

— *South Carolina* —
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Town Council Work Session
Monday, September 21st, 2020 at 6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING

WORK SESSION

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, Hallman, Wilkerson, Reeley and Hook.

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Juston Ricard.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Ashley Watkins, Municipal Clerk Leeann Eden, Chief of Police Andrew Richbourg, Police Captain Chris Manuel, Public Works Supervisor Kevin White, Attorney Ward Bradley, Attorney Sierra Carini.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Consent Agenda

Council unanimously approved the September 21st, 2020 Work Session and Special Meeting Agendas.

III. Items for Discussion

- A. Playground Equipment. Administrator Watkins discussed replacing playground equipment using accommodations tax revenue that is budgeted for that purpose and a 50/50 grant match. She asked if Council was interested in moving forward on replacing the playground equipment. Council expressed unanimous favor for replacing the playground equipment.
- B. Food Truck Ordinance. Mayor Bishop stated a residential neighborhood has expressed interest in having a food truck come to their neighborhood. Administrator Watkins stated that the Food Truck Ordinance was passed in 2018 and does not allow for food trucks to operate in residential areas. She stated that she became aware of neighborhoods having food trucks recently, which is against the current ordinance. Mayor Bishop asked if Council would be interested in revisiting the ordinance to allow food trucks to operate within residential areas. Councilmembers Hallman, Wilkerson, and Hook along with Mayor Bishop expressed favor in revisiting the ordinance at the next regular meeting. There was a brief discussion of a food truck event scheduled for October in a residential area in Town and Council agreed that event would have to be canceled until the ordinance is revisited and a decision can be made. Council agreed that food trucks would be required to follow all current business license and hospitality tax regulations.
- C. DOT Issues – Hollydale/Wattling and Lemmond/Rippling. Mayor Bishop stated that he is pursuing fixing issues in these areas with DOT. He stated the only answer he received as to why action has not been taken is that DOT is short staffed at the moment due to COVID.

- D. Sub-dividing Town Owned Property at 2851 Kirkwood Drive. Mayor Bishop discussed possible uses for the town-owned property at 2851 Kirkwood Drive and stated that the property has been surveyed. Mayor Bishop stated that a resident whose property adjoins the town-owned property has expressed interest in purchasing a small portion of the property to have access to pull down along the side of his home. After a brief discussion, Council agreed that they would need more time to look at the property and think about it. Mayor Bishop stated that he would reach out to the resident and inform him Council is unsure of what they want to do with the property at this time.
- E. Commercial Vehicles Parked in R-1 Zoned Areas. There was a discussion of complaints received concerning commercial vehicles being parked in R-1 zoned areas. Councilmember Fecas stated that the owner of the commercial vehicles is parking the vehicles on private property that he does not own which violates his current home occupation permit and the current commercial vehicle ordinance. Administrator Watkins stated that she has talked with the property owner who lives out of state and informed her that she could call a towing service to have the vehicles removed at the expense of the vehicle owner. She stated that she has not heard anything else from the property owner. Mayor Bishop asked for Chief Richbourg's perspective on the matter. Chief Richbourg stated that law enforcement could not have vehicles towed from private property and that would be the responsibility of the property owner. He stated that Code Enforcement could write tickets for the violation but would have to write tickets for every vehicle in Town that violates the current ordinance as it is written. Council agreed to revisit the commercial vehicle ordinance to clarify what types of commercial vehicles are allowed in residential areas and that those vehicles cannot be parked on another person's property.
- F. 1121 Wattling Road (home behind Corner Pantry). Councilmember Fecas stated that in her opinion the home at 1121 Wattling Road is vacant, unsanitary and unsafe. Administrator Watkins stated that the building official for the Town has no record of condemnation on the property and that his opinion on the property is that it is boarded and secured properly; the roof is not collapsing and is not condemnable. Chief Richbourg stated that the home has been verified by law enforcement as secure and boarded up. Councilmember Wilkerson said he would reach out to the family of the owners of the home. Mayor Bishop suggested using CDBG funds to clean up the property. Administrator Watkins stated that she will explore further options to enforce the upkeep of the property.
- G. 945 Sightler Drive. Mayor Bishop verified with Chief Richbourg that code enforcement could not issue citations to property owners who reside out of Town by mail but they could be sent a notice by certified mail. Chief Richbourg stated that the property is currently not condemnable and the only issue is landscaping and someone has recently cut the grass. He stated that if the property gets in bad shape again the responsible party can be sent notice by certified mail and if no response is received or no action is taken, a legal notice for failure to comply can be sent and the property taxes could be assessed for landscape clean-up. Attorney Bradley stated that if the property is a nuisance or unsightly it can be abated and a lien placed on the property for the clean-up. Attorney Bradley stated that the responsible party or power of attorney could sell the property. Councilmember Fecas stated there have been offers to purchase the property by neighbors. Mayor Bishop requested that Administrator Watkins reach out to the power of attorney and ask if she is willing to sell the property. He stated that if she is not willing to sell the property, next steps can be taken.

IV. Town Council Reports

- A. Springdale Elementary School. Councilmember Fecas stated that measurements for the walking track behind Springdale Elementary School were submitted to Lexington County School District Two Board Trustee Bud Summers. Mayor Bishop requested Springdale Elementary School to be removed from the Town Council Reports section of the Work Session agenda for the time being.
- B. Parrish Plantation. Councilmember Fecas described a cut-through being used by residents from Pond Drive to Dickson Hill Circle. Mayor Bishop stated that there were berms there but DOT leveled them out when there was a storm water easement issue addressed at that location. He stated DOT is looking into it and if the property is in their right of way they will address the issue. He stated DOT is supposed to notify him of the findings. Mayor Bishop discussed the possibility of funds being available through the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to fix some problems in Parrish Plantation. He is waiting to hear back from the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. Councilmember Fecas stated that the Parrish Homeowner's Association is planning to build a bridge over the wetlands area from Hollydale Drive to Dickson Hill Circle to access amenities within the community. Councilmember Fecas stated that she has turned the matter over to Administrator Watkins. Administrator Watkins provided an update concerning Parrish Pond dam. She stated that Petar Milenkov with the DHEC Dams Safety Division informed her permits have been issued for repairs to the dam and work would begin after the peak of hurricane season is over. DHEC stated that the pond is regulated and will remain regulated as a small high hazard pond.
- C. DOT. Mayor Bishop stated that issues with Tarrytown Road, Glendale Road and W. Fairhill Drive are a long way down on the list for DOT. He stated he reached out to Lexington County Public Works and Lexington County Council Member Debbie Summers in reference to projects that have not been started.
- D. Elected Officials. Mayor Bishop stated that he is maintaining meetings with the Greater Cayce/West Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the Midlands Business Leaders Group. Councilmember Fecas stated that Lexington Municipal Association fees that were paid for 2020 have been credited to 2021 and the Town will not owe any additional fees for 2021. Councilmember Hook stated he would not be able to attend the Faye Swetlik dedication due to work obligations and expressed his appreciation for the dedication ceremony. Administrator Watkins asked if anyone had heard an update on the Holiday Parade of Lights and no one had an update. Councilmember Wilkerson asked when Council meetings could return to in person. Administrator Watkins stated that the current emergency ordinance allowing for virtual meetings extends through October. Council agreed to follow the current emergency ordinance allowing virtual meetings and revisit once it expires. There was a brief discussion of sidewalk projects and funding sources. Mayor Bishop discussed a press release and joint venture with the City of West Columbia to administer a financial wellness program for municipal employees of Springdale and West Columbia.

V. Adjourn

Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Reeley, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. New Business

- A. Consideration of RESOLUTION O-20-04; A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF SPRINGDALE TO DEDICATE A PARK BENCH AND A CREPE MYRTLE TREE IN FELTON C. BENTON PARK IN CELEBRATION AND MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF FAYE MARIE SWETLIK. Council, on motion of Councilmember Wilkerson, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented.

II. Adjourn

Council, on motion of Councilmember Fecas, seconded by Councilmember Hook, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm.

Michael Bishop, Mayor

Attest:

Leeann Eden, Municipal Clerk