former Council Members at the Retirement Luncheon for Mr. Andrew Lott.

Councilwoman Matthews moved to pass three Resolutions showing appreciation for the three outgoing Council Members. Councilman Holmes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Rivers stated that he was pleased by the way the Council Election was run. Everyone was civil and polite. He stated that he received a letter from Mr. Gordon stating that he would be willing to serve the Town in other capacities if he was able.

He also stated that he wished to commend Mr. Milton Widener for his hospitable actions towards strangers that were passing through town and had a flat tire. He stated that Mr. Widener showed the hospitality that he wanted Williston to be known for.

Mayor Rivers stated that a new Mayor Pro-Tem must be elected.

Councilman Holmes made a motion that Councilwoman Matthews be elected as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All in favor.

Council Comments

Councilman Baxley stated that there were a lot of complaints about people driving fast down Dicks Street.

Councilman Williams stated that he will do his best to serve the Town and that he was very excited to learn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Matthews stated that she wished to welcome the New Councilmembers. She hopes that they can all work together, have a good time and do a lot of good for the Town.

Councilman Holmes stated that he wished to welcome the new Councilmembers. He hopes that everyone can work on improvements and when there are disagreements that a decision would be made that is in the best interest of the Town.

Councilman Valentine stated that he would keep his mouth shut and his eyes open until he learned what needed to be done. He also said that he was excited about being elected.

Councilman Stapleton stated that he was excited to be able to do good things for the Town. He looked forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Rivers called for a motion to go into executive session.

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 returning from EXECUTIVE SESSION to OPEN SESSION, Councilwoman Wanda Matthews made the following motion, seconded by Councilman Holmes,

I move that a prospective employee designated as Individual A be offered employee as a maintenance worker in the Town at the rate of \$10.00 per hour subject to a six month probationary status. I further move that a prospective employee identified as individual B be offered the vacant Building Maintenance position at \$11.00 per hour subject to a six month probationary status. Mayor Rivers called for a vote and it was unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

TOWN OF WILLISTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



Thomas R. Rivers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Angela S. Overton, Town Clerk

11/14/11

Date