



# MINUTES

Town Council Special Meeting  
Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 5:00 pm  
2909 Platt Springs Road, Springdale, SC 29170

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

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator Ashley Watkins, Municipal Clerk Leeann Kelly, Chief of Police Andrew “Bear” Richbourg, Police Captain Brian Lorick, Administrative Specialist Brandi Graham, Police Department Administrative Assistant Sheri Jonas, Master Police Officer Cody Day, Attorney Ward Bradley, and Attorney Sierra Carini.

Approximately 35 individuals from the community were present for the hearing. A quorum was present.

## 1. Call to Order

Mayor Ricard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

## 2. Administrative Hearing

### A. Airport Inn & Suites

- Opening statements were given by Pete Balthazor, Esq., Attorney for Town Administrator Ashley Watkins, and Chief of Police Andrew “Bear” Richbourg, and Tem Miles, Esq., Attorney for Airport Inn & Suites.
- Pete Balthazor, Esq. called Chief of Police Andrew “Bear” Richbourg as a witness.
- Municipal Clerk Leeann Kelly issued the witness oath to Chief of Police Andrew “Bear” Richbourg.
- Pete Balthazor, Esq. questioned Chief of Police Andrew “Bear” Richbourg, with multiple objections from Tem Miles, Esq., including a standing objection to hearsay.
- Exhibits 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 3, 4, and 5 were entered into evidence with objection by Tem Miles, Esq.
- Exhibits 11,12,13,14, and 15 were entered into evidence with no objection.
- Tem Miles, Esq. questioned Chief Andrew “Bear” Richbourg.
- At 10:09 pm, Town Council, represented by Ward Bradley, Esq., issued a time limit of 30 additional minutes for cross examination of witness Chief Andrew “Bear” Richbourg. Tem Miles, Esq., objected to the time limit.
- At 10:40 pm, Town Council, represented by Ward Bradley, Esq., called for a stop to cross examination of Chief Andrew “Bear” Richbourg, with Tem Miles, Esq. objecting.
- At 10:41 pm, Pete Balthazor, Esq. called Master Police Officer Cody Day as a witness.
- Municipal Clerk Leeann Kelly issued the witness oath to Master Police Officer Cody Day.
- Pete Balthazor, Esq. questioned MPO Cody Day, with objection from Tem Miles, Esq.
- Pete Balthazor, Esq. moved to enter Exhibit 16 into evidence, with objection from Tem Miles, Esq. After discussion, Exhibit 16 was entered into evidence with portions of an alleged conversation struck from the document.
- Tem Miles, Esq. questioned MPO Cody Day.
- Tem Miles, Esq. calls Dharmen Chauhan, owner of Airport Inn & Suites as a witness.

- Municipal Clerk Leeann Kelly Issued the witness oath to Dharmen Chauhan.
- Tem Miles, Esq. questioned Dharmen Chauhan, with objection from Pete Balthazor, Esq.
- Pete Balthazor, Esq. questioned Dharmen Chauhan.
- Town Council, represented by Ward Bradley, Esq., inquired if items from the previously proposed settlement agreement were implemented into the business's operations.
- Tem Miles, Esq. reviewed the previously proposed settlement agreement with Dharmen Chauhan line by line, and inquired if each item was implemented.
- Tem Miles, Esq. moved to enter the previously proposed settlement agreement into evidence with Exhibit 1.
- The evidence portion of the hearing concluded, and closing arguments begin at 11:47 pm.
- Closing arguments concluded at 11:58 pm.
- Town Council, on motion of Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Cory Hook, voted unanimously to revoke Airport Inn & Suites' business license.
- Mayor Juston Ricard stated that Attorney Ward Bradley would prepare and submit a written decision for Town Council's approval by the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Town Council Regular Meeting.
- Tem Miles, Esq. inquired if Town Council was amenable to waiting ten days for an appeal to be filed. Ward Bradley, Esq. stated it would be appropriate to file an appeal after the formal order is approved.

**3. Adjourn**

Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Hallman, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 am.

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Juston Ricard, Mayor

Attest:

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Leeann Kelly, Municipal Clerk