

# **Johnston Town Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **September 11, 2023**

*The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Berry, Burton, Miller, and Felder. Councilman Nicholson was absent. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Karen Jensen, Keith Lynn, Emmanuel Felton, Debra Aston, Minnie Jones, Kevin Jones, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.*

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the September 11, 2023 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Kieth Lynn, a resident of Johnston, shared concerns on tractor trailers parking downtown. Mr. Lynn stated that the town's ordinance sets a 24-hour limit on downtown parking. He went on to say regardless of ordinance requirements, it simply does not help in the effort to improve the town's appearance having them parked all over town.

Emmanuel Felton, representing Edgefield County Recreation, announced a fall softball league and asked Council to support the planned fall sports program.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve the August 14, 2023 Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve the August 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed August bills.

#### **Old Business**

- After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Mayor Holmes, to approve request from Minnie Jones and Kevin Jones to open "Trackside Grill", a family friendly restaurant, drinks, food, music, etc. The hours for said restaurant will be 11 a.m. until 9 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The motion passed with 4 votes in favor, 1 opposed.

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#### **New Business**

- Mayor Holmes reported the possibility of an LED sign coming downtown. He stated that the sign would be good for communication, amber alerts, weather, trash pickup, events, etc. The sign is to be placed in the municipal parking lot, parallel to Highway 121. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve the quote for the LED sign. The total being \$43,941.76, and the Johnston Development Corp. will be paying half of the total. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Burton reported 8 fire calls and 2 drills since our last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported that the cost of the signs for Citizens Park discussed in August's meeting are actually going to be \$400.00 more than the previously discussed price.
- Councilman Berry reported a busy month with 161 dispatch calls for the Police Department, 10 of those being traffic stops. Berry reported that Chief Perry has a doctor's appointment on September 15<sup>th</sup> and will inquire on if he can return to work on light duty.
- Councilman Felder commended Public Works on their work ethic this month.

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

- Councilman Burton received a letter from a resident regarding bringing "Air Bnb" into the town, which he proceeded to read to Council and everyone.
- Councilman Berry stated that he's heard several complaints from citizens regarding cars speeding through town. Councilman Burton added that the town should be consistent in slowing the cars down.

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

- Mayor Holmes complimented Johnston Police Department on keeping everything together while being two officers short and Chief Perry being out. Holmes also thanked the CTC Committee for approving funds to pave a road around Watson Park.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Burton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton

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Municipal Clerk