

TOWN OF WILLISTON



Brett Williams, Mayor
Kayla Jerkins, Town Clerk
Michael L. Beasley, Town Administrator
Thomas Boulware, Town Attorney

P.O. BOX 414, Williston, South Carolina, 29853
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**Williston Town Council Meeting
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2024
6:30 PM**

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 under the SC Freedom of Information Act.

Administrator Michael Beasley was present. Town Clerk Kayla Jerkins was in attendance.

Alex Whitbeck from the media was present.

Attorney Thom Boulware was present.

The following officials were present: Mayor Brett Williams, Councilmember Kurt Odermatt, Councilmember Annie Tyler, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Moody, Councilmember Greg Walkup, Councilmember Judy Taylor, and Councilmember Alyson Collins.

Mayor Williams called to the meeting to order, and he stated that there was a quorum.

Councilmember Walkup led the invocation. Councilmember Tyler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Odermatt made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Tyler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Councilmember Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Odermatt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Councilmember Walkup made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Councilmember Moody seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion.

Line Item #8: Public Comment

Margo Huggins, representing Keep Barnwell County Beautiful, said on April 20, 2024, there will be a trash pick up day in Williston. Huggins asked the council for their support and asked for the word to be spread in the community. Huggins said if anyone cannot make it for April 20th, then the next two scheduled trash pick up days will be July 13th and Oct 12th. Huggins said she would let the Garden Club and the Beautification Committee know. Huggins said she appreciates those who come and asked for her post to be shared on social media.

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Councilmember Walkup asked for the time.

Huggins said the event is from 10-12 and everyone meets at Folk Funeral Home. Huggins asked for more ideas on how to help keep Williston Clean.

Theresa Ferguson, lives around Allendale Ave, asked the council for the highway to be paved because of the number of potholes on that road.

Mayor Williams said a request could be put in.

Hal Mundy, said on July 13th, there is a Disc Golf tournament, and he said the Disc Golf Club could take care of the park trash pickup. Mundy said the Disc Golf Club always goes the prior week of the tournament to pick up trash.

A citizen said on Holmes and Roy St where they just did road repairs there is cracking in the road, and it caused a dip in the road.

Sherell Caldwell said she wanted to bring awareness to everyone. She said two Fridays ago she was driving home around 7:10pm in the evening on the "Dayco" road. Caldwell said suddenly, her whole passenger glass shattered, and she felt something hit her on the back of her neck. Caldwell said she did not see anything and saw no traffic. Caldwell said she is a new pacemaker patient and she thought someone was shooting at her. Caldwell said she looked in the mirror and did not see anyone there. Caldwell said she went to the police station and did not see anyone there, so she stopped at IGA. She talked to Officer Patterson and another officer. She was asked to step out of the vehicle. When she got out of the vehicle she saw a rock in her seat. Caldwell said she did not know if it was intentionally or not. Caldwell said she did not know if she was targeted. Caldwell said she considers Williston to be peaceful and she travels the road four days a week. Caldwell asked if the schools could be made aware, because if they were kids, they may not understand the severity of the matter.

Mayor Williams said he is glad she is okay and asked the Police Chief if they think it is a group of kids throwing rocks at cars and said that Caldwell has not been the first person to whom it has happened. Mayor Williams said specifically on the weekends the police have been watching the park at nighttime and are trying to find the kids throwing the rocks.

Huggins said several weeks ago she was out of town and her husband took their daughters to the park. Huggins said her husband had to leave because people were there showing out at the park, and they did not feel safe.

Line Item #9: Recognitions

Public Works Director: Dennis Williams

Mayor Williams asked Dennis Williams, Public Works Director, to step forward to the front. Mayor Williams said the Town of Williston has been trying to focus on infrastructure and the new members

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for Public Works. Mayor Williams said Williams came to the town six months ago. When he came his license lapsed because originally Mayor Williams said Williams retired and was not planning to work in a Public Works field after his retirement. When the Town of Williston hired Williams, he earned his license back. He earned his Water Distribution License grade one and two, and his Water Treatment License grade one and two. Mayor Williams thanked Williams for his hard work and told him he was happy he was in the Town of Williston.

Shannon Mundy

Mayor Williams recognizes Shannon Mundy for the 28 years she has been helping with the Christmas Parade and the Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Williams said the parade is usually the biggest in the county. Mayor Williams said the Town Easter Egg Hunt is the day before Easter this year. Mayor Williams thanks Mundy for her hard work.

Line Item #10: Departmental Updates

Chief Gainey| Police Department

Police Chief Gainey said last year they ordered class one uniforms for each officer. The class one uniform consists of a dress shirt, tie, shoes, and pants. Gainey said the officers wear the class ones for events like court and graduation. Gainey said he got new duty weapons at no cost to the town. Gainey said the police department has not gotten new weapons in fifteen years. Gainey said they had old weapons in evidence and found out what to do with them. Gainey said they were able to get new holsters and weapons. Gainey said with the help of Fire Chief John Melton they are writing a grant to get new Walkie Talkie. Gainey said the Walkie Talkies they have now will not be any good in 2025. Gainey said they are still sending out code enforcement letters to clean up the town. Gainey said they have had good and bad responses. Gainey said they are writing a grant for new car cameras and hopefully the cameras will be at little to no cost to the town. Gainey said they have not had any major crimes in the town in a while, shop lifting and trespassing.

Chief Melton| Fire Department

Fire Chief John Melton said he gave each council member a first quarter update. Melton speaks on the structure fires. Melton speaks about the accidents. Melton speaks on projects and updates.

Councilmember Tyler asked if the houses for the smoke alarms have already been in place.

Melton said he could take one to two more but cannot do many more due to the volume of volunteers.

Mayor Williams thanks the directors at the meeting.

Line Item #11 Approval to renew the Town Administrator's Contract

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to renew the Town Administrator's Contract with no deletions or corrections added.

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Councilmember Moody made a motion to renew the Town Administrator's Contract.
Councilmember Odermatt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Line Item #12: Approval of Events

DIG STEM Festival

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the DIG STEM Festival on May 4. Councilmember Walkup made a motion to approve the DIG STEM Festival. Councilmember Tyler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Line Item #13: Resolution 2024-02

Designate April as fair housing month

Mayor Williams reads the resolution. Mayor Williams asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Moody made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. Councilmember Taylor said the fair housing information was overwhelming at the conference and she took some notes as to why it was important. Councilmember Taylor asked if there is any way to bring attention to citizens like flyers in the water bills, post on the town sign, or post coloring pages in the newspaper. Councilmember Taylor said it was good to advocate fair housing for all.

Mayor Williams said the state elected April for the month fair housing is recognized.

Town Clerk Jerkins said the Town puts flyers up at the Town Hall and the police department, and a memo is posted in the water bills to bring awareness.

Joanne Prior, a citizen from Williston, asked what fair housing was.

Administrator Beasley said he could get local fair housing to do a workshop to go more in depth, but it just allows fair housing to all people.

Line Item #14 Administrator's Report

Administrator Beasley said Dominion is getting a proposal to change the lights to LED lights in town and he will provide documentation when Dominion submits the proposal.

Administrator Beasley said he has three workshop dates and asked the council members to make at least one. Administrator Beasley said if they make one, then they do not have to come to all.

Administrator Beasley said the Capital Sales project is based on numbers and if the bond passes in November. Administrator Beasley said he is in the process of applying for a \$1.5 million loan forgiveness grant. Overtime the loan gets forgiven and it must be used within the time frame of the project. Administrator Beasley said he is working with Justin at Turnipseed.

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Administrator Beasley said Recreation Director Tobin is working on the fence for the PARD grant. The grant award was \$66k and the remaining funds will go to improve the park equipment.

Prior said that the town needs a better place to give the kids something to do instead of the dog park that was made.

Administrator Beasley said almost one hundred kids participated in the recreation basketball program and it is a community wide program.

Administrator Beasley said a police department wants to sign with Williston to assist with Springfield. Administrator Beasley said others have helped Williston and it may be something to investigate.

Administrator Beasley said this Saturday from 10-1 at the Fire Department the first one hundred dogs can get vaccinated for free.

Administrator Beasley said the first five fire hydrants have been ordered and will be installed.

Administrator Beasley commends the department heads for all their hard work.

Administrator Beasley said to be mindful of the vendor fees that have been increasing.

Line Item#15 Mayor's Report

Mayor Williams said the main thing is to set up a goal setting workshop event. The workshop can be done on a Friday evening, a Saturday morning, or an early Wednesday. Mayor Williams said the workshop needs to be done by April. Mayor Williams asked the council to think of a couple of goals.

Councilmember Taylor said spring break is coming up.

Councilmember Collins said if Annie can do it on Wednesday, then she could too.

Councilmember Moody said if we do a Wednesday, then the time needs to be at five and leave at six.

Mayor Williams asked everyone to look at the calendar and asked if anyone was opposed to a Saturday or a Wednesday.

Councilmember Moody said in the meeting they need to talk about the 1 cent sales tax.

Mayor Williams said to get a list to Administrator Beasley and narrow it down.

Line Item #16: Adjournment

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilmember Tyler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

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Brett Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kayla Jerkins, Town Clerk

Date