

Springfield Council Meeting
March 2, 2015
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P. M. with the Mayor and all council members present.

Mayor McCormick began the meeting by saying that the Orangeburg County Sheriff's office had asked to be on the agenda beginning at 6 P. M. to launch their campaign "Know Us Before You Need Us" but no one had shown up and several phone calls had been made with no success in reaching anyone.

The February minutes were read. Council member Cooper made a motion to accept the minutes and Council member Lackey 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands.

Mayor McCormick asked if any council member had any questions about the financials. There were none. Council member Cooper made a motion to accept the financials and Council member Temples 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands with the exception of Council member Williams and Council member Lackey. Mayor McCormick said the financials are as they stand.

Mayor McCormick said she appreciates the fire department as well as the police officers who have been checking on the senior citizens. She asked for thoughts and prayers for Mr. Robert Williams' brother, Mr. Dan Chavez, the Chandler Nettles family and the Tinley family. The Mayor asked residents to look out for the town's senior citizens and if anyone sees anything out of the ordinary to contact a police officer. Mayor McCormick said Serv-Pro had come and spoken with Council member Cooper. She said everything looks good and they would be coming back in six months. The Mayor said Penny Johnson who is a representative with Atlantic Broadband has been in the town contacting residents about their services. She also read out the phone numbers and website address to contact Atlantic Broadband. Mayor McCormick read aloud a thank you card from the Martin family. She then said she and the town clerk met with Orangeburg county representatives February 11 about penny money. The Mayor said the town would begin receiving this money now. She added the town had requested these funds back in July 2010 which was \$85,000.00 for water system improvements and \$311,015.00 for the waste water improvements. The Mayor said she had talked with Mr. Heyward Livingston about District 4 funds available for recreational facility improvements. She said it is looking good to receive funds for improvements to the senior citizens center and the voting area which is in the same building. Mayor McCormick added there is also \$200,000.00 available for town hall and parking lot improvements in the same area. She said accountant Beth Crane has been and said everything is on schedule and auditor Tim Cornelison has started the yearly audit. The Mayor then read a letter of resignation from the town's water/waste water operator Mr. Jimmy Thomas. She said an ad for the job had been run in the paper March 1, 2015. She said during this transition period Mr. Jay Kates with Water Systems, Inc. has agreed to come in until the position has been filled.

Officer Robert White gave the Police Department report. Officer White also said Officer Randall Day has volunteered to work for the town's Police Department.

Council member Cooper said the Public meeting did not go as planned because of a minor mix up in how the procedure of the meeting should be. He said he had decided not to reschedule the meeting because enough information has been put out and council would eventually vote on the issue. He said Serv-Pro has been and cleaned the mold in the old depot building and they would be coming back.

Council member Lackey referred to a section of the handout Council member Cooper had given out concerning the town's tree being cut down. She said she would like to see how the tree would fair through the spring and summer. Council member Lackey then made a motion not to cut the tree down. No 2nd motion was made. Mayor McCormick said this would be tabled.

Council member Temples said the tree expert was paid to come into town and give his opinion which is to cut the tree down. Council member Temples made a motion to cut the tree if the money could be gotten from the state to do it. Mayor McCormick asked if he meant the highway department. Council member Temples said he did. Council member Williams 2nd the motion. All agreed with a show of hands with the exception of Council member Lackey. Mayor McCormick did not vote.

Captain Matthew Williams of the Springfield Fire Department gave the Fire Department report. He said the Fire Department would be raffling off a Yeti cooler at the Frog Jump.

Mrs. Sylvia Hiers said there would be a gospel singing at the school March 7 at 6 P. M. and hopes to schedule a high school reunion in the future. She said monitoring of moisture in the auditorium is continuing and none has been found. Mrs. Hiers said volunteers are welcome at the school. Council member Cooper asked about replacing the flag at the school. Mrs. Hiers said the flags have usually been donated.

Public Comments:

A resident asked how many Council members and or Mayor have attended the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government. Council member Lackey said she had. The resident said she felt this would be a good class for the council or clerk to attend to know the rules and regulations. The resident questioned the amount paid to trim the tree in town that had been voted on to be cut down. Mayor McCormick said she would have the clerk pull the invoice to verify the amount. The same resident questioned the financials pertaining to the municipal fund and the victims rights fund. The resident asked if they could look at the court documentation concerning this. Mayor McCormick said she would have Judge Morrone schedule this when he could come in as well as the town clerk.

A resident expressed her concern about cutting the tree down. Council member Williams said he did not want to see the tree cut down. He said he would like to see it replaced and hopefully the replacement would grow with the town. He added that he felt the tree has seen its life span but under the circumstances he feels cutting it down is the safe thing to do.

A resident asked what would be put in the tree's place. Mayor McCormick said Council member Cooper is working with the garden club about that. He added that the replacement would be closer to the platform.

A resident expressed their concern about not using local businesses to make purchases by the town.

A resident said she would like to be a part of replacing the tree.

A resident said it is a long time away before a tree could be planted.

A resident asked if anything could be done about a burned house in town. Mayor McCormick said the county has been contacted about this house and asked the clerk to call again. Council member Cooper said he believes probate is involved and this may be why it is taking so long to do something with the house.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P. M.