

Springfield Council Meeting
October 6, 2014
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P. M. with the Mayor and all council members present.

The September Public Hearing minutes were read. Mayor McCormick asked if there was a motion to accept. Council member Cooper made a motion to accept the Public Hearing minutes. Council member Temples 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands.

The September minutes were read. Mayor McCormick asked if there was a motion to adopt the minutes. Council member Temples made a motion to accept the minutes and Council member Cooper 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands.

The September financials were read. Mayor McCormick ask if there was a motion to adopt the financials. Council member Cooper made a motion to accept the September financials. Council member Temples 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands.

Mayor McCormick said she appreciated everyone coming out to the meeting. Mayor McCormick asked for thoughts and prayers for the Burley Huffman family adding that a part of Springfield passed away when the town lost Burley. She asked that the Barrett Hutto family, also known as Woody, be remembered as well. The Mayor then read an update about the Senior Citizens Center she received from Mrs. Mary Olive Pender. Mayor McCormick read a letter from the Orangeburg County Voters Registration office about the November 4 general election and added that the voting facilities are being cleaned up. She said the municipal election which has been advertised in the paper would be held December 2. The Mayor added that the filing period for the December 2 election began October 1 at noon and the filing deadline would be October 15 at noon. She then read aloud a letter received from Sheriff Leroy Ravenel with information about October being Criminal Domestic Violence month. Mayor McCormick also read aloud information from a letter received from Atlantic Broadband. She announced that Norway's Cotton Festival committee is taking applications for several events for their November 1 festival. The Mayor said the October 5 Community Church Service held at the Springfield High School was very nice and well attended. She said she had received several Springfield High School flyers in the town's drop box and in the mail, some signed and some unsigned, requesting that the School Board manage the high school building.

Chief Logan announced Council member Bill Temples would be a representative between the Police Department and the Mayor. He then gave the monthly Police Department report. Chief Logan announced there would be a children's toy drive again this year for the Augusta Burn Center. He added there will be boxes placed in several places in town. The Chief asked for suggestions to help local children have a good Christmas too. He announced there would be a business meeting at the town hall October 7 at 6 P. M. addressing crime during the holidays. Chief Logan asked if there were any questions. A resident asked where the police officer's pay came from. Chief Logan said that would be a question for the town clerk or the Mayor. Mayor McCormick told the resident they were welcome to get with the town clerk to explain this.

Mayor McCormick asked the town clerk to share information concerning the Orangeburg County Tax & Tourism meeting she had attended. The clerk said basically the committee said they have state guidelines to go by to give money requested by the town for events. She said the committee said the July 4th event was no more than a town picnic and it did not bring in people like the Frog Jump event does. The clerk asked if money could be requested for the Jack on the Track event and the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting. The committee said these events do not meet state guidelines. Mayor McCormick asked if any of the committee members introduced themselves. The clerk said no committee member introduced themselves and she felt the answer was no from the start. The Mayor asked if any other towns met with the committee that day. The clerk said there was another lady there from a town requesting funds and she called her to see if the committee had approved money for their town but no one has ever called back with an answer.

Council member Cooper said the children's park buildings have been scrubbed and washed, the play area has been weeded and sand has been brought in. He said the town's generators have been cranked and he hopes to take one and hook it up to run for a few hours before winter gets here. He added that hopefully they wouldn't be needed. Council member Cooper said Hugh had gotten material and repaired a leak in the Senior Citizens building roof.

Mrs. Sylvia Hiers report that the Springfield Garden Club has taken the summer flags down and put up fall baskets. She said they are also working on Christmas decorations to get up in a timely manner.

Mrs. Sylvia Hiers said she had not been able to get a meeting with the Mayor in order to clarify several things concerning the Springfield High School such as finances and repairs. She said the next best time to do this may be the next School Board meeting and would like to get with the Mayor and council and choose a time that would be agreeable with everyone. Mrs. Hiers said there are several fundraiser opportunities coming up and clarification is needed about who would be doing them. She added that she is still not quite sure about the questions she was asked about the grants.

Springfield Librarian Mrs. Linda Stutts reported that there was not a good participation in the Summer Reading Program but Deanna Hutto had won the contest for her reading goal and she had received a gift bag for this. Mrs. Stutts said the library's computers are going to be updated in the near future.

Public Comments:

A resident asked why he was denied seeing the town's gas receipts and Police Department's maintenance records last month. The Mayor said she believed he had been to the town hall and looked at the receipts and conversations got heated. She added that the town strives to keep things in a business like manner. The resident said he felt the salaries and gasoline being paid for the Police Department is too high. The resident asked why the officer who lives in the town's house is allowed to keep the yard like a junk yard and added that the officer has property on Georgia Street and he could put the vehicles on that property.

He said he would like to ask the Mayor and Council to rescind his resignation from council. He added if they did not he would have his name on the election ballot. Mayor McCormick said the resignation was put in writing and accepted. She said was not quite sure about the proper procedures that goes with that. The resident said he had checked into it already and he said all he would have to do is put his name on the ballot. Mayor McCormick said she looked forward to his name being on the ballot.

A business owner asked about the town's zoning. Mayor McCormick said the town clerk has a copy of Orangeburg counties zoning and he is welcome to see it.

A resident said she heard the town's dodge charger was in an accident. Mayor McCormick said two deer had hit the vehicle. The resident said she felt there were other buildings in the town that need repairs and doesn't understand why the Mayor and council are involved in the Springfield school's repairs because it has been well maintained in the past.

A business owner said her parent's had left money to be given to the Springfield High School and was told there is a School Board that would handle everything pertaining to the building. She said she did not understand why it took so long to get the floors at the school repaired. The resident said she was told the School Board would be handling the maintenance at the school and doesn't understand why the town is handling the floor repair. Mayor McCormick said she had made an executive decision due to the floor repair urgency and the floor process has begun. She said the resident could look at the council meeting minutes and listen to the tapes of the prior discussions about repairing the floors at the school. Mayor McCormick said she had met with School Board members October 1 and they agreed everything looked fine and they were satisfied. The Mayor said nothing has been taken from the School Board and no one has stopped them from maintaining anything else and a decision was made out of the respect for the town to get the ball rolling to begin the process of repairing the floors. The resident said she wants to see the school taken care of.

A resident asked if the Mayor and council meet prior to the scheduled council meetings. The Mayor said the Mayor and council do have conversations or phone calls to check on things. Council member Cooper said they do not have meetings. The resident questioned what fund the Police Department's salaries and their vehicle maintenance comes out of. Mayor McCormick said most of the checks are written out of the general fund. The resident asked if the public can see a current budget during the year. The Mayor said they can see the budget anytime during the year once it is completed. The resident said he felt the financial copies in the council meeting are not very detailed and he is curious about where the income comes from as well as expenses.

A resident said he would like to let everyone know October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. He said also it was Fire Prevention week and urged everyone to be careful. The resident said there are several dead trees around town that need to be cut down. Mayor McCormick said to let the town know the locations and DOT would be contacted to see which ones they could take down. The resident said he does not think a police officer should use gas in the town's police vehicles to run personal errands.

A resident asked if the town would have the Jack On the Track this year. Mayor McCormick said she has not heard anything about it yet.

A resident said in reference to the question about council and Mayor meeting prior to council meetings that it is state law as well as a county ordinance that two council members can discuss the town's business but when three are together that would constitute a public meeting. Council member Cooper said that is correct.

A resident said she had thought up the Jack On the Track event and the July 4th event. She said she would be glad to do the Jack On the Track event but hesitated due to the town taking over the July 4th event. She asked Mayor McCormick if she wanted her to do the Jack On the Track event. Mayor McCormick said that she would like her to do it as usual. The resident added that she had a document reading the rights and responsibilities of the Springfield School Board and hoped to discuss this further with the Mayor and council and get back on track.

A business owner said she understands estimates had been gotten for the repairs of the floors at the school. She asked what happened to cause the delay of getting the work done. Mayor McCormick said it is an on-going process and it had gotten to the point of it being a long process therefore she had made an executive decision to get the work done. She added that this has been a repetitive process and the main thing is the floors are getting repaired. The Mayor said she did not understand the statement about the town taking over the school and money being spent without knowledge.

A resident said the School Board members did not know how much the contractor repairing the floors is being paid. The Mayor told her she had turned that information in to her earlier. The resident said whatever she was handed that she had not looked at it yet.

A resident said she thought if there was a bid over \$5,000.00 that it had to be voted on. Mayor McCormick said the bids were opened in the School Board meeting and the council was aware of the decision she had made. Mayor McCormick said there were issues and danger concerning the floors at the school and she made an executive decision to get the floors repaired.

A resident asked where the fireworks money came from. Mayor McCormick said the town and donations paid for them. The resident asked about the repairs for the old town hall and the blue building. Mayor McCormick said Council member Temples is working with the blue building and the third quote for mold removal has not been received yet. Council member Temples said he had been trying to recruit some free labor but hopefully the repairs would get done by the next meeting. He said everyone is too busy to help and he will do it himself if he has to. The Mayor said she would give the resident an update on the mold removal bid for the old town hall. The resident asked who would decide if the town would have the Springfield Defends Fruitcake event. The Mayor said it would be the same as it has always been since it was started.

A business owner said the financial reports given out at the council meetings needs more detail.

A resident said the town's maintenance department should be able to help do the repairs at the blue building. Mayor McCormick agreed. The resident said to sum it up he would use the Joe

Wilson phrase "you lie".

-5-

Newspaper reporter Ms. Sheryl Peters announced that she would be retiring November 30 and said she has enjoyed working with the Town of Springfield. Mayor McCormick and council thanked her and she received a round of applause.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:11 P. M.