

— South Carolina —
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

The media and public were duly notified of the date, time, and place of this meeting. A quorum was present.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Juston Ricard, Councilmembers Fecas, Hallman, Reeley, Wilkerson and Hook.

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Michael Bishop

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Ashley Watkins, Municipal Clerk Leeann Eden, Chief of Police Andrew Richbourg, Police Captain Chris Manuel, Administrative Assistant Sheri Jonas, Investigator David Jordan, Officer Matt Hagins, Officer Arturo Contreras, SRO Brandy Spears, SRO Xavier Rodriguez, Victim's Advocate Sandy Harrelson, Code Enforcement Officer Ed DeVore, Police Officer Candidate Matt Young, Attorney Ward Bradley, Attorney Sierra Carini, Billing and Permit Clerk Jacquelyn Adams, Public Works Supervisor Kevin White.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Ricard called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. A quorum was present. Councilmember Hallman provided the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Ricard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Agenda.
- B. Approval of Minutes.
 - i. December 1st, 2020 Regular Meeting

Council unanimously approved the agenda for the January 5th, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, and the minutes for the December 1st, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

III. Presentations

- A. Midlands Business Leadership Group, Airport Boulevard/302 Gateway Beautification Project. James Bennett and Will Schenk of the Midlands Business Leadership Group presented plans for beautification of the Airport Boulevard/302 Gateway. Mr. Bennett stated that a major portion of the project will be focused on sustainable landscaping with plants that bloom year round. A professional landscaping company would be hired for maintenance of the landscaping. Mr. Bennett stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Central Midlands Council of Government and all participating local governments is being drafted and should be completed in the next couple of months. The Midlands Business Leadership Group will present the figure for ongoing landscape maintenance to Springdale Town Council on a pro rata basis once a figure is reached.

IV. Employee Recognitions

- A. David Jordan, Promotion to Investigator, Police Department. Chief Richbourg promoted Patrolman David Jordan to Investigator. Chief Richbourg cited Investigator Jordan's experience and knowledge of law enforcement and issued the Oath of Office with the assistance of Captain Manuel.

- B. Employee of the Month, Ed DeVore, Police Department. Chief Richbourg recognized Code Enforcement Officer Ed DeVore as Employee of the Month and cited his work ethic and dedication.

Chief Richbourg also recognized Captain Manuel as Employee of the month for going beyond his duties to assist a member of the community. Captain Manuel also organized assistance efforts from Town employees to assist the community member.

V. **New Business**

- A. Consideration and Discussion of Ordinance **O-21-01; AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES OF SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROVIDE FOR ELECTRONIC MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.** Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to approve the ordinance at its first and final reading.
- B. Discussion of the Town Council Meeting/Tour of the Lexington County Emergency Operations and Communications Center. Councilmember Fecas presented an overview of the meeting/tour of the Lexington County Emergency Operations and Communications center that occurred on December 9, 2020. Councilmember Fecas stated four Councilmembers were in attendance for the meeting with Lexington County Officials which constituted a quorum. Councilmember Fecas discussed the reservations Council has with moving communication services to Cayce, including response time, consistency, and human error.
- C. Request by Town Council for our Police Department to be notified of any Fire or EMS calls. Councilmember Fecas stated that the Lexington County Communications response plan needs to include dispatching Springdale when other services are incoming such as fire and EMS. Captain Manuel and Administrative Assistant Sheri Jonas stated that the dispatch process should already be included in the response plan as it is an automatic process throughout all Lexington County Municipalities.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. Consideration and Discussion of Ordinance **O-20-11; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SPRINGDALE ZONING ORDINANCE CHAPTER 4: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS; SECTION 4.3.5 COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES.** (2nd Reading) Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Fecas, voted unanimously to approve the ordinance at its second reading.

VII. **Adjourn to Executive Session**

- A. Discussion of Appointment to Planning Commission. Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Wilkerson voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:52 pm.

VIII. **Return to Open Session – Action may be taken regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.**

Mayor Pro Tem Ricard announced that no action was taken during Executive Session. Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to return to Open Session at 7:04 pm. Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to appoint Christie Cole to the Planning Commission.

IX. Reports

- A. Town Council Report. Councilmember Wilkerson expressed gratitude to the Police Department for their service to the community.
- B. Police Chief Report. Chief Richbourg reviewed his report with Council. He stated that vehicle larceny and catalytic converter theft is a statewide problem and SLED has created a task-force to address it. Chief Richbourg stated that stats are consistent with previous months. He discussed issues with Lexington County Communications and information that he felt was inaccurate in the presentation of the meeting with Lexington County Communications on December 9th, 2020. Chief Richbourg stated that the safety of his officers and serving the Springdale Community is of utmost importance to him. Chief Richbourg requested a meeting with Council to further discuss these issues. Mayor Pro Tem Ricard stated that he would like to have a meeting with Chief Richbourg to discuss the issues and that he wants to do what is best for Springdale. Councilmember Hallman stated that a meeting is needed and a viable solution needs to be reached in the best interest of the Town. Councilmember Wilkerson stated that he agrees a meeting is needed and all parties involved should be in attendance. Administrator Watkins stated that the meeting with Lexington County Communications was presented as an invitation to a tour and she was not aware that multiple Lexington County officials would be in attendance. She stated that Chief Richbourg and Captain Manuel are very familiar with the facilities and did not need a tour and she was unable to attend due to previous commitments. Administrator Watkins stated that she and Chief Richbourg would be open to attending a meeting with Lexington County Officials concerning communications. Chief Richbourg stated that he would like to have the opportunity to meet separately with Council to share his perspective on the issues with Communications. Councilmember Wilkerson stated that Council would hear his perspective and then a meeting with everyone involved would be necessary.
- C. Public Works Report. Public Works Supervisor Kevin White stated the majority of projects in the park renovation have been completed such as playground equipment installation, tree removal, and lighting additions. He described upcoming projects including adding sidewalks in the park, fixing drainage issues, borders, fencing, and spreading mulch. He stated that the new Town sign should be installed by the end of January.
- D. Town Administrator Report. Administrator Watkins reviewed her report with Council providing updates on previously discussed matters. She stated that the audit would begin on January 7th, 2021. Administrator Watkins stated that she is still trying to make contact with Architect Gary Shaw. She said that the CDBG Grant for the extension of the Kitty Hawk Drive sidewalk was submitted on December 23rd, 2020. The advisory committee will be reviewing applications at the end of January and Grantees will be notified by early February. She stated that CDBG projects generally begin around July. Councilmember Fecas asked for an update on the new housing development on Watling Road. There was no update available.
- E. Attorney Report. No report.

X. Public Comment

Public Comment was given by Jennifer Carter, a resident of Springdale.

XI. Adjourn

Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Michael Bishop, Mayor

Attest:

Leeann Eden, Municipal Clerk