

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
1067 WEST MAIN STREET, CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020 - 7:00PM**

Present: Mayor Mac Martin; Council Members Paige Bowers, Joe Moss, Lynne Chapman; Ken Dill, and Harry Holladay; Administrator Phillip Mishoe; Assistant Administrator Tom Cloer; Police Chief Steve Thompson; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds; Corporal Pete Harding; Chad Hendricks, Russell Oglesby, Keith Abercrombie, Kyle Abercrombie, Alysen McCaughey, Zorah McCaughey, Edith William, Heather McEven, Kaitnan Holden, Evangelos Courpas, Ben McCuan, Kate Byrd, Becca Invun, Corbrina Pinson, Justin Rakey, Greg Neeley, Mary Rose Holbrook, Rosa Grayden; Deputy Town Clerk Mendy Fuller and Town Clerk Susan A. Brewer.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mac Martin.

Pastor Russell Oglesby rendered the invocation.

Reading of Regular Council Meeting Minutes 05.18.2020

Lynne Chapman made the motion to adopt Regular Council Meeting minutes 05.18.2020; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Public Session

Pastor Russell Oglesby approached Council for two reasons. First, he wanted to know if there was a way to get free COVID-19 testing in Central. He said that he thinks as far as convenience would be to block off Main Street on a Saturday to the testing. Mayor Martin said maybe Bolick Field. Pastor Oglesby said he was coming to Council to see if they could assist. Mayor said for him to get in touch with the Administrator and figure out where this could take place.

Pastor Russell Oglesby said second, it was primarily for the Chief of Police. He said in light of the situation that has went on in the nation over the past few of years, not just recently, to make an evaluation as to the quality of training especially in diversity type training and the staffing of our law enforcement to ensure that incidents that are happening in other locations doesn't happen here in our city. He asked what steps are being made. Chief Thompson said they are continuously training. Some of it is mandated by the academy, and three other organizations they are working with for training. They are participating in online training through webinars and seminars. Diversity is a continuous training officers have. Pastor Oglesby asked Chief Thompson in terms of law enforcement were there any long-term or short-term plans to diversify our law enforcement that would reflect the percentage of residents in Central? Chief Thompson said absolutely. Continuing training.

Alysen McCaughey

Alysen McCaughey introduced herself to Council. She lives at 111 Sourwood Street. She said she has lived in Central for 20 years. She said that her and her daughter decided in response to national attention on "Black Lives Matter" to make a few signs and stand in support their black neighbors. She said she thought it was important that they knew that someone in this town cared and that they knew Black Lives Matter. She said that the first person to stop was Rosa Grayden. She said Rosa, Tina, and Edith,

and a few others joined them. She said that what Rosa said to her broke her heart. She said that Rosa said that she didn't think anyone here would do this. Alysen McCaughey said this was unacceptable. She said we needed to make a change in this town. She said she was going to continue making a change in this town. She said in a small town and a group of people we could have real change. She said she looked forward to meeting the committees in the town and she was supported by the Chief of Police. She said she didn't know anyone but she wanted to work with the leadership of the town and all of the Council. She wanted everyone to know "Black Lives do Matter". She said she was raised up in a small town like Central. She said they didn't see a lot of issues. She said she chose to live here as an adult. Her family lives here and she was going to reach out to churches, businesses, and Town Council to further a dialogue as to why "Black Lives Matter."

Rosa Grayden

Rosa Grayden said she resides at 101 Cantrell Drive. She said that she wanted to ask some questions and she hoped someone was taking notes because she wanted answers.

1. She said Pastor Oglesby had already asked about diversity training. She said she didn't think a clear answer was given. She said it wasn't just for the Police Department. She said that it was for everyone that works for the town. She felt like everyone should have this training and she wanted to know if we had minutes of the training.

2. Do you wear body cams? She said she was an advocate about body cams in Clemson and didn't know how far it had gone in the state or regarding the Town of Central.

3. Do you have community policing? If so, where the manual so that the citizens can review to see what they are up against and what they need to do? She said to give the citizens the word of what can protect them because here in Central not too much trouble happens here in Central that she knows of because if she did, she would be there.

4. As the Mayor, how do you as an entity provide the sources for the community? What is laid out? What are the tax dollars rolled back into the community? She said she wasn't talking about a third or a fourth, she said she was talking about anybody that paid taxes in the town of Central. Is there an accommodation tax money, what is our budget, where can she find our budget?

She said there had been complaints, and because they are her good friends, off of Moore Street where the plant pond is running over with water and all kinds of debris and little scandals that come up out of the water. She said since it is Central Textiles there has to be some kind of law that can be pushed by the Town of Central and Council to accommodate the waste that is coming on their land. She said she knows that they have asked because she has gone to them many times.

Rosa Grayden said the next thing she wanted to address was coming Moore Street, she said she almost got totaled trying to get out because the cars coming around the curve so deeply. She said there needs to be a caution light and she understood that so many things have to pass DOT. She said that we need to find a solution to all of the above. She said that she is expecting answers and she does want to know how we are going to

communicate the answers to her. She does not want anything to happen to anyone White, Black, Hispanic or anyone that is unnecessary because she stands in solidarity for everyone. She said there was a little white boy, his name was John boy, that she knew that had a lot of issues because he didn't know how to relay things to the police and sometimes not even to his mama. She said he was the one he could call on. She said all lives matter. She said sometimes something has to happen to move and shake you. She said Police Chief stopped and gave them water and she called that an act of kindness. She said let's all work together. She said the Chief said if they had any problems to contact him.

Justin Rakey

Justin Rakey and he has lived in the downtown area of Central for the last four years. He said we have seen a level of support, demonstrations, protests, and general activism as we see today. He said George Floyd, though not a perfect person was murdered by a police officer while his fellow officers watched and citizens recorded the event. He said there was no justification of the events that transpired. He said he was glad the officers were charged and he hopes all four have their day in court and receive appropriate sentencing. He said every single one of them should be held accountable. He said that Council must be wondering why he was using their valuable agenda time today to talk about a murder that took place nine hundred miles away. He said that was simple. He wanted that from happening here and to protect innocent lives and officers of our community. He said in no way shape or form did he support de-funding the police department. He said very few protesters do because they know the truth. He said officers serve a valuable role and put their lives on the line on a daily basis and he is thankful for it. He said in fact he was here to advocate for the opposite. He said let's adequately fund them so they can hire, train, and retain the best quality officers in order to protect our citizens. He said police jobs should be coveted positions to encourage the best behavior in policies and procedures. He said how can we expect the officers to covet the position when the emotional demands of the job far out weigh the meager salary they are paid. He asked how we could ask the Police Chief to terminate an officer if they know it will take six months to fill the position? He said our police department should have enough funding to allow more time for training to accommodate frequent training topics outside of what we see as conventional law enforcement, especially de-escalation techniques and diversity. He said that he understood the reality of the town's financial picture in the short time it's more valuable to have butt's in the driver's seat of the police car than in a class room. He said with that type of short-sightedness that has got us where we are today. He said police administration should have more access to more advanced screening, evaluation tools to support and monitor existing police officers as well as new applicants. He said in depth psychological reviews of the officers should be a standard practice in the hiring process. He said that administration should have access refer officers to medical experts whenever necessary. He said lastly, he felt a community review process should be established that engages the community into the policing process. He felt like there should be a regular meeting that is hosted by the police department and to welcome feedback from members of the community and it should be well advertised to encourage participation. He said that he realized that is difficult to balance the financial needs of a small town and he had little knowledge of the difficult decisions Council has to make however he said that was their role in this process, to make the tough decisions, even if it means in raising revenue sources in the town to meet the needs of the police department then so be it. He said for them to do it and stop dragging their feet. He said citizens will be mad

for a few weeks or maybe longer but they were always mad. He told Council they didn't run for their positions to liked by everyone but asked them to please take action tonight as they review the towns budget for the next year to make positive changes, not lip service but real changes. He thanked Council for their service to the town and he thanked the police officers for their service and for listening to the ones who felt unheard and unsafe in our community.

Keith Abercrombie

Keith Abercrombie started by reading Ordinance 2-58. Each person who gives notice may speak for five minutes during public session once properly recognized by the mayor or presiding member. He asked if it was 3 minutes or 5 minutes. He said we said 3 and the ordinance says 5. Mayor said that it was 30 minutes for the total. Keith Abercrombie said that after he spoke at the March 9th meeting, Mac came in and said that he had said some things that were not true. Keith Abercrombie said he would like to interject that everything that he said was what Herbert Thompson said and everyone in the meeting that knows Herbert Thompson knows that he is the George Washington of Central. He said that he would not tell a lie. He said that the following day Mac had actually called Herbert and he told him that ordinance did not intend for the business license to include the vendors. Also after that Keith said he sent the City of Clemson an email and did not tell them who he was, and told them he owned a small business inside of Central and he had sold products to people inside the city limits of Clemson to deliver, and would he need a business license? He said this was Clemson's response. "The City of Clemson would not require a business license if you only deliver goods or supplies to a job site within our jurisdiction. If there is any installation or manipulation of the goods or supplies that would be a different activity and a license would be required." He said that was common sense stuff. He said he also sent one to Easley. Easley's response was "If you own a business located in Central and the transaction occurs in Central based office you would only be required to obtain a business license for the delivery of the paint inside the city limits of Easley if there is a delivery fee charged. No license is needed for delivery." Keith Abercrombie said that he knew that Pendleton is not in Pickens County but he said he thought he would just give them a shot. He said their response was "If it is a wholesale transaction you do not." Keith Abercrombie said that here are three towns that do not require a business license to deliver and he said his question was "Why are we so a**-backwards from our neighboring towns?" He said that is what he wants to know.

Keith Abercrombie said the next thing was about the cemetery. He read 5-2 "All cemeteries owned and operated by the town shall be under the supervision and control of the town council." He said he wanted to read them the definition of supervision. "A critical watching and directing of activities." He proceeded to tell Council "they were failing miserably." He said there were probably some of them that have never riven through the cemetery much less had gotten out and walk to look and see what it looks like especially on the upper circle. He said there was a pile of trash in the middle of the cemetery that has been there for over a year and it is still sitting there. He said that was their job and that was what they get paid to do. He said it's a critical watching. He said when they leave here, they put their blinders on and don't see what's on right or left to get at home as quick as they can and don't look at anything. Lynne Chapman said she does not do that.

Keith Abercrombie said the other thing he would like to say. He said he would like for them to park at the Post Office one Saturday and walk down the sidewalks from the Post Office to the Exxon Station. He wanted them to look at the shape of the sidewalks, look at all the murk, mud, dirt, rocks, gravel, and the sides of the road. He said when Herbert was the Administrator, he would have the guys ride on the sidewalk with a front-end loader tractor with two guys with a flat nose shovels to clean that stuff up shoveling it up. He said that it looked like, he didn't know what to call it. He said it wasn't very professional and it looks terrible. He said if you ride in your cars you can't see it but he rides a golf cart and it looks terrible.

Keith Abercrombie said that had received a FOIA of every Business license for the past seven years. He said that he hated that Daniel Evatt was not there. He said there were people on Council that have rental property and there are people on Council that have family that have rental property that have never bought a business license. He said what is fair for the goose is good for the gander. He said if they were going to enforce it then they needed to enforce it. He said it seems like there were too many people down here that has too many sets of rules. He said whoever has their nose the farthest up Phillip Mishoe's rear-end is who gets away with murder down here. He said he was not going to call their names out tonight but someone needs to relay the messages, that if they are not down here getting some business licenses in the next day or two, the next time he does this they will be called out. He said the South Carolina Ethics Commission would know about it too.

Receipt and Disposition of Petitions

None

Reports from Council Committees:

All committee reports are on file in the Town Clerk's office and available for review upon request.

A. Planning – Paige Bowers

None

B. Streets and Public Safety – Joe Moss

Joe Moss reported that outside basketball courts would be going up at the corner of Spring Forest and Highway 93. He said that he was so grateful that we had made a way for this to happen because children need a way to play outside.

C. Finance and Marketing – Lynne Chapman

Lynne Chapman reported the finance report looked pretty good. She said we had a small issue with the Sanitation Department was in the red. She asked Phillip Mishoe if he wanted to explain the Sanitation numbers and he said this was the first time in about 5 months that we were in the black. He said he can't really give the credit to us not doing recycling anymore but we would continue monitoring it. He said we were \$32,000 in a hole right now with the Sanitation Department.

D. Recreation – Ken Dill

Ken Dill reported A decision would be made by the State Parks and Recreation Division in mid-July along with the governor’s office to determine if the season can go forward. Other options such as flag football instead of tackle football are also being considered should youth tackle football be cancelled.

Ken Dill reported that the Cannon Park Picnic shelter renovation are complete. New Tables will be purchased in July with the county grant funds.

Ken Dill reported that both Cannon and Community Park Playgrounds are being opened with cleaning and sanitizing taking place 3x per week.

E. Enterprise- Harry Holladay

Harry Holladay reported that 89 customers were on the disconnection list and 38 contacts with customers were made, 9 hang cards were left for customers without contact phone numbers. 43 customers paid during the call days. He said that these were unusual numbers due to the pandemic and he hoped that people don’t get to behind.

F. Tourism and Economic Development – Daniel Evatt

Mayor Martin reported the piece of property that was donated on Spring Forest for the sewer repair would be extensively excavated over the next few weeks. He said there was a damaged storm drain and replace sewer line and when they get finished, we would be able to put a public basketball court. We will start with some plans, fund raiser, a cook out or something like that to kick off the project. He said it should be a nice location and a nice facility.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

Introduction and consideration of New Ordinances, Policies, and Resolutions

Consideration of Ordinances, Policies, and Resolutions already in possession of Council

Second Reding of Ordinance #06-08-2020 BU (18 Fund)

Chair made the motion to adopt on second reading of Ordinance #06-08-2020 BU pertaining only to the 18 fund (Sanitation); seconded by Lynne Chapman. Paige Bowers recused herself due to a family member employed in this department. The vote was unanimous with 1 recusal.

Second Reading of Ordinance #06-08-2020 BU

Chair made the motion to adopt on second reading of Ordinance # 06-08-2020 BU for funds containing 10,12,13,20,30,32,33,35,40,50,60,71,80 funds; seconded by Lynne Chapman. The vote was unanimous.

Second Reading of Ordinance #06-08-2020 RB

Ken Dill made the motion to adopt on second reading Ordinance #06-08-2020 RB; seconded by Joe Moss. The vote was unanimous.

Reports from the Administrator and Mayor:

A. Administrator

Phillip Mishoe reported the Emergency Sewer Project has started and should be finished in a couple of months with the repair of the storm water drain and sewer line.

Phillip Mishoe reported that we had made contact with someone to help with the Main Street Project to do some calming down traffic downtown. He said they would be able to help us with the DOT regulations to get this project underway. He said he should have more information by the next meeting.

B. Mayor
None

With no objections, Mayor Martin adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Brewer, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved: 07/06/2020