

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Andy Ingram, Councilmembers: Robby Bennett, Jim Crawford, Cherryl Melton, Billy Wallace, Jr., and Richard White.

**MEMBER ABSENT:** **Jacqueline Ellerbe-Shannon.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Smith, Town Administrator; Clementine Ellis, Clerk-Treasurer, Rob Wolfe, Delphenia Rollins, Helen Palmer, Charlene Geiger, Brooke Smith, Dr. Louis Strauss, Susan Robertson, Renee Johnson, Laura Greene, Melvin Wilkerson, Ruth Baronda, Robert Williams, Mary Gillespie, Magnolia Hodges, Tim Hodges, Rev. Joe Arnold, J.T. Flemming, Felecia Flemming-McCall, Bahaadur Al Bey, Karen Wilkerson, Irene Cole, Margaret Reid, Steevenson Pierre, Cheryl Rogers, Terri Myers, Carolyn Cole-Green, John Melton and Chivon Quick.

1. The invocation was offered by **Rev. Joe Arnold, Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church** and the pledge was made to the American flag.
2. Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration the minutes of the **January 14<sup>th</sup>** council meeting. A motion was made by **Councilman White** to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration the minutes of **January 28<sup>th</sup>** special council meeting. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by **Councilman White** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. The January 2019 Financial Report was submitted for council's consideration. A motion was made by **Councilman Bennett** to approve the January Financial Report. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
5. Mayor Ingram noted Loss Control Chair Marvin Murray was not in attendance for presentation of Safety Awards. Mr. Murray did not notify employees receiving awards.
6. Mayor Ingram recognized **Ms. Ruth Baronda**, an Ambassador, and partner for the Census 2020. She stated the Census can be mailed, completed online or by telephone this year and will be written 13 in languages. Ms. Baronda stated people are needed to go out and count citizens to make sure that information is correct. The web site for information is 2020 Cenus.gov. Ms. Baronda gave information on part time work. She noted people with Post Office Boxes will not get one in their Post Office Box. She stated that Census information is used for many purposes. The Census forms will start arriving March 12<sup>th</sup> in mailboxes. July 31<sup>st</sup> is deadline for forms to be returned and completed. There will be no questions asked if you are a citizen or not. **Councilman Crawford** asked if the people who reside in nursing homes will be counted. Ms. Baronda stated they are counted.
7. Mayor Ingram recognized **Dr. Louis Strauss**, Director of McLeod Family Medicine Rural Track Residency Program. Dr. Straus stated he wanted to inform council and the

community about the Rural Track Residency Program. McLeod is looking to bring in Residency to Cheraw and Clarendon Hospitals. Dr. Straus stated once a student finishes their medical degree they need to do specialty training. He stated that Family medicine is a three-year program. The program will begin in 2021 but looking into bringing in a couple of residencies maybe as early as July 2020. These doctors will spend the first year in Florence and the second and third years in the local area. Dr. Strauss' practice is where residency will be placed for the program. He noted there is a shortage of family physicians. Dr. Strauss also stated he hopes this will serve some of the community needs. The residencies will go out and talk to community groups as well if requested.

8. **Second Reading of Ordinance:**

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2020-25: An Ordinance Deeding Property to Chesterfield-Marlboro Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. Interest of Pathfinders and EOC.** Mayor Ingram noted if the agreement is not agreed upon the property would not be deeded. A motion was made by **Councilman Crawford** to approve second and final reading of **Ordinance 2020-05.** The motion was seconded by **Councilman White** and passed by a vote of 5-0 with **Councilwoman Melton** recusing.

**First Reading of Ordinance:**

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration first reading of **Ordinance 2020-26: An Ordinance to Amend Section 12-2 Nuisances of the Town of Cheraw's Code of Ordinances and Add Language Addressing Various Actions Deemed Prohibited.** **Town Administrator Mike Smith** stated over the past years the Town has gotten complaints of some unsightly properties and this will be addressed in this ordinance. **Councilman White** asked how the ordinance will be enforced. If a citizen complains about a property the Codes Department will get involved and the property owner will appear before the Judge and he will make a decision. **Councilwoman Melton** made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2020-26.** The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

- 9 Mayor Ingram called upon **Councilman Bennett, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee** regarding the Police Department Take Home Vehicle Policy. Councilman Bennett stated on January 28<sup>th</sup> the Legislative Committee met with Police Chief Keith Thomas and Town Administrator Mike Smith to hear a request from the Police Chief concerning the Department's Take Home Vehicle Police. Chief Thomas is requesting the Town consider changing the section of the policy that deals with officers being able to take a vehicle home that reside within **5 miles** and requests that it be increased to 20 miles to help with recruiting and retaining police officers. There have been several instances where certified police officers have inquired about job vacancies that would make excellent officers but have declined to pursue employment within the department when they were told they would not be eligible to take a vehicle home. The Police Chief feels the extra cost of gas incurred by increasing the **5 mile limit to 20 miles** would be offset by not having to pay thousands of dollars sending new applicants to the police academy. **Councilman Bennett** stated in the form of a motion that after discussing this issue the Legislative Committee feels the Take Home Vehicle Policy is a positive tool in helping to recruit and retain offices and is recommending that the Town Council agree to change the requirement for an officer to drive a vehicle home be increased from 5 miles

to 20 miles. The motion was seconded by **Councilwoman Melton** and passed by unanimous vote.

10. **For Council Information:**

11. **Citizen Comments:**

**Helen Palmer – Burchwood Circle** – Mrs. Palmer asked if citizens could invest in the hotel coming into the Town of Cheraw. She also wanted to know if this will be publicized or a public hearing. Mayor Ingram stated to address Mike Smith and he will answer after the meeting.

**Bahaadur Al Bey** – Mr. Al Bey stated he was the president of the A.C.L. Advisory Committee and wanted to know what the status of the shelter for the children on A.C.L. is. He stated the shelter need to be put up and wants to make sure it is and done or they will have to rescind money.

12. **Mayor Ingram** asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Bennett** and passed by unanimous vote. After approximately 25 minutes council returned from Executive Session. A motion was made by **Councilman Bennett** to go back into regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by **Councilwoman Melton** and passed by unanimous vote.

13. 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

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CHERAW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Andy Ingram, Councilmembers: Robby Bennett, Jim Crawford, Cherryl Melton, Jr., Richard White and Billy Wallace, Jr.

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Jacqueline Ellerbe-Shannon.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Smith, Town Administrator; Clementine A. Ellis; Clerk-Treasurer, Bill Hancock of the Brittingham Group, L.L.P.

1. The invocation was offered by **Mike Smith** and the pledge was made to the American flag.
  
2. Mayor Ingram recognized **Mr. Bill Hancock of The Brittingham Group**. Mr. Hancock presented Council with a copy of the 2018-2019 Financial Audit. Mr. Hancock stated the Town of Cheraw received an unmodified also known as a clean audit. He also stated they did not find any weaknesses in internal controls and compliance for things such as agreements and grants contracts. He noted one of the most important things for Council to know is how well the Town of Cheraw did with comparing budget to actual expenses. He stated the Revenues for a **\$7.7 million dollar** budget the town was within **\$8,600 dollars** of nailing it exactly. The expenditures in non-departmental reflected expenses from Hurricane Florence. He noted the Town had to spend a lot of money on cleanup, repair and replacing. The Town did receive grant revenues. The General Fund looks good when measuring revenues and estimate of expenses. The Town is not spending when they are not supposed to.

The Water Sewer had an operational loss and part of the deficit is in operational and maintenance line items. Some of the loss was also due to Hurricane Florence. There are a few things the Town is not in control of expense such as chemicals, utility bills, and maintenance and these items must be paid. Mr. Hancock stated the Town is in control of what revenues comes in via rates. Water and sewer rates have to be monitored constantly. He also stated the question is whether the Town of Cheraw is charging enough or too much especially when the Town is considering borrowing to repair and infrastructure. Mr. Hancock recommended getting a rate study done. The Town needs to make sure they can generate enough revenue to pay debt service and maintenance in the future. Mr. Hancock stated the Town cannot continue to have deficits in water and sewer. The system is not paying for itself.

Mr. Hancock informed Council that the **52%** of fines collected go to the State and the Town keeps **48%**. Victim's Advocate needs to reimburse the General Fund. The Budget should reflect **100%** of Victim's Advocate to be transferred by June

30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Town Administrator Mike Smith will work on getting a rate study.

15. 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 **4:34 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Clementine A. Ellis  
Clerk-Treasurer