

Mayor
Ricky Waring

Council Members:
Bob Jackson
Russ Touchberry
Aaron Brown
Terry Jenkins
Kima Garten-Schmidt



Town Administrator
Lisa Wallace

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

TOWN *of* SUMMERVILLE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Ricky Waring, Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt, Bob Jackson, Aaron Brown, Russ Touchberry, and Terry Jenkins. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wallace, Town Attorney GW Parker, and Town Clerk Beth Messervy. A quorum was met. Public and press were duly notified. The meeting took place in Council Chambers at 200 South Main Street and was livestreamed from the Town's website.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Waring called the meeting to order at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Councilmember Russ Touchberry gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Waring presented proclamations for National Community Planning Month and Fire Prevention Week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 Council meeting and the Standing Committee Meetings on October 9, 2023. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were accepted into record.

PUBLIC COMMENT – OCTOBER 12, 2023 AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Waring opened the floor for public comment on items on the October 12, 2023 agenda. There being no comments, Mayor Waring closed this part of the meeting.

PETITIONS

Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to give first reading to an ordinance to annex TMS# 136-07-02-003, located at 1227 Central Avenue, and totaling approximately 1.3 acres. Currently zoned R-1, Single-Family Residential, in Dorchester County and will be zoned

N-B, Neighborhood Business, upon annexation into the Town of Summerville's municipal limits. The motion carried unanimously.

PENDING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Touchberry, to give second and final reading of an ordinance to annex TMS# 152-00-00-269, located along the Sawmill Branch Canal behind 118 Sellars Cir., and totaling approximately 1.8 acres. Currently zoned TRM, in Dorchester County and will be zoned PL, Public Lands, upon annexation into the Town of Summerville's municipal limits. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Garten-Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to postpone second reading of an ordinance to annex TMS#s 145-03-01-005, -006, and -009, located at 207 and 209 Garbon Drive until the November council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to give first reading to an ordinance to amend the ordinances of the Town of Summerville, Chapter 16, Section 16-17: Peddlers, charitable solicitors, buskers and panhandlers, by adding a new section (b)(3) to prohibit solicitation in roadway medians and to correct the spelling of "publicly" in sections (a)(2) and (h)(3). Some discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to give first reading to an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2- Purchasing, by: amending Section 2-321 (1) & (5) to coordinate Town purchases and work with Department Heads to obtain the most competitive price; amending Section 2-322 to increase the purchasing limits of Department Heads, Division Heads and Town Administrator; to designate persons to authorize contracts; to provide a functional methodology for contract change orders; amending Section 2-323 to increase procurement levels and process; to add a new section to govern request for proposals; to add a new section to govern request for qualifications; amending Section 2-324 to increase the level for which competitive bidding is required; to revise the exception methodology; to define professional services; amending Section 2-326 to provide responsibility to the bidder to obtain local vendor status; amending Section 2-327 to clarify appeals may be made to the Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial Circuit, St. George, SC.; and to delete Section 2-328 in its entirety.

Mr. Jackson asked that the ordinance provided for an overcheck on Department Heads' purchases. Ms. Wallace explained that the ordinance amendments were essentially to change the monetary levels at which Department Heads need Council or Finance Committee approval to make purchases. Mr. Brown asked that Ms. Wallace email a more definitive summary to Council. Mayor Waring stated that Council needs to raise the benchmark amounts of when staff needs Council approval to purchase because everything is increasing in price. Mr. Touchberry stated that the intent of the amendment is to make sure that the Town staff can make timely decisions in purchasing to serve the citizens faster and better. The motion carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Touchberry, to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the First Amendment to the Contract for Fire Protection Services between Dorchester County and the Town of Summerville. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (open)

Mayor Waring opened the floor for public comments on any topic.

Lorel Morris stated that tennis continues to become more and more popular in Summerville, and that the Town needs more courts to accommodate the large number of players that live here and the increased number of visiting tennis teams for league play. She expressed her frustration with the fact that the \$5,000 that was donated to the parks and recreation department to make other improvements to Doty Park was instead reallocated to the resurfacing project, which has turned out to be a disaster. She stated that the courts that were resurfaced in March of this year are already cracking and peeling. She urged the Town to simplify the signage for tennis court rules, and to place one on every court. She also stated that the Town needs to do a better job of making sure that the tennis courts are used for tennis only, and not pickleball or soccer.

Tracy Hirsch stated that the tennis players are grateful that the Town did the resurfacing of the courts at Doty, but that the courts are already cracking and peeling everywhere. She stated that she is disappointed with the responses from the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Tennis in reference to the cracking courts. She stated that she does not think that Council is aware of the conditions of the Doty courts, so that is why she is speaking at the meeting tonight. She also expressed her frustration with the \$5,000 being used towards resurfacing instead of towards other improvements at Doty Park. She stated that Parks and Recreation Department is closing the Rollins Edwards Community Center earlier and earlier, as well as the public restrooms in Doty Park, leaving the tennis players nowhere to use the restrooms. She also expressed her concern that there are only 8 tennis courts in the entire Town.

Marc Spears stated that while Doty Park is a public space, he is frustrated that soccer players are using the tennis courts to practice because the courts have lights. He offered a solution for the Town to install lights on the open field at Doty. He also expressed his frustration that the bathrooms at Doty and in the Rollins Edwards Community Center are closed when the tennis players are still playing.

Beth Ann Armstrong expressed her gratitude for the Town's improvements of lighting of the tennis courts and resurfacing, but that it is embarrassing for visiting league play teams to come play in Summerville and there be no restrooms to use.

Doug Hankel stated that he lives on West Carolina Avenue, and the traffic and noise on his street are getting to be out of control. He stated that he is moving out of Town because of the problems on the street. He also stated that it doesn't reflect well on the Town that nothing is being done about the noise and traffic.

Cindy Johnson expressed her concern with the homelessness problem in Town. She asked Council what is being done to address it. Councilmember Bob Jackson stated that there is open discussion going on between Council and Town departments about the problem. Councilmember Touchberry said that the Council and staff are working with the Police Chief, non-profits, and business owners to come up with solutions for the problem.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Waring closed this part of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Ms. Garten-Schmidt, to enter into Executive Session to:

- Receive legal advice regarding condemnation on a portion of TMS# 130-13-00-018 for a Dominion Energy 10 ft. right of way, owned by Willie Limehouse and a portion of TMS# 130-10-00-068 for a Dominion Energy 10 ft. right of way owned by Thomas A. Limehouse, both of which are necessary for the Maple Street Project.
- Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matters related to the potential acquisition of property located on Stokes Bridge Road and owned by the Summerville Commissioners of Public Works.
- Discuss a contractual matter related to potential economic development incentive agreement for Project Bonaire.

The motion carried, and Council entered into Executive Session at 6:51pm.

Council reconvened at 7:18pm. Town Attorney GW Parker stated that Council met in Executive Session to discuss the following, and that no action was taken in Executive Session on the items:

- Receive legal advice regarding condemnation on a portion of TMS# 130-13-00-018 for a Dominion Energy 10 ft. right of way, owned by Willie Limehouse and a portion of TMS# 130-10-00-068 for a Dominion Energy 10 ft. right of way owned by Thomas A. Limehouse, both of which are necessary for the Maple Street Project.
- Receive legal advice and discuss contractual matters related to the potential acquisition of property located on Stokes Bridge Road and owned by the Summerville Commissioners of Public Works.
- Discuss a contractual matter related to potential economic development incentive agreement for Project Bonaire.

OTHER BUSINESS:

N/A

ADJOURN:

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Touchberry and Mr. Jackson, to adjourn. There being no further business, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Messervy, Town Clerk

APPROVED:



Ricky Waring, Mayor