

Mayor
Ricky Waring

Council Members:
Bob Jackson
Walter Bailey
Aaron Brown
Terry Jenkins
Kima Garten-Schmidt
William McIntosh



Town Administrator
Lisa Wallace

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

TOWN of SUMMERVILLE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2021

ATTENDANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Waring called the meeting to order at 9:00am on Friday, August 27, 2021. Present in-person were Councilmembers Terry Jenkins, Bill McIntosh, Aaron Brown, and Bob Jackson. Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt and Walter Bailey were present electronically via Zoom. Mr. Jenkins left the meeting at 9:30am and participated via Zoom until adjournment. Town Administrator Lisa Wallace, Town Attorney GW Parker, and Town Clerk Beth Messervy were in attendance, as well as other Town staff. The public and press were duly notified, and the meeting was livestreamed on the Town's website, as well as recorded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to enter into Executive Session for a personnel matter related to the Director of Finance position. The motion carried, and Council entered into Executive Session at 9:01am. Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt and Walter Bailey participated in Executive Session via conference call in the Chambers Board Room. Council reconvened at 9:19am. Town Attorney GW Parker stated that Council met in Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter related to the Director of Finance position. He stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS RELATED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. McIntosh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, to authorize the Town Administrator to offer the position of Director of Finance to Ms. (Rhonda) Moore. The motion carried unanimously.

FACE MASK POLICY IN TOWN-OWNED FACILITIES:

Mr. Jackson spoke in favor of allowing Lisa Wallace, Town Administrator, to decide on a mask mandate for Town Hall and the Annex building. Some discussion followed about the parameters of a mask mandate in regards to vaccinated individuals. Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, to allow Lisa Wallace to set the parameters for Town Hall for mask requirements. Some discussion followed. The motion failed 3-4, with Mr. Jackson, Mr. McIntosh, and Mr. Brown voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, for staff to post signs through Town Hall and the Annex building stating that masks are strongly recommended. Some discussion followed. The motion carried 5-2, with Mr. Jackson and Mr. Brown voting in opposition. Mr. Brown stated for the record that he believes there should be a mask mandate in place.

COVID LEAVE PAY DISCUSSION AND VOTE:

Mr. Jackson stated that he would like to discontinue Covid leave pay for unvaccinated employees that are out of work for quarantine. Vaccinated employees would be able to use Covid leave pay if they are out for quarantine. Mr. Bailey asked Town Attorney GW Parker for clarification on the federal law regarding Covid leave pay. Mr. Parker deferred to Town Administrator Lisa Wallace. Ms. Wallace reported that the federal mandate that started in 2020 to offer Covid pay has ended, and the Town is no longer required to offer Covid leave pay at all.

Mr. Jenkins pointed out that unvaccinated employees that have to be quarantined will have to use their sick leave and not Covid leave.

Some discussion followed regarding discontinuing the Covid leave pay for all employees since it is no longer required by the federal government. Mr. Jackson made a motion with no second to do so.

Mayor Waring stated that he disagreed with discontinuing Covid leave, because new employees who are unvaccinated would not have accumulated enough sick leave time to use should they get Covid or have to quarantine.

Mr. Jackson stated that he would go back to his original motion. Mr. Jackson made the motion again, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, that unvaccinated employees cannot use Covid leave if they have to go out for Covid quarantine.

Exempt from the policy would be unvaccinated employees who have a medical or religious conflict with getting the vaccine.

The motion carried 4-3 with Mr. Bailey, Ms. Garten-Schmidt, and Mr. McIntosh voting in opposition. Mr. McIntosh stated that he voted against the motion because “implementation would be a nightmare.”

LEASE: Mr. McIntosh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve second and final reading of an ordinance to approve the lease of 100 West Richardson Avenue, Suites A&B. The motion carried unanimously.

STORMWATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, to approve second and final reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 22, Section 22-115 entitled “Classifications of Property and Determination of the Interim Utility Fee.” Some discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:

Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to authorize the Town Administrator to request \$7,796,973 from the US Department of Treasury for the Town of Summerville's allocation of the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Wallace explained that 50% of the drawdown would be available now and the other 50% in 12 months. She also stated that staff would present a list of proposed projects using the ARP money. The motion carried unanimously.

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING:

Mr. Jackson made a motion to consider the in-person absentee voting period for the November 2, 2021 election. Mr. McIntosh seconded for discussion. Mr. McIntosh then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to amend the motion to consider a two week in-person absentee voting period. Some discussion followed. The motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Jenkins voting in opposition.

ADJOURN:

Mr. McIntosh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and Mayor Waring adjourned the meeting at 10:09am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Messervy, Town Clerk

APPROVED:



Ricky Waring, Mayor