

MINUTES

ON MARCH 1, 2021 THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL HELD THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING VIA CONFERENCE CALL TO PHONE # 1-978-990-5457 AND USING CODE: 6976820. PRESIDING OVER THE MEETING WAS MAYOR WILLIAM JOHNSON. ALSO PRESENT FOR THE MEETING WERE COUNCILPERSONS LEANNE TROUTMAN, CYNTHIA FULLER (VIA PHONE), DAVID BARBER, AND GEORGE SUMMERSON. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JOHNSON. THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY MAYOR JOHNSON. MAYOR JOHNSON THEN READ THE ITEMS ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FULLER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS READ. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021 MEETING. COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

MAYOR JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER IS STILL CONDUCTING COVID TESTS IN FRONT OF THE TOWN HALL EACH MONDAY. THE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER WILL BE ADMINISTERING THE COVID VACCINE TO PEOPLE AGE 65 AND OLDER ON WEDNESDAY AT THE DEPOT COMMUNITY CENTER FROM 8:30AM TO 3:00PM. THE MAYOR ADVISED EVERYONE TO PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE VACCINATIONS STATING THE MORE PEOPLE THAT RECEIVE THE VACCINE THE LESS CHANCE OF THE VIRUS CONTINUING TO SPREAD. MAYOR JOHNSON THEN ANNOUNCED THE

TOWN HALL AND TOWN OWNED VENUES ARE STILL NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME. DUE TO RECEIVING SEVERAL COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS FROM CITIZENS ABOUT THE PARKS REMAINING CLOSED, COUNCILPERSON BARBER MADE A MOTION TO REOPEN THE PARKS AT THIS TIME. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED AND FELL. MAYOR JOHNSON TABLED THE MOTION TO A LATER DATE. MAYOR JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF WORK COMPLETED ON THE SEWER INFILTRATION PROJECT. THE DOWN POUR OF RAIN RECENTLY HAS HELPED IN IDENTIFYING THE AREAS THAT STILL NEED ATTENTION. THE TOWN MAY SEEK ANOTHER RIA GRANT TO ASSIST IN CONTINUING THE NEEDED REPAIRS. MAYOR JOHNSON THEN ANNOUNCED THE TOWN HAS BEEN RECEIVING SEVERAL REQUESTS RECENTLY IN REGARDS TO ZONING. THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS HAS NEEDED TO GET INVOLVED QUITE A BIT BASED ON THE NATURE OF THE REQUESTS. MAYOR JOHNSON STATED THE COUNCIL CAN ONLY APPROVE ZONING CHANGES, WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF APPEALS MUST APPROVE VARIANCE REQUESTS. MRS. DIANE BERGIN IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH TOWN CLERK, PAM HYMAN, TO RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS. MAYOR JOHNSON STATED THE TOWN THOUGHT THE GARDNER BOULEVARD PROJECT WAS READY TO BEGIN BUT THEN IT WAS DETERMINED THE BUILDING ON THE CORNER OF OLD STATE AND GARDNER IS UNSAFE FOR WORKING CONDITIONS. THERE ARE LARGE CRACKS IN THE OUTER WALL AND COULD POTENTIALLY COLLAPSE AND CAUSE INJURIES IF DISTURBED. THE TOWN IS AWAITING

WORD FROM THE ENGINEER TO DECIDE HOW TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROJECT. MAYOR JOHNSON THEN BEGAN DISCUSSING THE ONGOING LITTER CONTROL ISSUES. HE STATED THERE HAS BEEN A GROUP OF CITIZENS THAT HAVE JOINED FORCES TO PICK UP LITTER AROUND TOWN AND THE TOWN APPRECIATES THEIR EFFORTS. MAYOR JOHNSON THANKED JULIE SOHM AND BEVERLY WIGGINS FOR HEADING THIS GROUP AND GATHERING THE SUPPLIES FOR THEM. MAYOR JOHNSON STATED THAT SATURDAY MORNINGS MAY BECOME A ROUTINE FOR THIS LITTER PICKUP GROUP AND ENCOURAGED ANYONE AVAILABLE TO JOIN THEM.

IN NEW BUSINESS, MAYOR JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS. COUNCILPERSON FULLER SECONDED THE MOTION. MAYOR JOHNSON, COUNCILPERSON FULLER AND COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. COUNCILPERSON BARBER AND COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON BOTH OPPOSED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED BASED ON MAJORITY VOTE. MAYOR JOHNSON THEN ANNOUNCED THE CREPE MYRTLE TREES DOWNTOWN HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH HOLLY TREEES. MAYOR JOHNSON ALSO STATED THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DEVELOPERS SHOWING INTEREST IN HOLLY HILL. HOWEVER, THE TOWN'S SEWER SYSTEM DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH CAPACITY AVAILABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ANY MAJOR ADDITIONS AT THIS TIME. AT THIS TIME, MAYOR JOHNSON ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADOPT THE GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW POLICE

CRUISERS. MAYOR JOHNSON STATED \$50,000 WOULD COME FROM THE USDA GRANT AND THE TOWN WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MATCH OF \$25,000 TO \$30,000. COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED POLICE CAR GRANT. COUNCILPERSON BARBER SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, TOWN CLERK HYMAN ADVISED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THE OFFICE IS SHORT STAFFED THIS WEEK AS MS. BETTY HAD A DEATH IN THE FAMILY AND WILL BE OUT THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK.

IN PARKS AND RECREATION, MAYOR JOHNSON STATED THE TOWN'S PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS ARE STIL NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO MOWING HAS BEGUN IN HOPES OF THE PARKS BEING READY FOR REOPENING SOON. THE TOWN INSTALLED A HANDICAP AEROGLIDER TO THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND WILL BE ADDING A RAMP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

IN THE AIRPORT DEPARTMENT, COUNCILPERSON BARBER STATED THERE ARE NO CONCERNS TO REPORT.

IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF DETTER SHARED THE MONTHLY STATISTICS REPORT WITH THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. CHIEF DETTER ADVISED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL HE IS STILL WORKING ON HIRING ANOTHER OFFICER. CHIEF STATED THE DEPARTMENT HELD A FEW SAFETY CHECKPOINTS LAST WEEK AND FEELS THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL. CHIEF DETTER STATED THE DEPARTMENT HAS

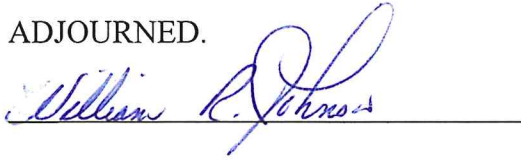
ALSO STEPPED UP TRAFFIC PATROL. CHIEF DETTER ALSO ADVISED THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THE DEPARTMENT OBTAINED A LASER RADAR FROM THE ELLOREE POLICE DEPARTMENT. FINALLY, CHIEF DETTER REPORTED TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL THAT THE COURTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO REOPEN BEGINNING APRIL 15TH. JURY TRIALS CAN BE SCHEDULED BEGINNING APRIL 5TH. COUNCILPERSON SUMMERSON COMMENDED CHIEF DETTER FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS HE HAS NOTICED WITH THE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE TROUBLE AREA OF HART STREET. COUNCILPERSON BARBER STATED THERE IS STILL A GREAT NEED FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TICKETS AND ADDED THE SUGGESTION TO SPEAK WITH THE PALMETTO PRIDE ORGANIZATION ABOUT THE POTENTIAL USE OF THEIR CAMERA PROGRAM TO CATCH VIOLATORS OF LITTER LAWS.

IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, FRANK BROWN REPORTED THE EXCESSIVE RAINFALL RECENTLY WASHED OUT SOME OF THE ACCESS ROADS TO THE TOWN'S LIFT STATIONS. MR. BROWN STATED THE TOWN IS PURCHASING A LOT OF FILL MATERIAL TO FIX THESE ACCESS ROADS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MR. BROWN STATED THAT, OTHERWISE, THINGS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ARE RUNNING PRETTY ROUTINELY AT THE MOMENT.

BEING NOTHING FUTHER ON THE AGENDA, THE FLOOR WAS OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.

THERE WAS NO EXECUTIVE SESSION SCHEDULED FOR THIS MEETING.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, COUNCILPERSON TROUTMAN
MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILPERSON BARBER SECONDED THE
MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION AND THE MEETING
ADJOURNED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William R. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR