

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 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, Teresa Davis, Donna Jackson, Darlene Smith, Mary Felton, and Jack Reece from the Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the June 12, 2023 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

- Ms. Donna Jackson and Teresa Davis showed several concerns on the safety of their neighborhood. The concerns were described as citizens from other places loitering, being noisy, and sometimes shooting near their homes.
- Ms. Darlene Smith returned to voice concerns regarding overgrown yards and “eyesores” around town.
- Mayor Holmes thanked everyone 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 Berry, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve the May 8, 2023 Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Council reviewed May bills.

Old Business

- Mayor Holmes reported the arrival and set up of new security cameras for the Town Hall and various places throughout the town. Holmes also advised Council on Warehouse plans of renovation and that OEDGS will be coming to Johnston with plans to occupy a portion of the warehouse.

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New Business

- Matt Phillips of Phillips CPA presented the town's 2022 audit. He described the audit as clean and unmodified.
- A motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to go into executive session on a Personnel Matter. The motion was passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Nicholson to come out of executive session. The motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Nicholson, to hire Mr. Roger LeDuc as the town's Consultant/Advisor.
- Mayor Holmes reported that Watson Park had been approved for \$200,000 for paving around the park.
- Following a lengthy discussion concerning the town's fireworks ordinance, Councilman Berry made a motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, to limit fireworks to only be discharged July 4th from 10a.m. until 11 p.m. The motion passed with 4 votes of yes, and 1 vote of no. Councilman Felder abstained.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 19 fire calls and 2 drill since our last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported a very busy month with 242 dispatch calls for the Police Department, 52 of those being traffic stops. The Police Department is still currently one officer short. Berry also informed council that the town's website was progressing well.
- Councilman Felder reported that the Public Works Massey-Ferguson tractor will go in to be fixed this week.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Burton followed up on concerns from earlier in the meeting regarding violence and disturbances in the neighborhood.
- Councilman Berry expressed concern with the condition of the playground equipment at Citizens Park and dogs running loose through the town harassing citizens. Mayor Holmes advised Councilman Berry that the town has a leash ordinance, and the County has animal control.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes thanked council and staff for their good work and clean audit. Holmes also advised Council to inform him of any overgrown yards and junk cars around town.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Berry, seconded by Councilman Burton to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk