

MINUTES
CHERAW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2020
5:30 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Smith, Town Administrator; Clementine Ellis, Clerk-Treasurer, Delphenia Rollins, Chief Keith Thomas, Joan Yates (The Link), Anne and Van Pate, Helen Palmer, Felicia Flemming-McCall, Rosalie Steele, J. T. Flemming, Christie Moore, Pastor Lou Ester Brown and Rev. Wiley White.

1. The invocation was offered by **Rob Wolfe** and the pledge was made to the American Flag.
2. Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration the minutes of the **Sept. 8th** Council Meeting. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve the September 8th minutes. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
3. The **September 2020 Financial Report** was submitted for council's consideration. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve the **September Financial Report**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. Mayor Ingram called council's attention to a special presentation to the Wannamaker Family of the Wannamaker Oil Company, Inc. for donating property to the Town of Cheraw. Mayor Ingram stated Wannamaker Oil made a very generous donation to the Town of Cheraw. Mayor Ingram also stated hopefully in the very near future the Town will be demolishing the buildings on the site and hopefully thereafter will be constructing a new gymnasium/wellness facility on the site. This would not happen if it wasn't for the generosity of the Wannamaker Family. Mrs. Anne Wannamaker Pate is here representing her brother Jimmy and sister Margaret. Mayor Ingram presented a proclamation to the Wannamaker Family. Mrs. Pate stated the Wannamaker's entire family are very fond of the Town of Cheraw and so pleased to be able to do this for the Town.
5. Mayor Ingram recognized **Ms. Rosalie Steel and Christie Moore** with the Pee Dee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual assault recognizing October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. Steele noted they are still helping clients. Ms. Moore thanked the Town for their support and gave an overview of the services being provided.
6. Mayor Ingram recognized **Pastor Louester Brown Edwards Brown, 5 Chapman Street** regarding crime and security. Pastor Louester Brown Edwards Brown stated she and her siblings own property at 5 Shields Row and that she is very active in the community. Pastor Brown stated she commends Mayor, Council and Chief Keith Thomas and that she worked closely with him as well as the Sheriff Department. She stated she actually helped solved a lot of crimes around here. She also thanked council for the cameras that have been installed but noted they do not take the place of officers that are needed. Pastor Brown stated her son was at the local gym and his wallet was taken from his car. She stated he did not want to go to report the theft alone because of the world wide status of how Black males are treated. She noted they found the person who stole the money but three weeks later her Godson was visiting his parents and his cell phone was stolen out of his car in just minutes from his leaving it in his car. She stated people are using her parking lot to buy drugs. Due to the time limit of 5 minutes allowed for speaking Mayor Ingram asked Pastor Brown to further her conversation with Chief Keith Thomas.

7. For Council Action:

A. **Second Reading of Ordinance:**

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2021-05. An Ordinance to Amend Section 13-6 "Fireworks" of the Town Code.** Mayor Ingram called upon Rob Wolfe who stated this came after Janet and John Kerrigan appeared before Town Council last month. Wolfe stated after looking through the MASC and Opinion of Attorney General Office on regulations of fireworks and there is very little that Towns can do other than times and dates. This Ordinance regulates times and dates of fireworks and which major holidays. It also permits cultural holidays with permit from the police department. Wolfe noted this is a recommendation from the Legislative Committee. A motion was made by **Councilman White** to approve second and final reading of **Ordinance 2021-05.** The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2021-06. An Ordinance to Amend Section 13-25 "Begging or Panhandling" to the Cheraw Town Code.** Mayor Ingram called upon Rob Wolfe who stated the town has a few beggars and pan handlers hanging around the downtown area. Mr. Wolfe stated there have been complaints from businesses downtown stating their customers feel uncomfortable downtown. The Legislative Committee met and this is what they have come up with for panhandling in the downtown area. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve second and final reading of **Ordinance 2021-06.** The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2021-07. An Ordinance to Amend Section 13-26 Addressing "Camping" to the Cheraw Town Code.** Mayor Ingram called upon Rob Wolfe and Mr. Wolfe stated a couple of weeks ago a couple bought property on Godfrey Street and were living in a tent until they got a more permanent residence set up. Their permanent residence was a storage building which was not allowed. This is to prevent long term camping. There were numerous complaints from neighbors and citizens in the area who were fearful about people living in a tent. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve Second and Final reading of **Ordinance 2021-07.** The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

8. Mayor Ingram called councils attention to a request to approve the sale of a hanger at the Cheraw Municipal Airport. Smith stated Town Council is required to give approval to the purchase of hangars at the Cheraw Municipal Airport when the sale of a hangar is not to an immediate family member of the seller. **Greg Benner** who owns hangar #10 would like to sell to **Scotty Hall** who will use the hangar to store an airplane. The Cheraw Airport Commission has already met and approved the sale. Smith stated he is requesting the Mayor and Council approve this request. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve the sale of hangar #10. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

9. Mayor Ingram called upon **Councilman Bennett** Chairman of the **Legislative Committee** regarding branding on Town Website. **Councilman Bennett** stated the Legislative Committee met and discussed comments from Felicia Flemming-McCall regarding the branding and marketing of Cheraw specifically related to the Town's website. The Legislative Committee also discussed this topic at the September briefing with the entire Town Council to get input and exchange ideas. As a result of those discussions the Legislative Committee is recommending the Town Council vote to remove the phrase "**Prettiest Town in Dixie**" from the Town's website and future marketing materials immediately and this comes in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace.** **Councilman Crawford** stated he is in agreement with most of what the Legislative Committee is recommending but has concerns about some of the branding of Dizzy Gillespie tag line going across and he thinks it would be more appropriate if it was our favorite son or some terminology along those lines and some of the wording on there. He stated

his concern is that we are possibly heading down the road to a culture that is so prevalent in our country today and it gives him pause and so for that reason he is unable to support the recommendation. The motion passed by a vote of 6-1 with Councilman Crawford voting No.

10. For Council Information:

11. Citizen Comments: None.

Mayor Ingram requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss economic development, legal and personnel matters. Councilman Crawford made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wallace and passed by unanimous vote. After approximately 25 minutes Council returned from Executive Session and a motion was made by Councilman Bennett to go back into regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Melton and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Ingram stated while in Executive Session and there was a discussion about personnel matters and land contractual matter. No official action or vote was taken.

Councilman Crawford stated the Finance Committee makes recommendation to deed the building at 159 Market St. to Antonio's restaurant of Cherry Grove and deed 158 Second Street to Axel Spears, a commercial contractor who will fit the building to a cocktail lounge. These deeds will have the appropriate claw backs as discussed. This comes in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bennett and passed by unanimous vote. The Finance Committee also recommends the Restore building be put out for Request for Proposals with 30 days to give potential opportunity to submit a proposal.

12. 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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Clementine A. Ellis
Clerk-Treasurer