



TOWN OF WILLISTON

THOMAS R. RIVERS, MAYOR
PAT FOWLER, TOWN CLERK

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Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Councilman Widener offered an invocation and Councilman Benjamin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rivers called the November 10, 2008 Regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and declared a quorum present. The Mayor along with Councilman Baxley, Councilwoman Matthews, Councilman Benjamin, and Councilman Widener were in attendance along with Town Attorney Tom Boulware and Administrator, Scott Neely. Council members Frederick and Holmes were absent.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting as presented. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All in voted favor.

Councilman Baxley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as information. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Public Forum – Mr. David Mottel with the SCANA Corporation was present. He briefly addressed Council and stated that he was glad to be in attendance.

Mayor Rivers stated that he would like to add the following item to the agenda: Ordinance No. 2008-12 (transfer of land to Barnwell County). Councilman Widener made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Agenda:

- Mr. Jimmy Steadman appeared before Council to dispute a water bill. He came representing his mother's estate. He stated that his mother's monthly bill was usually around \$40. He stated that her bill was the same for several months in a row. He stated that he asked for the garbage service to be suspended in July 2008 and that there were no leaks. He stated that Mr. Neely had the water meter checked and asked him if there had been a leak. Mr. Steadman stated that Mr. Neely told him that he would grant an adjustment on the sewer portion of the bill if Mr. Steadman "confessed" to a leak. Mr. Neely explained the Town's efforts to confirm the original water meter reading and to confirm the accuracy of the water meter. Mr. Steadman explained his position further. Councilman Benjamin stated that the Town Council could forgive the sewer portion of the water bill. Mr. Steadman stated that Mr. Oliver had re-plumbed the bathroom. Councilman Benjamin made a motion to adjust the water bill (September 9, 2008 reading) to forgive the sewer usage portion and late charges. Councilman Holmes seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilman Widener stated that he would like to go

TOWN COUNCIL

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

further. He stated that the Town was still having a lot of trouble with water meter readings. He stated that it seemed to be a continuing problem. Councilwoman Matthews stated that she agreed. Councilman Widener stated that he did not know what the answer was. Councilman Baxley stated that he did not think he should have to pay the full amount, leaks can happen. Councilman Benjamin stated that as long as he could remember, the Town had only adjusted the sewer portion of disputed bills. General discussion followed. Councilman Benjamin called for the question: all voted in favor of the original motion, which was to remove all sewage usage charges and late fees from the bill (September 9, 2008 reading).

- Council considered a request from Mr. Jason Stapleton to remove his home from the Town's sewer system. Administrator Neely explained the requirements of the Town's Sewer Use Ordinance. Councilman Widener made a motion to reject Mr. Stapleton's request. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- Ordinance No. 2008-10 (Hours of Operation for Commercial Establishments with On Premises Consumption of Alcohol). Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. Town Attorney Boulware read the ordinance by title. Councilman Widener made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second reading. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- Ordinance No. 2008-11 (Park Rules). Administrator Neely explained the purpose of the ordinance. Councilman Benjamin stated that the ordinance needed an "out" for council, in case there was a reason to suspend the rules for a festival, parade, etc. Councilman Widener made a motion to read the ordinance by title. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Town Attorney Boulware read the ordinance by title. Councilman Benjamin made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Councilwoman Matthews seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- Ordinance No. 2008-12 (Transfer of Land to Barnwell County). Administrator Neely explained the purpose of the ordinance. General discussion followed. Councilman Benjamin made a motion to read the ordinance by title only. Councilman Widener seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Town Attorney Boulware read the ordinance by title. Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Councilman Baxley seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Administrators Report:

1. Distributed the monthly Police Department report prepared by Chief Kaney.
2. Reported on the status of the Halford Street Well. He stated that a temporary submersible pump was still being used. He stated that there had been no final decision on whether to replace the old pump with similar equipment or to replace the old pump with a stainless steel submersible pump. The costs of upgrading the electrical supply may be cost prohibitive. He stated that he hoped a decision could be reached within a week or two.
3. WWTP Liner Replacement – he reported that SCDHEC had issued the approval to remove all of the sludge from Cell No. 1. He stated that he expected work to begin on this project within 4 – 6 weeks.
4. Railroad Corridor Walking Trail – he reported that the project was complete except for a few punch list items.

5. Museum/Library Roof – he stated that the roof project was nearing completion. He stated that the work should be complete within a week or so.


Mayor's Report:

1. He reported on the Founder's Day event held on October 25th. He thanked Pete Grady for the success of the overall Founder's Day event, and he thanked Shannon Mundy for the success of the parade held during the Founder's Day event.
2. He reported that the Christmas lights will go up before Thanksgiving Day.
3. He asked if Council would prefer to skip the installation of Christmas lights on West Street, due to the poor condition of the Christmas lights available for that street. Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to skip the installation of Christmas lights on West Street this year, with the understanding that the Town will try to increase the budget for Christmas lights next year in order to install Christmas lights on West Street in future years. Councilman Benjamin seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
4. He reported that the annual Christmas parade will be held at 4 p.m. on December 7th.
5. He reported that in the event of a financial shortfall, a special meeting of Council would be called to address the issue.

Council Comments:


Councilman Benjamin asked the Council to remember the Community Resource Center when next year's budget is prepared.

Councilwoman Matthews made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Widener seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned.

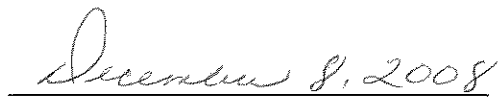


Mayor

Attest:



Town Clerk



Date