

Johnston Town Council

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025

The Johnston Town Council held their regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm, Monday, January 13, 2025 at the Johnston Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Holmes, and Councilmen Burton, Miller, Felder, and Nicholson. Also present were Finance Director Belinda Cockrell, Municipal Clerk Angel Melton, Robert Gallenz, Betty Edwards, Annette Holloway, Tom Lamb, Katie Lamb, and Jack Reece from The Edgefield Advertiser.

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Holmes called the January 13, 2025 Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Holmes opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments:

Ms. Annette Holloway thanked the town for their donation to her Unity Fest and stated that she may have to postpone the event due to the weather for that day. There will a meeting to discuss the matter.

Ms. Betty Edwards requested information in regard to the nature of the Dove Street apartments and the plans for it.

Tom and Katie Lamb, newer citizens of Johnston, came to introduce themselves and expressed their appreciation of the welcoming environment.

Robert Gallenz spoke briefly about Former President Jimmy Carter.

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 Nicholson, to approve the December 9, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Nicholson, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve the December 2024 Financial Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Council reviewed the December bills.

Old Business

- (a) Councilman Berry reviewed Mr. Willie Bethay's recommendations for usage of the town's electronic sign from a previous meeting as a good start. Council will view

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- the recommendations, meet with the town's administrator, and take action appropriately.
- (b) Mayor Holmes advised Council that the contractor hired for removal of the Edwards Building is just waiting on a permit from Edgefield County.
- (c) Holmes also updated Council and everyone on FEMA's progress with Hurricane Helene storm cleanup, stating that they were about 65% complete. Full completion is expected by the end of March.
- (d) The Edgefield County Genealogical Society held their "soft opening" in their new facility recently, which received numerous compliments.

New Business

- (a) Mayor Holmes and Council agreed to have the first Budget Workshop of the year on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM.
- (b) The town's audit will be reported at the February 2025 Council Meeting by administrator Roger LeDuc. Mayor Holmes complimented the town for its stewardship of money.

Committee Reports

- Councilman Burton reported 11 fire calls and 1 drill since the last meeting.
- Councilman Berry reported 322 dispatched calls and 192 patrol checks since last meeting. He then reported that the Police Department has two potential candidates for employment.
- Councilman Miller complimented the look of the Genealogical Society's facility.
- Councilman Felder stated that Public Works has a new employee and that the leaf machine is still down.

Office of Town Council

- Councilman Berry inquired on the possibility of a grant for a generator in case of another power outage.

Mayor's Report

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- Mayor Holmes once again complimented the town on having a good audit and asked that everyone who still has storm debris in their yard will put it out at the road to be retrieved by DOT/FEMA.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Berry to enter into Executive Session on Contractual Matters. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

A motion was made by Mayor Holmes, seconded by Councilman Miller to exit Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Melton
Municipal Clerk