

MINUTES
CHERAW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
August 11, 2020
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Andy Ingram, Councilmembers: Robby Bennett, Jim Crawford, Jacqueline Ellerbe-Shannon, Cheryl Melton, Billy Wallace and Richard White.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Smith, Town Administrator; Clementine Ellis, Clerk-Treasurer, Police Chief Keith Thomas, Rob Wolfe, Town Planning/Marketing/Main Street Director; JT Flemming, Dr. Jerrett Fite, Evelyn Mack, Delphina Rollins, Helen Palmer Felicia McCall, Dr. Samuel Richardson, Janet and John Carrigan, Reba Brooks, Dr. Wiley White, Brenda Caulder, Ann _____, Mary Goodale, Jim Conn, and Harriet Conn

1. The invocation was offered by **Rev. Jerrett Fite**, Pastor of Robinson AME Zion Church and the pledge was made to the American Flag.
2. Mayor Ingram gave an update regarding the pandemic stating the Town is slowly reopening certain activities and if necessary, we will scale back or cancel if we have too. The Town is moving forward with dancing and gymnastic in the upcoming weeks and small exercise classes that will have social distancing. Registration will be taken for youth sports following the lead of SCHSL and citizens can register in person at the Community Center. The gymnasium is still closed to the public. Rentals are still being held off at this time. Town Hall is now open for citizens to pay their water bills and other items such as permits and business licenses, but all are encouraged to wear masks.

Mayor Ingram also stated at last council meeting comments were made about branding and marketing of Cheraw and the Legislative Committee will meet, review, and come back with a recommendation. Mayor Ingram stated these are some difficult times and as mayor and council they are taking things seriously and want to assure the safety and well being of our citizens. They are also sensitive to other issues and actions being taken and want to hear viewpoints from all segments of the populations.

Mayor Ingram noted security cameras are installed at Arrowhead Park, the hotel development is moving forward and closings on all properties have taken place. The river project involving the construction of fishing platforms and erosion control is moving forward. The Town has received grants and low interest loans for water and wastewater upgrades totaling over \$9 million dollars. The Arts Commission is trying to open things up virtually with some productions and activities you can get online.

3. Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration the minutes of the **July 14th and July 28th** Council Meetings. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve the July 14th and 28th minutes. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. The **July 2020 Financial Report** was submitted for council's consideration. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve the **July Financial Report**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace**. **Clerk-Treasurer Tina Ellis** stated to Council this financial statement is not a true reflection due to the fact all the reconciling entries for year-end were just received today and must be put in. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. Mayor Ingram recognized Janet and John Carrigan, 317 Market Street, regarding a possible ban on fireworks within the Cheraw Historic District. Ms. Carrigan stated moving from Texas they were surprised that a municipality has fireworks in the city. She stated they researched the issue and in the state statute Section 23-35-175 there is a discharge of fireworks prohibition agreement that cities can do and must be done by Council. She also stated the Historic District is everybody and not just the homeowners. She noted being a first responder 200-year-old wood does not respond well to anything. She stated they are asking Council to look into this. This will not be a prohibition of city or any other businesses sponsor of fireworks. The intent is to make sure things that go airborne such as bottle rockets and roman candles do not get lodged in some of this old wood that would smolder several days before there is a fire. Ms. Carrigan stated she is impressed with the fire department iso ratings. She noted it helps with homeowner's insurance but because of fireworks they pay a penalty for homeowners' insurance. Ms. Carrigan stated you can't control Mother Nature, but you can control other things that are manmade.

6. **For Council Action:**

- A. First Reading of Ordinance:

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration first reading of **Ordinance 2021-03 An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Cheraw's Official Zoning Map to Rezone Certain Properties from M-1 Manufacturing to R-2 Multi-family Residential the Effective Date of this Ordinance**. This is a recommendation by the planning commission reviewing zoning map around Godfrey Street the current zoning is making homes noncompliant and this would make them compliant. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve first reading of **Ordinance 2021-03**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration first reading of **Ordinance 2021-04 An Ordinance to Amend Section 5-4-4 of the Cheraw Zoning Ordinance to Permit Use Variance under Extraordinary Circumstances in the Town of Cheraw**. This is also a recommendation from the planning commission. People approach the Town with proposals that do not fit with an existing zoning regulation. This will allow property owners in cases of hardship to receive a variance for a use not otherwise permitted in the zoning ordinance as long as no harm is being done to neighboring property. This recommendation came about because Schaeffler wants to convert their caretaker's house into a meeting space like the House on the Hill. A motion was made by **Councilman Bennett** to approve first reading of **Ordinance 2021-04**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

7. Mayor Ingram called council's attention to a request from Police Chief Keith Thomas. Chief Thomas stated the Town Council adopted a take home vehicle policy in 2019 to allow police officers to be assigned a police vehicle and enable them to drive the vehicle home as an added incentive to keep police officers employed. The initial policy required police officers to live within 5 miles of the Town limits to participate in the program. Council revised this policy in February of this year and increased the limit from 5 to 20 miles. For officers that lived outside the 20 miles once that officer was employed by the Town for 5 years the Chief can ask for an exemption so they can participate in the vehicle take home program but have to be approved by Town Council on a case by case basis. Councilman Crawford stated this was previously done with Officers Drake and Hanna. He stated Lt. Justin McKenzie started working in 2015 and graduated 2nd in class at the

Academy. Lt. McKenzie lives 31.8 miles from city limits sign and lives in Chesterfield County. Police Chief Keith Thomas is requesting Lt. McKenzie be approved to drive his vehicle home. Smith stated he supports the recommendation as well and hope Council will allow Lt. McKenzie to drive his vehicle to and from his home. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve Chief Thomas' request to allow Lt. Justin McKenzie to drive his vehicle home. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace**. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. **For Council Information:**

Department reports.

9. **Citizen Comments:**

Felicia Flemming McCall – 101 Market St. Mrs. McCall stated last month she spoke with Council and what she submitted them was not comments; it was a proposal with a request. In that request she asked for something in writing, feedback from Council in writing and she has not received anything. Ms. McCall stated she noticed when the council meeting started that the Mayor mentioned about some of latest news in the Town of Cheraw and that he sent out a memo last Thursday which was August 6th which listed out all the things he said here but she noticed he did not mention about the request she made but did mention it today. Mrs. McCall stated Council has rules and regulations about how things are supposed to come to you. She did what she was supposed to and got on the agenda and followed protocol that she was supposed to and she expects Council to have some decency to respond to the request she submitted to the Mayor and Council. She stated she knows that there has been some chatter with Council and that on the website she noticed immediately after the meeting last month that you had taken down the motto as well as you had reworded the history page on the website but then you put it back up that afternoon. Ms. McCall stated she noticed you are having some talks, but you have not addressed her, but addressed everyone publicly. Mrs. McCall stated to Council she would like for them to do what she asked and reply in writing to the request. She gave Council copies of comments from the last meeting last month. She stated you all are not just responding to her but citizens of Cheraw and other organizations that are interested in the request that she will be getting from Council. She noted she has people calling and asking. Mrs. McCall stated she is not just saying there has to be a solution nor will this happen overnight but she wants to know the can is not being kicked down the road and that Council is taking her seriously and not being lackadaisical and ignoring her request for something in writing. She stated she believes in being transparent.

10. There being no further business a motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to adjourn. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clementine A. Ellis
Clerk-Treasurer