

**Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2016**

Location: Chapin Town Hall

Attending: Mayor Skip Wilson; Council Members Mike Clonts, Robbie Frick, Kay Hollis, and Gregg White; Municipal Judge Gary Reinhart; staff members Chris Clauson, Chief Troy Crump, Karen Owens, Andy Metts, Carl Stevens, and Inga Whelchel.

Oath of Office: Municipal Judge Gary Reinhart administered the oath of office to incumbent Council Member Kay Hollis with her husband, John, holding the Bible for her. Judge Reinhart also administered the oath of office to newly elected Council Member Mike Clonts with his wife, Tish, holding the Bible for him.

Call to Order: Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm, and determined there was a quorum. Mr. White offered the prayer. Mayor Wilson proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Wilson acknowledged that the appropriate notifications in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Minutes: Mayor Wilson asked for approval of the November 17th and December 18th meeting minutes. Mr. Frick made a motion to accept both of the minutes; 2nd by Mr. White. Mayor Wilson, Mr. Frick, and Mr. White voted in favor with Mrs. Hollis opposing, and Mr. Clonts stated he had not reviewed the minutes that were in his Council packet, so he abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Selection of Mayor Pro Tem: Nominations were made by Mr. Frick, Mrs. Hollis, and Mr. White to nominate Mr. Clonts as the new Mayor Pro Tem. A motion was made by Mr. White to make Mr. Clonts the new Mayor Pro Tem; 2nd by Mrs. Hollis. No discussion was made. Mayor Wilson, Mr. Frick, Mrs. Hollis, and Mr. White all voted in favor with Mr. Clonts abstaining. The motion passed.

Recognition: Vivian “Bibi” Atkins was recognized for her 16 years of loyal service to the Town Council as a Member and Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Wilson expressed gratitude for her years of service and challenges she brought to the Council. He presented her with a plaque and her name plate.

Mayor Wilson introduced Jared Adams and Nick Dalpiaz from Clemson University. Jared is a Chapin High School graduate. Together they have formed the business “Chapin Student Painters”, which is a sector of the National Young Entrepreneurs Across America. This is a painting company, run by students who are also earning money to help fund their continuing education. Mayor Wilson presented the young men with a proclamation declaring January “Student Painters Month”.

Mayor’ Comments: Mayor Wilson welcomed Mr. Clonts to the Council and his taking part in the responsibility of improving and benefiting the Town.

Old Business:

1. Second reading of the Proposed 2016 Municipal Budget ordinance. A motion to accept the budget was made by Mr. Clonts; 2nd by Mr. White. Mr. Clonts stated as he was new to Town Government and to the Council, there were some line items on the budget that gave him concern. Of note, the personnel budget increase, health insurance and retirement for the Mayor and Council Members, and the audit item of owing funds back to utilities. As such, even with these concerns, he would like to move forward and benefit the Town and approve the budget. Mayor Wilson, Mr. Clonts, and Mr. White voted in favor with Mr. Frick and Ms. Hollis opposing. The motion passes.
2. First reading of the ordinance to Implement Sewer Rate Increase. A motion to accept the first reading was made by Mr. White; 2nd by Mr. Frick. During discussion, Mr. Clonts asked where the increased revenue would be used. Mr. Metts stated the funds would be used to develop a Capital Improvement Fund to improve the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The current rates are used to maintain the treatment plant, but the increase would pay for improvement. Mayor Wilson, Mr. Clonts, Mr. Frick, and Mr. White voted in favor with Mrs. Hollis opposing. The motion passes.
3. Update on Turkey Point and Fairhaven subdivisions - repairs and litigation. Mr. Clauson stated a Summons and Complaint was filed last month, at the request of Town Council and under the direction of the attorneys, against the developers of the Turkey Point and Fairhaven neighborhoods. Approximately \$90,000.00 worth of work still needs to be completed before Lexington County will accept these subdivisions. Mr. Clonts asked if these builders were still in business, Mr. Clauson stated that he was fairly certain both of the building firms are now bankrupt, but he was not sure if the specific developers were still in business.

New Business:

1. First reading of the ordinance to change Town Council Regular Meetings to the third Tuesday of each month to start at 6:00 PM. Mayor Wilson stated the change would allow time for the departments to prepare their reports, especially Finance. Currently, the ordinance states the Council Meetings are to be held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Mr. Clonts made a motion to accept the first reading; 2nd by Mr. White. Mrs. Hollis asked the reason for the change in time. Mayor Wilson stated that most people do not want to go back out once they have returned home after work. The earlier time would allow the public and Council Members to come straight to the meetings from work to make the meetings run more efficiently. The motion passes by unanimous vote.

Public Comments: Risa Barnes from the Chapin Chamber of Commerce expressed thanks for all the Town Council and Mayor have been doing for the Town.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. White; 2nd by Mrs. Hollis. The motion passes by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.