

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Berry, Burton, Miller, Felder, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Police Chief John Perry, Charles Bledsoe, Willie Bethay, and Jack Reece from the Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the May 8, 2023 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Willie Bethay inquired on the status of Façade grants that were discussed in a previous meeting by council.
- Mr. Charles Bledsoe returned with further complaints regarding noise from The Trackside Sports Bar in the midnight hours. Mr. Bledsoe also claims the noise is making entertaining guests and other miscellaneous hobbies difficult and says he reported his concerns to the county dispatch approximately 19 times.
- Mayor Holmes thanked the gentlemen for showing their concerns.

Hearing no other 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 April 10, 2023 Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed April bills.

Old Business

- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilmen Felder, to approve Second Reading and Adoption of LRS Ordinance No. 2023-02. The motion passed unanimously.

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New Business

- A motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Burton to go into executive session on a Contractual Matter. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder to end the executive session. No action was taken.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to approve quotes from Salley AG, LLC for security cameras in three different locations in town. The total being \$7624.97. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor and Council briefly discussed concerns on a Tractor for Public Works and the works on obtaining an Administrator.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 8 calls and 1 drill since our last meeting.
- Councilman Felder informed Council that the Public Works' F-250 won't go forward anymore, just in reverse. Public Works is currently fully staffed.
- Councilman Miller commended Public Works on their outstanding work over the weekend for the Peach Blossom Festival. Miller also reported trouble with some outlets at Dr. Morgan's office and that he finished painting the bathrooms at the Citizens Park.
- Councilman Berry reported a busy April with 147 dispatch calls for the Police Department, 71 of those being traffic stops. The Police Department is currently one officer short. Berry also commended JPD for their outstanding work for the Peach Blossom Festival.
- Councilman Berry also updated council on the town's website, stating that he and Keith Lynn were progressing with it.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Burton inquired on a resolution to Mr. Bledsoe's concerns with the "Trackside Sports bar".

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes briefly reflected on the past weekend, stating that there was good weather and good publicity. Holmes also reflected on Grand Marshal, Charles Duke's astronaut memories.
- Mayor Holmes informed everyone that May 29th was a Memorial Day Holiday and that there is a potential buyer of the former IGA building.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Berry to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk