

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2024

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, July 8, 2024 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Burton, Berry, Miller, Felder, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Annette Holloway, Darlene Smith, Willie Bethay, Tracy Hamilton, Robert Gallenz, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the July 8, 2024 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Mr. Willie Bethay addressed Council directing questions in regard to the leakage of waste from trucks on Highway 23, concerns on mosquito spraying in town, numerous shootings, brown public water, new trash pickup, and future use of the hardware store property.

Ms. Annette Holloway expressed concern for the safety of children at the town parks and suggests adding cameras.

Ms. Tracy Hamilton returned to show concerns regarding the ongoing loitering on Johnson Street, including shootings and people just aimlessly hanging around.

Hearing no more comments, Mayor Holmes closed the public comments and moved into further business.

A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Berry, to approve the June 10, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve the June 2024 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the June bills.

Old Business

- A motion was made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Felder, to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2024-05 Nuisance Ordinance Amendment. The motion was passed unanimously.

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New Business

- A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Felder, to Approve Consideration of Quote for Window Tint for Chamber of Commerce with the amount being \$1574.86. The funds will come from the HATS fund. The motion passed unanimously.
- A brief discussion concerning cameras at Watson Park came about. Mayor Holmes stated that he's still waiting on the price of the package and that the funds will come from HATS.
- Mayor Holmes revisited the topic of large transport trucks parking along the railroad right-of-way of Railroad Avenue. A motion was then made by Councilman Burton, seconded by Councilman Felder to "leave the truck parking alone". The motion was tabled, due to a tie of 3 votes of "yes" and 3 votes of "no". (Burton, Felder, and Nicholson were in favor. Berry, Miller, and Holmes were opposed.)
- A motion was made by Councilman Felder, seconded by Councilman Burton, to approve additional funding for data transfer for SmartCop, the total being \$11,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 21 fire calls, 2 drills, and 1 training session since last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported 458 dispatched calls, 254 of those being patrol checks. Berry also reported that 1 officer had been injured during an arrest and his day to return to work is still unknown.
- Councilman Berry also reminded everyone of the town's website www.townofjohnstonsc.gov and that it has copies of our ordinances posted and photos.
- Councilman Felder reported that Public Works was still adjusting to their new schedule.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Miller reported work in progress to curtail vandalism in the town's parks.
- Mayor Holmes reported that the company selected to remove the old Edwards Building had secured required permits and are ready to go.

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Mayor's Report

- Mayor Holmes complimented Council for their stewardship of the town's finances as evidenced by the end-of-year financial report.

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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk