

— South Carolina —
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Town Council Work Session
Monday, August 19th, 2019 at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers – Springdale Town Hall, 2915 Platt Springs Road

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

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Michael Bishop, Councilmembers Fecas, Reeley, Wilkerson, Hallman and Peters

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Juston Ricard

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Ashley Watkins, Municipal Clerk Leeann Eden, Police Chief Andrew “Bear” Richbourg, Public Works Supervisor Scott Bolser, Attorney Ward Bradley

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present. Councilmember Hallman provided the invocation. Mayor Bishop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

Council, on motion of Mayor Bishop voted unanimously to approve the August 19th, 2019 Work Session Agenda.

III. Items for Discussion

- A. Town Property Behind Dollar General. Administrator Watkins gave background information, stating that residents Joshua and Ashleigh Hair were in attendance and are interested in purchasing the 2.36 acres of Town-owned property located behind Dollar General. There was a discussion between Council and the Hairs regarding the purchase price of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Hair stated that they have no major plans for the property other than increasing their property size. Council agreed to have the property appraised before offering it for purchase by the Hairs.
- B. Abandoned and Unsafe Buildings. Administrator Watkins stated that Building Official Stuart Jones was present to discuss the matter with Council. Attorney Ward Bradley stated that there are ordinances in place concerning abandoned and unsafe buildings. Building Official Stuart Jones and Council had a discussion concerning procedures and ordinances for condemning and demolishing abandoned and unsafe buildings. Councilmember Fecas asked Building Official Jones about a few unsightly properties in Town. Building Official Jones stated that the agreement between Springdale and the City of Cayce does not cover condemnations. He stated that the Town of Springdale could hire someone or have a current employee such as the Code Enforcement Officer become certified in building codes who could make the decision to condemn a structure. He continued by stating that he would be willing to assist that employee in order to familiarize them with the procedures. There was a discussion between Attorney Ward Bradley and Council concerning property liens. Code Enforcement will continue to monitor the structures in question. Building Official Jones briefly introduced new mandatory building codes to be adopted and new permissive building codes to be considered in the near future.

IV. Town Council Reports

- A. Town Signs. The old Jewelry Warehouse sign was removed by the Public Works Department. There was a discussion of a water tap and landscaping around the Wattling Road Town sign, with councilmember Fecas suggesting pine straw around the base of the sign and Mayor Bishop suggesting using river rock. Council agreed to take town signs off of the agenda for upcoming work sessions.
- B. Springdale Elementary School. Administrator Watkins asked Council for their preference on a date and time to tour the Lexington District Two Innovation Center. Council agreed to have Administrator Watkins schedule a date and time for the tour and everyone whose schedule allows could attend.
- C. Parrish Plantation. No Report.
- D. DOT. Mayor Bishop discussed a lunch meeting with three engineers and a representative of Worldwide Equipment. He discussed the improvements along I-26 in front of Worldwide Equipment and stated that the property the Town is leasing from DOT needs beautification as it is now visible from the interstate. There was a discussion of increasing the façade grant fund. Administrator Watkins stated that the requirements of the façade grant need to be studied to ensure businesses who benefit from the grant are in compliance. Mayor Bishop gave an update on Durham Drive, stating that it is private property and nothing is being done at this time as it is not a DOT issue.
- E. Splash Pad. Administrator Watkins stated that the splash pad will be closing September 8th, 2019. There was a discussion of the price of recent water bills and ways to reduce the cost including a recirculation system, a well or restricting the flow of water to certain accessories. Administrator Watkins stated that Public Works Supervisor Scott Bolser is already looking into a water recirculation system. Councilmember Fecas suggested obtaining a recommendation from Vance Vollmer with Lexington County. Councilmember Wilkerson stated that he talked with the Lexington County Recreation Commission regarding shades for the playground equipment, and they are willing to assist with the price of the shades. Councilmember Wilkerson requested that Administrator Watkins get him a price for the shades and he will contact Lexington County Recreation Commission. Mayor Bishop stated that we need to include the price of shades for the park on Pond Drive. Administrator Watkins stated that if the playground equipment is going to be replaced any time soon, the shades need to be big enough to accommodate the new equipment. Public Works Supervisor Scott Bolser stated that he is aware of a grant for shades that requires the grantee to promote sun protection.
- F. Elected Officials. Councilmember Reeley stated that he plans to resign from his position on the COMET Advisory Board and would like to see if someone else would be willing to take over his position. He stated that the Board requires a great deal of time that he is not able to devote. This item will be on the agenda for the upcoming Town Council meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019. Councilmember Fecas discussed her recent experience on the COMET bus and stated that the bus is a great service to residents of Springdale.

Councilmember Fecas discussed the Lexington County Municipal Association's Special Events Committee, explaining that she plans to invite representatives from each municipality to participate. Attorney Ward Bradley stated that he talked with another attorney concerning a possible legal matter and informed him that Mayor Bishop and Town Council are available and open to discussion. He stated that he will let Administrator Watkins know if he hears anything else. Chief of Police Andrew "Bear" Richbourg introduced the new Code Enforcement Officer, Ed DeVore. Mayor Bishop stated

that the 13 acres of property next to Town Hall is going up for sale. He continued by discussing plans for a meeting with a realtor and contractor regarding the possibility of the town renovating and flipping nuisance properties such as problem rentals and foreclosed properties. The goal would be to raise home values and reduce crime. Councilmember Fecas stated that she will help Administrator Watkins reach out to the City of Columbia's Economic Development Department for advice regarding renovating and flipping the properties.

V. Adjournment

Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Hallman, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Michael Bishop, Mayor

Attest:

Leeann Eden, Municipal Clerk