

*South Carolina*  
***SPRINGDALE***

**MINUTES**

Town Council Regular Meeting

December 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Michael Bishop, Mayor Pro-Tem Manos, Councilmembers Wilkerson, Peters, Hallman, Ricard, and Reeley, Town Attorney Danny Scott, and Town Administrator Jeff Stilwell.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was present. Councilmember Hallman provided the invocation. Council approved the agenda without objection. Mayor Bishop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A. The minutes from the November 3, 2015 meeting were approved without objection.

**III. Presentation**

A. Presentation to Mayor Pro Tem Gus Manos by State Representative Kenny Bingham and State Senator Nikki Setzler. Representative Bingham and Senator Setzler presented Mayor Pro Tem Manos with the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Niki Haley in recognition of his forty-two years of service to the Springdale Town Council.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Discussion of Platt Springs Road Master Plan Progress. Mayor Bishop stated that he placed this topic on the agenda in order for the Town to make constant progress towards achieving the Master Plan's goals. Administrator Stilwell discussed permits that were being discussed with SC DOT and developing Town signs for Platt Springs Road. The signs would be put out for bid and the Town will get a printed copy of the Master Plan from LandPlan Group South. Administrator Stilwell also discussed having a dinner for elected officials to discuss the plan with them and seek their input and assistance. Administrator Stilwell asked for questions from the Council and Mayor Bishop asked if there was anything further he needed from Council at this time. Administrator Stilwell responded that there was not, but hopefully the Town would have the actual Master Plan to adopt by the next Council meeting and begin work on the Town signs. Mayor Pro Tem Manos used the town signs for South Congaree to highlight the need for large and recognizable signs on Platt Springs Road.

**V. New Business**

A. Timeframe of Residential Payment of Sewer Tap. Mayor Bishop conducted an overview of the sewer tap fees. Administrator Stilwell stated that, after the flood, many septic tanks failed and currently, the ordinance only allows for one pump out before a property owner has to switch over to sewer if they live in a neighborhood that has sewer available. He further stated that it will be years before the sewer is completely paid off and advocated for extending the amount of time offered to residents that need to tap onto the existing sewer system. Mayor Pro Tem Manos asked for a recommendation for the length of time and Administrator Stilwell responded that four years would be best based upon the average household budget. Mayor Pro Tem Manos asked how much remained on the debt for the sewer and Councilmember Hallman responded that it was approximately 1.8 million, which Administrator Stilwell stated would be paid completely by 2022. Mayor Bishop asked if there needed to be a motion and Administrator Stilwell responded that this action only needed guidance to the Administrator's office. Mayor Pro Tem Manos asked whether the money would be kept in a separate account and Administrator Stilwell responded that it would be kept in an account used to pay the sewer debt. Mayor Pro Tem Manos recommended sending letters to residents without sewer who had the ability to tap onto sewer and Councilmember Wilkerson suggested putting the information in the Mayor's newsletter, to which Council and the Mayor agreed.

B. Board of Zoning Appeals. Administrator Stilwell informed the Council that the Board of Zoning Appeals will be losing two members this year, including Dr. Viki Fecas who will be joining the Council. He also informed the Council that Dr. Ed Davis had been elected as the new Chair and Mr. John Huffman was elected as Vice-Chair. Administrator Stilwell then appealed to the public to fill out an application to join the Board.

## **VI. Reports**

A. Town Council Reports. Mayor Bishop discussed his and Councilmember Ricard's desire to have another work session regarding development and other projects in Town. Mayor Bishop related that he attended Senator Tim Scott's flood relief meeting and that SC DOT is requiring pond owners to fix the dam connected to their properties before it would repair the road. He stated that the Town is looking into federal assistance to raise the repair funds. Mayor Pro Tem Manos stated that we had a responsibility to the Town roads and Mayor Bishop responded that Silstar was privately owned and the Town was looking into who owned it and the possibility of convincing Lexington County or DOT to take over the road. Mayor Pro Tem Manos thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the Council for permitting him to serve with them over forty-two years and the blessings he has received.

B. Administrative Report. Administrator Stilwell thanked Mayor Pro Tem Manos for his many years of service to the Town. He also informed Council of the General Assembly's budget proviso that puts the burden of indigent defense on municipalities on top of paying the county for indigent defense. He discussed the Town's options including removing jail time from potential punishments or not hold court, neither of which he stated was realistic. Town Attorney Scott stated the possibility that the proviso could become a law in the next legislative session. Administrator Stilwell then said that the General Assembly's reasoning behind this proviso was the belief that municipal courts had become "cash cows", though only 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the Town's police budget comes from citations. Lexington County has also stated that it would not provide indigent defense for municipal court without additional payments to the county. Administrator Stilwell recommended hiring an attorney, possibly pro-bono, for indigent defendants. He also implored Council to speak to elected representatives concerning the proviso. Administrator Stilwell led Council through an overview of what municipalities have paid into the Indigent Defense Fund. Mayor Pro Tem Manos asked how much the State receives from citations and Administrator Stilwell responded that the state receives 75% of the fines. He further stated that the Municipal Association of South Carolina is fighting against the proviso being adopted next year. Administrator Stilwell further discussed

façade improvements for homes in Town and funding sources for those improvements. He stated that he would be developing requirements as well as a plan for a capital improvement fund that would go towards assisting façade improvements. Councilmember Peters asked about the match requirement and Administrator Stilwell explained that a business would have to meet a percentage match and make improvements that would help meet the goals of the Master Plan. Mayor Bishop discussed the need for new codes and Administrator Stilwell stated that the Planning Commission would be developing new regulations in the future.

C. Public Works Director's Report. Public Works Director Ancik's report was received as information by Council.

D. Chief's Report. Chief Cornett reviewed his monthly report and statistics with the Council. Chief Cornett also reviewed the new Police Department motto with Council and a neighborhood app called Nextdoor that the department is using to work with residents.

## **VII. Appearance by Citizens**

Mr. Jason Nivens from Privilege Pharmacy spoke to the Council and the public with regards to deals offered at his business.

## **VIII. Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue a real estate matter; property acquisition for economic development.**

Council, on motion of Mayor Pro Tem Manos, seconded by Councilmember Wilkerson, voted to go into executive session at 6:56 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and a real estate matter involving property acquisition for economic development. Council, on motion of Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Reeley, voted unanimously to exit executive session at 7:17 p.m. No action was taken during executive session.

## **IX. Action Taken from Executive Session**

Mayor Bishop reported that no new action needed to be taken from the discussion in executive session.

## **X. Adjournment**

Council, on motion of Mayor Pro Tem Manos, seconded by Councilmember Wilkerson, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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Michael Bishop  
*Mayor*

Attest:

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Jeff Stilwell  
*Town Administrator*