

MINUTES

ON JANUARY 9, 2023 AT 6:30 PM THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL HELD THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL COMPLEX. PRESIDING OVER THE MEETING WAS MAYOR BILLY CHAVIS. ALSO PRESENT FOR THE MEETING WERE COUNCILPERSONS LEANNE TROUTMAN, GEORGE SUMMERSON, AND DAVID BARBER. MAYOR CHAVIS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND BEGAN BY PROVIDING THE INVOCATION. MAYOR CHAVIS THEN READ THE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS READ. COUNCILPERSON BARBER SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN THEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 MEETING. COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. COUNCILPERSON BARBER THEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

TO BEGIN THE MEETING, MAYOR CHAVIS ASKED TOWN CLERK, PAM HYMAN, TO CONDUCT THE 1ST READING OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOLLY HILL , SC AMENDING AND RESTATING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. COUNCILPERSON BARBER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 1ST READING OF THE ORDINANCE AS READ. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE PUBLIC HEARING AND 2ND READING FOR THIS ORDINANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2023 AT 6:30 PM. NEXT ON THE AGENDA, ORANGEBURG COUNTY SHERIFF LEROY RAVENELL REQUESTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGARDING THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWN OF HOLLY HILL'S POLICE DEPARTMENT. SHERIFF RAVENELL BEGAN BY THANKING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THEM. HE BEGAN EXPLAINING TO EVERYONE THAT HE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING AND SERVING OVER 1,100 SQUARE MILES OF COUNTY RESIDENTS. RAVENELL BOASTED OF HIS EXTENSIVE HISTORY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYMENT AND EVEN ADDED HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION. UPON CONCLUDING HIS SELF INTRODUCTION, SHERIFF RAVENELL BEGAN ADDRESSING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WITH HIS CONCERNS. HE MENTIONED A FEW SPECIFIC DATES AND INCIDENTS WHERE HE FEELS HE WAS BLATENTLY DISRESPECTED BY CHIEF JOSH DETTER. HE STATED HE FEELS THAT CHIEF DETTER DOES NOT CONDUCT HIMSELF IN A PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL MANNER. AT THIS TIME, THE QUESTION WAS BROUGHT UP REGARDING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AND HOLLY HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT TO WHICH SHERIFF RAVENELL STATED CHIEF DETTER'S

BEHAVIOR WAS ONE OF THE CONCERNS OF SIGNING SUCH AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE SAID AGREEMENT WOULD PLACE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY OF CHIEF DETTER AND HIS OFFICERS ON HIMSELF. BEING THE REASON FOR NOT SIGNING A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF HOLLY HILL WAS SEEMING PRIMARILY DUE TO THE BEHAVIOR OF CHIEF DETTER, MAYOR BILLY CHAVIS THEN ASKED SHERIFF RAVENELL WITH HOW MANY MUNICIPALITIES DOES THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CURRENTLY HAVE A SIGNED MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT. SHERIFF RAVENELL'S RESPONSE WAS "NONE". WHEN SHERIFF RAVENELL WAS ASKED WHY THERE WAS A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE IN TOWN ON THIS PAST SATURDAY NIGHT FROM AN OFFICER IN DISTRESS AND NONE OF HIS DEPUTIES RESPONDED, SHERIFF RAVENELL STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THE TRANSMISSION ON THE RADIO TO STATE THAT THE ASSISTANCE WAS NO LONGER NEEDED. CHIEF DETTER DISPUTED SHERIFF RAVENELL'S STATEMENT. COUNCILPERSON BARBER THEN ASKED SHERIFF RAVENELL IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WITH THE GPS COORDINANTS OF ALL OF HIS DEPUTIES ON DUTY THAT NIGHT THAT WERE WITHIN A TEN MILE RADIUS OF THE INCIDENT LOCATION. SHERIFF RAVENELL RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD. SHERIFF RAVENELL THEN CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HIS GOAL FOR THIS MEETING WAS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAS ALL INTENTIONS OF WORKING ALONG WITH EVERY DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF THE COUNTY RESIDENTS AND OFFICERS ARE SAFE AND PROTECTED. HE THEN ASKED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IF THEY HAD ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR HIM. CHIEF DETTER SPOKE UP AND STATED HE HAD A QUESTION. CHIEF DETTER THEN APPROACHED SHERIFF RAVENELL WITH A COPY OF THE TOWN'S MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ASKED SHERIFF RAVENELL IF HE WOULD AGREE TO SIGN IT. SHERIFF RAVENELL DECLINED AND HIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA ENDED.

IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, TOWN CLERK PAM HYMAN REMINDED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE UPCOMING HOMETOWN LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY IN COLUMBIA ON FEBRUARY 7TH AND 8TH AND STATED, IF ANYONE WAS PLANNING TO ATTEND, TO TURN IN THEIR REGISTRATION INFORMATION BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF JOSHUA DETTER PROVIDED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY STATISTICS REPORT. CHIEF DETTER THEN STATED HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A GRANT TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HE CONCLUDED BY ADVISING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THE DELAY IN HAVING THE NEW VEHICLES FULLY EQUIPPED AND IN SERVICE IS DUE TO THE BACKORDER OF PARTS. THE VEHICLES ARE IN LINE FOR INSTALLATION ONCE THE PARTS ARRIVE.

IN PARKS AND RECREATION, COUNCILPERSON FULLER WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE DUE TO A DEATH IN HER FAMILY.

IN THE AIRPORT DEPARTMENT, COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON HAD NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME.

IN PLANNING AND ZONING, SHARON WADE STATED THE BOARD IS HOPING TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW OF THE LAND USE TABLES OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING AND SHOULD HAVE A RECOMMENDATION OF AMMENDMENTS BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

SHARON WADE OF THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE THEN REPORTED THE WINNERS OF THE DECORATING CONTEST. BEST BUSINESS - FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SC, BEST ORGANIZATION - HOLLY HILL LIBRARY, BEST CHURCH - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOLLY HILL. SHE STATED THERE WERE NO ENTRIES FOR BEST RESIDENCE, THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO WINNER FOR THAT CATEGORY.

IN THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, MRS DIANE BERGEN ANNOUNCED THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2023 AT 6PM IN THE DANTZLER BUILDING AT GILMORE PARK.

IN CODE ENFORCEMENT, GAYLE AUSTIN STATED SHE HAD SEVERAL REPORTS OF PROGRESS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE. SHE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND SHEDS THAT WERE IN VIOLATION ARE BEING OR HAVE ALREADY BEEN REMOVED.

IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN HAD NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME. MAYOR CHAVIS STATED ANDREW WHITE OF ENVIROLINK WAS SCHEDULED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE TONIGHT BUT COULD NOT MAKE IT.

THE FLOOR WAS THEN OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS (SIGN IN SHEET ATTACHED). THERE WERE A LOT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS REGARDING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE FOR EASTERN ORANGEBURG COUNTY. THE MAYOR OF EUTAWVILLE, BRANDON WEATHERFORD, TOOK HIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND ALSO APPROACHED SHERIFF RAVENELL WITH A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR THE EUTAWVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD AGREE TO SIGN IT. SHERIFF RAVENELL, AGAIN, DECLINED. THERE WERE OTHER RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS SIGNED UP TO COMMENT THAT BROUGHT UP CONCERNS OF POLICE OFFICERS' BEHAVIOR ON DUTY AND UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND A FEW EVEN MENTIONED THE LACK OF PRESENCE OF MINORITIES ON THE HOLLY HILL POLICE FORCE. MAYOR CHAVIS AND CHIEF DETTER BOTH REPLIED BY STATING THE MINORITIES MUST FIRST APPLY AND QUALIFY IN ORDER TO BE HIRED. THEY BOTH STATED IT IS IN NO PART INTENTIONAL AND NOTED AN EXTREME ABSENCE OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FROM MINORITIES AS THE REASON. MRS. KATE COPSEY ADDRESSED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WITH HER CONCERNS REGARDING THE OLD BANK BUILDING DOWNTOWN. SHE STATED THE PAINT IS CHIPPING OFF OF THE BUILDING AND FALLING ONTO THE SIDEWALK AND SURROUNDING AREA

AND MAKING A MESS OF THE APPEARANCE DOWNTOWN. MRS. BEVERLY WIGGINS WITH THE POUTPORRI GARDEN CLUB USED HER COMMENT TIME TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ABOUT THE ELECTRICAL OUTLETS NEAR THE HOLLY TREE AND OTHER DOWNTOWN TREES THAT THE GARDEN DECORATES FOR CHRISTMAS EACH YEAR. SHE STATED THE OUTLETS ARE SOMEWHAT DETERIATED AND DANGEROUS AND REQUESTED THEY BE CHANGED PRIOR TO NEXT YEAR'S HOLIDAY SEASON, IF POSSIBLE. AT THIS TIME, THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE SIGNED IN TO SPEAK AND THE FLOOR WAS CLOSED TO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

BEING NOTHING FURTHER TO DICUSS, COUNCILPERSON BARBER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION AND THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

MAYOR