

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, November 13, 2023, at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Berry, Burton, Miller, Nicholson, and Felder. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Chip Satcher, Louvenia Gordon, Annette Holloway, Neil Cunningham, Chelsea Watson, Emma Williams, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the November 13, 2023 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Annette Holloway, a business owner in the town, presented a proposal to conduct a “Unity Weekend” in January. The weekend will be in honor of Martin Luther King. Mayor Holmes asked that Mrs. Holloway put her request in a letter detailing the event so that the town can provide the necessary support.

Several other citizens provided comments concerning yard debris, violence, shootings, poor street lighting, loud music, and speeding. Mayor Holmes advised everyone providing comments that the information would be taken for follow-up.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve the October 9, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve the September 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve the October 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the September and October bills.

Old Business

- None.

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New Business

- Following a brief read over the ordinance by Roger LeDuc, A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to approve the First Reading of Nuisance Ordinance 2023-03. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve Request from Johnston Development Corporation. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve the 2024 Holiday and Council Meeting schedules. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder, to proceed with APEX Proposal 1123-204P. the motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Holmes presented Spanky's Service Center with a winner's certificate for participation in the town's Fall Festival Scarecrow Competition.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton commended the Fire Department for their work and commitment last month.
- Councilman Miller updated council on signs for Citizens Park and is looking to have a ceremony.
- Councilman Berry reported 163 dispatch calls for the Police Department, 90 of those being traffic stops and 61 Patrol checks. Berry also expressed that he was glad to see Chief Perry back at work, the department changed the "Assistant Chief" position name to "Captain", which Justin Gentry currently holds. The Police Department hired 2 new officers, Daniel Winston and Crystal Pierce.
- Councilman Felder commended Public Works on their work ethic and reported that they hired a new employee.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Burton expressed that he was favor of the "patrol checks" idea regarding the police department.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes thanked Mr. LeDuc for putting the nuisance ordinance together for the town. He also thanked the community for supporting this year's trunk or treat.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk