

**Johnston Town Council  
Special Call Meeting Minutes  
Johnston Municipal Building  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023  
6:30 PM**

The Johnston Town Council met Tuesday at 6:30 PM, to hold a Special Call Meeting. Present were Mayor Holmes and Councilmembers Berry, Miller, Nicholson, and Burton. Councilmember Felder was absent. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, and Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Police Chief John Perry, Assistant Chief Jeff Herlong, Sheriff Jody Rowland, Officer Chase Harley, Charles Bledsoe, Minnie Jones, and Kevin Jones.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the August 8, 2023, Special Call meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Charles Bledsoe returned to express complaints regarding noise from the Trackside Sports Bar in the midnight hours. Mr. Bledsoe stated that he's reached out to the Edgefield County Sheriff's Office at least 19 times concerning the noise. Bledsoe also reflected on the safety issues of the building in which Trackside Sports Bar resides.

Mayor Holmes thanked Mr. Bledsoe for sharing his concerns.

Hearing no more public comments, Mayor Holmes closed this section of the meeting.

**Old Business**

- None.

**New Business**

- (a) Edgefield County Sheriff Jody Rowland presented several calls that the sheriff's office has responded to since the establishment opened. Rowland shared that Edgefield and other surrounding counties have responded to calls as a result of occurrences at Trackside and believe that their business license should be revoked.
- Prior to going into an executive session, Councilman Burton asked Minnie Jones and Kevin Jones (owners of Trackside Sports Bar) if they wanted to speak on behalf of their business.
- Minnie Jones was very apologetic to council, police, and citizens that showed concern. Ms. Jones also shared examples of things she could implement for her business to stay open, such as do away with her DJ, change her hours, etc. Mayor and Council thanked her for sharing.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to go into an executive session concerning the matter at hand. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Mayor Holmes to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken.

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Following the executive session, a motion was reluctantly made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton to revoke the business license of “Minnie Jones DbA Trackside Sports Bar”. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Nicholson reassured Ms. Jones that it was a very reluctant decision and advised her of actions that should’ve been taken to avoid the matter.

- (b) Following the reading of a request from Jason Holt of Edgefield County School District requesting that the Johnston Elementary School SRO be supported by Edgefield County Sheriff’s Department. The letter also requested that all equipment purchased with grant money be turned over to the Edgefield County Sheriff’s Department as soon as possible.
- A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to reimburse the Edgefield County School District for the SRO car. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Mayor Holmes to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angel Melton,  
Municipal Clerk