

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2024

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Burton, Miller, Felder, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Robert Gallenz, Willie Bethay, Annette Holloway, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the December 9, 2024 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Robert Gallenz a citizen of Johnston showed concern about an abandoned U-Haul on Highway 23 toward Ward. Chief Perry advised Council that he was aware of the situation and that the department had taken the necessary action to address it.

Willie Bethay inquired on the guidelines of what can be put on the electronic sign. Mr. Bethay also thanked the Mayor for getting the Christmas lights back up on his building, expressed concern regarding backup power availability for Town Hall.

Ms. Annette Holloway also questioned the electronic sign usage policy.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to approve the November 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed the November bills.

Old Business

- (a) Mayor Holmes gave a brief update on the Warehouse stating that its moving along and he expected it to be completed later this month.
- (b) Mayor Holmes also stated that progress on the demolition of the Edwards Building was set back during the storm and projected a start date in two weeks.

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- (c) Mayor Holmes advised council that FEMA's 90 day contract for storm debris will now be extended another 30 days. DOT will repair damaged sidewalks. The town employees have started to pick up small yard debris.

New Business

- (a) Mayor Holmes advised Council of the need to replace light sets that had deteriorated over time.
- (b) A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to Approve a Request from Ms. Annette Holloway to have a MLK Unity Day in January 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 7 fire calls and 1 drills. He also stated that the warehouse looks good.
- Councilman Berry expressed that he would like see the town support the Unity Day Parade more this year.
- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Felder to contribute \$500 to the MLK Unity Fest. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Berry reported 215 dispatched calls, 145 patrol checks, and 58 traffic stops. He then reported that a new speed sign would be coming.
- Councilman Felder stated that the leaf machine needs to be looked at soon and that we are short one Public Works employee.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Burton asked for update on nuisance letters being sent out and the process with the magistrate office.
- Mayor Holmes wants the town to have a ribbon cutting for new businesses "DG Market" and "Peachy Bliss"

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes complimented the tree lighting saying that it was a success. He also thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Council and town employees.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Berry to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk