

MINUTES
CHERAW TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2019
5:30 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Jim Crawford.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Smith, Town Administrator, Jeff Watson (The Link), Rob Wolfe, Melvin Wilkerson, Karen Wilkerson, Helen Palmer, Jimmy Thompson, Margaret Reid, Jacqueline Gilcrest, Dorothy Gilcrest, Blake Tillman, Rosalie Steele, Christie Moore, Cassandra Ellerbe, Wanda Ford, Randolph Gillespie, Freida Ellerbe, Irene Cole, Georgianna Knight, Marty Martin, Burt Jordan, John Little, Delphenia Rollins and Susan Robertson.

1. The invocation was offered by **Rev. Artemus Woods of New Birth Baptist Church** and the pledge was made to the American flag.
2. Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration the minutes of the **September 10, 2019** council meeting. **CORRECTION: On page 2 and 3 Ordinance 2020-16 should read second and final reading.** A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
3. The September 2019 Financial Report was submitted for council's consideration. Council was provided with new Financial Statements which reflected the 2019-2020 budgets. A motion was made by **Councilwoman Melton** to approve the Financial Report. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. Mayor Ingram recognized **Ms. Rosalie Steele from Pee Dee Coalition** on October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ms. Steele stated October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She also thanked the Town of Cheraw and its citizens for their support. Ms. Steele gave special thanks to Matheson Memorial Library who has provided a room where counselors can come and meet with victims who can't come all the way to Chesterfield; this has been wonderful. She noted the room is confidential and the victims can be helped. Ms. Steele stated the victims had a paint and perseverance program hosted by Melanie Trusky. Fourteen women participated and she thanked Rob Wolfe and Joyce Hickey who assisted in getting the paintings displayed at old White's Carpet on Second Street. Ms. Steele called upon Kristi Moore the coordinator of the Shelter in Wallace, S.C. Ms. Moore also thanked the Town and the citizens for their support. She also announced they are working on an expansion project.

5. Mayor Ingram recognized **Mr. Melvin Wilkerson**. Mr. Wilkerson stated after 11 months of appearing before this body he is witnessing some favorable results. He stated the Town showing concern for the citizen's health in this community. By one placing sign on the contaminated water way at Long Middle School. He feels it was very well needed and people needed to know that contamination exist in the highly frequented area with young people. Two placing signs along the waterway of Huckleberry Park to warn of the danger there. It was greatly needed to warn a citizen of danger all the machinery is gone. He also stated at Riverside Park he noticed a sign warning about contamination of lead that could be found in the fish. He would also like for Council to make citizens aware of the PCB that could be in the fish there as well. This was verified by literature at first meeting the Town had with the EPA and DHEC sponsored. He also commended council for seeking a community meeting to inform the status of the cleanup. This is needed because people don't know where it is, what's going on and who it is affecting. He is still hopeful that the meeting will be schedule soon. Mr. Wilkerson also thanked Council for seeing funding for the drainage in the city with the idea that you will be able to address the contamination in that process as well. He stated let's keep the ball rolling and get his bad material out of our environment so that we will be safe.

He also stated he was a bit concerned with a statement in the paper which stated the EPA concluded in the June 2019 fact sheet that all known high concentration of PCB in the environment have been addressed. Mr. Wilkerson feels that someone could think that all of the PCB has been taken care of but that is not the case. The Town needs to continue until every bit of the levels is acceptable. Town Administrator Mike Smith stated Jeff Crowley of EPA sent an email stating he has not forgotten about a public meeting and should have some time coming up in the first couple of weeks of November when a public meeting could be held. Mr. Crowley agrees an update would be good for the community.

6. Mayor Ingram recognized **Mr. Marty Martin**. Mr. Martin stated council was aware of how he felt about the zoning issue and he wanted to get the property back to where it was before it was illegally rezoned. **Councilman Bennett** asked if there was car sales activity going on now and Mr. Martin stated no. **Councilman White** asked if all the cars there right now are for repair and Mr. Martin answered yes.

Second Reading of Ordinances:

- 2020-14** Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2020-14. An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Cheraw's Zoning Code Concerning Building Height Outlined in Article 5-15 Pertaining to Area, Yard, and Height Requirements.** Council. Ordinance 2020-14 pertains to area, yard and height requirements. Rob Wolfe stated this is a recommendation from the

Planning Commission. **Councilwoman Melton** made a motion to accept second and final reading of **Ordinance 2020-14**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

2020-15

Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration second and final reading of **Ordinance 2020-15. An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Cheraw's Code of Ordinance Section 13-1 Concerning Consumption of Beer, Wine and Alcohol Restricted**. **Rob Wolfe** stated this would allow consumption of alcohol at permitted special events in the downtown and Riverside Park. The events have to be approved by the Town Administrator. This would require extra security on hand and whoever is selling would have to use cups provided through the Town of Cheraw. This is a recommendation from the Main Street Committee, the Planning Commission and the Legislative Committee also reviewed this. The Arts Commission is also in favor. **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** asked how this change affects the current law that the Town has alcohol not being served near a school, church or park. **Rob Wolfe** stated he is not familiar with it not being served at a park but right now exception in the ordinance for the Community Center. This would provide three more exceptions for Town Green, Centennial Park and Riverside Park. **Mr. Wolfe** also stated there is no state law against public alcohol consumption or in any ordinance. **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** stated she understands but there is a law that alcohol cannot be served near a church, park or school. **Wolfe** stated he is not familiar with that and lots of other towns do that and he is not sure how they get around it. Mayor Ingram asked Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon where that law is listed. **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** stated she is not sure where it is but back in 2006 when they had the Taste of Cheraw downtown all of this information came out. She also stated even when the Gates Station wanted to sell alcohol but the Methodist Church was in that vicinity and objected to it and they built a ramp so alcohol couldn't be served within so many feet from entrance of the building. She stated there is a law out there. Mayor Ingram stated he knows that there is a law that alcohol cannot be sold near a church. **Mike Smith** stated he is only aware of this in getting an ABC License. **Rob Wolfe** stated he had conversations with SLED and they helped him come up with the text of the ordinance and they didn't say this would be a conflict. **Councilwoman Ellerbe Shannon** stated to **Rob Wolfe** you had conversation but did you get any documentation that this could be sold or even consumed in those areas. **Wolfe** stated other towns are doing this. **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** stated you are saying other towns are doing this and did you get documentation from them on how they went about creating an ordinance or went about accepting this in those areas and in those areas where there are churches, schools and parks. **Wolfe** stated the Town of Pageland does and they had alcohol sales at the Watermelon Festival this year. The Town of Bennettsville does it at Lake Paul Wallace and downtown

Bennettsville which has churches and Parks as well. Wolfe also stated he had emails from other Main Street Directors that pointed him toward SLED. **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** stated they can check with SLED on that. He also stated whatever locations they have chosen for consumption will be done by SC ABC Law. Mayor Ingram stated Rob would check with SLED. Mayor Ingram asked does the change have Jazz Festival Committee's approval?. **Councilman Bennett** made a motion to accept second reading of **Ordinance 2020-15**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by a vote of **5-1** with **Councilwoman Ellerbe-Shannon** voting no.

First Reading of Ordinance:

2020-17 Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration first reading of **Ordinance to Amend the Town of Cheraw's Official Zoning Map to Assign Office Commercial (OC) Zoning Designation to Properties the Effective Date of this Ordinance**. There are properties located on Windsor Dr. (Chiropractor office and Randy Sandifer Property). This is a recommendation from the Planning Commission. A motion was made by **Councilman White** to accept first reading of **Ordinance 2020-17**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

2020-18 Mayor Ingram introduced for council's consideration first reading of **Ordinance to Deny the Amendment to the Town of Cheraw's Official Zoning Map to Rezone Property from C-1 to General Commercial (GC) to the Effective Date of this Ordinance**. **Rob Wolfe** stated the Planning Commission denied it however they said they would consider it if the Martin's came with a plan that would require General Commercial Zoning. A motion was made by **Councilman Bennett** to accept first reading of **Ordinance 2020-17**. The motion was seconded by **Councilman Wallace** and passed by unanimous vote.

7. **For Council Information:**

8. **Citizen Comments:**

Melvin Wilkerson - Mr. Wilkerson stated what he heard about the consumption of alcohol he couldn't sit any more. First he had worked with young people 41 years and during that time they made pledges to refrain from drinking alcohol and drugs. This rubs him the wrong way. He asked how you justify to the young folks seeing people in public consuming alcohol. What message are you sending? Mr. Wilkerson also stated he would like to see the citation suggesting it is a wonderful thing to bring in alcohol in order to support building your city. Mr. Wilkerson stated he has seen too many families broken up and too many things go

wrong in families where alcohol is involved. He asked council to think about it.

9. 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 **5:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Clementine A. Ellis
Clerk-Treasurer