

# **Johnston Town Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **April 10, 2023**

*The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, April 10, 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 April 10, 2023 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Charles Bledsoe showed strong concerns regarding a business in close proximity to his residence on Calhoun Street. He claimed that the “Trackside Sportsbar” is a nuisance, a safety hazard, and has made his home uninhabitable. Councilman Burton advised Mr. Bledsoe that he encountered a similar situation and understood his frustration.
- Mr. Willie Bethay had numerous questions in regard to ARP Funds, pot holes on Highway 23, restrooms at Citizens Park, Hospitality Taxes, etc. Most of Mr. Bethay’s questions were answered in discussion throughout the meeting.

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

Prior to going into further business, Mayor Holmes directed everyone’s attention to Chief Perry to introduce the Police Department’s new officer, Jonathan McCreery. Council welcomed Officer McCreery.

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

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

Council reviewed March bills.

#### **Old Business**

- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Felder, to approve Second Reading and Adoption of FY2023/24 Budget.

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#### **New Business**

- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve First Reading of LRS Ordinance No. 2023-02. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Holmes advised Council that proposals for installation of security cameras for the Town Hall were being inquired on, and he would bring a proposal for their consideration when the search is complete.
- Mayor Holmes gave council and citizens a brief update on American Rescue Plan Funds including Armory roof repair.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Councilman Burton reported 11 calls and 2 drills since our last meeting. Burton also reported a follow up on recent repair work at Citizens Park restrooms.
- Councilman Miller has been following up with an electrician to wire the restroom properly and is researching the drainage problem on the walking track.
- Councilman Berry advised Council on a few prospects for new officers. The JPD is now only short one officer. Berry also reported that the town had acquired the “.gov” domain, which makes it possible to move forward with development of the town’s website.

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

- Councilman Berry reported that the beavers had been evicted and that a flow has been re-established.

#### **Mayor’s Report**

- Mayor Holmes thanked Council for their good work and advised everyone that girls softball first game was that night.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton  
Municipal Clerk

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