

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, March 13, 2023, at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Berry, Burton, and Miller. Councilmen Felder and Nicholson were absent. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Police Chief John Perry, Darlene Smith, Neil Cunningham, Willie Bethay, and Jack Reece from the Edgefield Advertiser.

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

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Willie Bethay shared concerns about potholes in the road heading down Calhoun Street, stating that they were “pretty deep and things could get ugly”. Mr. Bethay also inquired about evacuation plans for a case of chemical spills in town. Mayor Holmes responded by pointing out that county emergency management would activate proper procedures associated with chemicals and gases.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Holmes closed the public comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve the February 13, 2023 Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve the February 27, 2023 Budget Workshop minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed February’s bills.

Old Business

- In a previous meeting, Mayor Holmes gave Council a task to seek out missing street signs in their ward. Holmes advised everyone that street signs from Walker, Johnson, and Bland were missing that he saw.

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New Business

- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve request from Mount of Olives Cemetery and Mount Nebo for funds to assist in landscaping the cemeteries. The funds given are \$400 each. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve the First Reading of the FY2023/24 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve purchase of trailer for Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Holmes informed everyone that there was a leak at the library that resulted in a foul smell in the flooring of an office. Councilmen Miller and Burton are going to check on the issue a day this week.
- Mayor Holmes discussed an issue on Beaver dams in the town that are resulting in standing water.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 10 calls and 4 drills since our last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported 127 dispatched calls, 43 were traffic stops for the Johnston Police Department since the last meeting. JPD is currently down two officers.
- Councilman Berry reported progress on the town's webpage.

Office of Town Council

- None.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes declared April to be "Clean up your property" month, then advised everyone that the Peach Blossom Festival is coming soon, and we want to put our best foot forward.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Burton to go into executive session concerning Contractual Matters. No motion was made. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk