

# Johnston Town Council

## Meeting Minutes

### August 12, 2024

*The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, August 12, 2024 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Burton, Miller, and Nicholson. Councilmen Felder and Berry were absent. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Willie Bethay, Debra Aston, Neil Cunningham, Keith Lynn, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.*

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the August 12, 2024 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

#### **Public Comments:**

Mr. Willie Bethay addressed Council directing questions in regard to use of the HATS funds and replacement trash cans from Dumpster Depot. He also complimented Councilman Miller for following up on a question asked at the July meeting regarding waste spillage on Calhoun Street. Mayor Holmes informed Mr. Bethay that the HATS funds are funds that are collected from businesses associated with Hospitality and are available to Municipalities to be used for promotion of tourism. Holmes also informed him that trash cans will be replaced based on condition.

Hearing no more comments, Mayor Holmes closed the public comments and moved into further business.

A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to approve the July 8, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve the July 2024 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the July bills.

#### **Old Business**

- (a) Mayor Holmes updated everyone on the arrival of chemicals required for mosquito spraying that will start within the week.
- (b) Mayor Holmes also provided an update on the removal of the Edwards Building, stating that the contractor that will be performing the work is waiting on DHEC permits.

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#### **New Business**

- (a) A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to Consider Approval of The Hometown Economic Development Grant Match Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.
- (b) A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Miller, to Consider Approval of Edgefield County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Burton reported 14 fire calls, 2 drills since last meeting.
- Councilman Miller reported that the warehouse was coming along well and that there had been vandalism at the town's park.
- Councilman Burton recommended painting of the armory commence right away so that the building can be used.
- Mayor Holmes reported 1 employee out, repairs on the leaf machine were complete, and the transition of garbage collection was going well with a few hiccups.

#### **Office of Town Council**

- Councilman Burton stated that he had a list of lots in his ward that needed attention.

#### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Holmes reported the transition of contracted garbage collection was going well. The contract specifies that one trash can per customer. If a second trash can is needed it will be provided an additional cost to the customer. Holmes also announced the town will be getting a new pizza restaurant within the next three to four weeks.
- A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Burton to go into Executive Session concerning a Legal and Contractual matter. The motion passed unanimously. After discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Miller, to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to Consider Approval of MOU Rental Agreement with OEDGS. The motion passed unanimously.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton  
Municipal Clerk