

South Carolina
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Town Council Work Session

January 18, 2016 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 Ricard, Councilmembers Hallman, Wilkerson, Peters, Reeley, Fecas, and Town Administrator Jeff Stilwell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Town Attorney Danny Scott.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved without objection.

III. New Business

A. Town Cleanup. Mayor Bishop reminded Councilmember that the work session was about discussion and any actions would have to wait until the next regular Council meeting. Mayor Bishop discussed code enforcement and property maintenance issues in Town and efforts to address them. One particular issue mentioned was Jeff Shannon's property, where he is asking the Town for assistance replacing a chain-link fence and that some of the property on which the fence is located belongs to Lexington County. Council discussed whether the property had been surveyed and recommended that he have a survey conducted first to determine exactly where the fence poles are and which sections belong to Lexington County. Administrator Stilwell said that he would check with Lexington County and Mr. Shannon prior to the next Council meeting.

Mayor Bishop discussed removing the rest of the pines from the park. Council asked how many remained and Public Works Director Ancik answered that there were four trees. Mayor Pro Tem Ricard suggested moving some of the playground equipment around once the trees are out. Mayor Bishop asked Public Works Director Ancik to bid out the project and get three bids.

Mayor Bishop asked for recommendations for other improvements that could be made to the park and Mayor Pro Tem Ricard suggested a new gate behind the Police Department and a small stage area for events. Mayor Bishop suggested that he develop a plan to show Council at the next regular meeting. Administrator Stilwell discussed constructing a walled shelter and Mayor Bishop suggested that it could be rented out for parties in the park. Council discussed purchasing a grill for the park.

Mayor Bishop discussed the cleanup of Watling Road and having a regular litter pickup program. He suggested assigning Public Works Director Ancik to recruit volunteers. Council discussed past volunteer cleanup efforts. Councilmember Fecas suggested hosting a cleanup event once per quarter. Mayor Bishop also suggested that everyone be ready to report on projects from the work session by the next session. Administrator Stilwell gave an update of signs placed in public areas and efforts to have them removed. Mayor Bishop recommended having the police department pick them up as they spot them on patrol and Administrator Stilwell stated that the signs are mostly limited now to major thoroughfares. Councilmember Fecas agreed with the Mayor and stated that officers would be seen as having the authority to remove them. Administrator Stilwell stated that Chief Cornett was willing to do it, but Administrator Stilwell stated his opinion that the police have greater public safety concerns and that he could pick them up himself when he rides through Town.

Mayor Bishop asked about a drain on Lee Circle and Administrator Stilwell informed Council that there is a French drain that stops up and that DOT won't claim it. He informed the owner to clean it up as best he could and to keep it open so the Town can examine it and correct the issue. Administrator Stilwell stated that he would include it with the Town's DOT projects and Mayor Bishop asked for a list of projects to call DOT about. Councilmember Reeley offered to call DOT on the Town's behalf.

Councilmember Fecas discussed pot holes on Tarrytown Lane with the Council. Administrator Stilwell responded that the biggest complaint about the road currently is speed and fixing the pot holes would encourage more people to use it and speed along the road, though he would be willing to have them fixed if they are severe. Council further discussed road concerns on Tarrytown Lane. Councilmember Peters discussed the poor design of the interstate that sends water down into the neighborhood.

B. Available Land Discussion.

Mayor Bishop discussed a land swap with a property across Watling Road at the corner of Watling and Delree Street, granting the property owner a continuous piece of property and acquiring a northern portion of his property in exchange for a portion of the closed-off road currently owned by the Town. Mayor Bishop stated that the Council would be discussing this with the property owner in the next three weeks and that Councilmember Wilkerson agreed to be the Town's representative in the discussions.

Mayor Bishop discussed the possibility of purchasing 2400 Platt Springs Road as a new facility for the Public Works Department. The building could store extra dumpsters as well as provide a garage for the trash truck and grapple truck. Council discussed the sale value versus the appraisal value and Mayor Bishop stated his belief that the Town could purchase it for less than the seller's asking price. Purchasing the property would also free up space at Town Hall for the Police Department. Administrator Stilwell informed Council that he and Public Works Director Ancik had a meeting set with the realtor and Mayor Bishop asked if any councilmembers could also attend.

C. Business Relations.

Mayor Bishop related to Council that he had begun to develop a better relationship with the businesses in Town, but events caused that to become less of a priority and now he is looking to renew those efforts. Mayor Bishop offered any councilmember to join him when he visits businesses and takes the owners out to lunch. Administrator Stilwell supported this idea and suggested that it occur on a regular basis and the Town should take them out to places in Town.

Administrator Stilwell also informed Council that the owner of the Quick Stop was selling his business and that it would be purchased by an owner affiliated with Tucker Oil. The owner contacted Administrator Stilwell about cleaning the place up with new signage and a new canopy. Mayor Bishop reported that Town Hall staff had done research on Silstar Road and could find no evidence that the Town had any responsibility for it and that it is a private road whose maintenance falls on the property owners. Administrator Stilwell stated that the Town was putting dirt to fill in holes in the road, but beyond that, it had no further responsibility. He stated that Shasta Drive has plenty of documentation that the Town took over that road, while Silstar Road has no such documents. He also informed Council that he would be sending out letters to the property owners notifying them of this finding.

D. SC DOT Projects.

Administrator Stilwell updated Council on the acquisition of property and construction of the sidewalks along Kitty Hawk Drive. Administrator Stilwell discussed funding for the project and stated that, with money the Town had received back from DOT for the Airport Blvd. beautification, the Town was only \$2,000 short of completing the sidewalks on Kitty Hawk Dr. and the staff would be pursuing grant funding to acquire the remaining \$2,000. Mayor Pro Tem Ricard stated his willingness to speak to DOT about the Town's projects. Administrator Stilwell stated that the next steps are to acquire the land and finish the sidewalks from Kitty Hawk Drive to connect them with Platt Springs Road. Councilmember Reeley discussed his efforts to have DOT fix sidewalks in front of Springdale House by reminding them that broken sidewalks create a danger. Councilmember Fecas mentioned how the sidewalks do not extend down Watling Road past the intersection.

Mayor Bishop brought up Wilton Road and Durham Drive for discussion, informing Council that DOT says the residents are responsible for repairing the dam. Mayor Bishop stated that Judge George Nicholson had told him that the DOT had fixed the dam in Shadblow before and that the deeds for the property owners did not include the dam. Councilmember Reeley stated his belief that the dam is owned by Mr. Ronnie Wilbourne. Administrator Stilwell stated that Lexington County GIS lists the dam as "unknown property". Mayor Bishop asked Council if Town Attorney Danny Scott should investigate the dam's ownership and the Council agreed. Mayor Bishop stated that he has been looking into funding sources and spoke to Senator Tim Scott at Senator Scott's office as well as speaking to other mayors at the regional mayors meeting. Councilmember Hallman asked about Congressman Wilson's efforts to have Wilton Road dam fixed and Administrator Stilwell responded that Congressman Wilson wanted to avoid the appearance that the road was fixed at his request. Council further discussed the repairs for the dams. Administrator Stilwell informed Council that he let West Columbia know there are exposed water lines on those dams that could burst if they froze. He further said that he would ask Mr. Danny Scott to look into the ownership of the dams.

Mayor Bishop next introduced discussion of the Rainbow Drive road repair, stating that West Columbia had it in their budget for this year to replace the water line but that they haven't sent an engineer out there yet. Mayor Bishop asked Council if they would support him in forcing DOT to fix the road as a certain amount of utility work forces DOT to do repair work. Council granted their support and Mayor Bishop stated that he would pursue the Rainbow Drive repair with DOT. Mayor Bishop informed Council that the Glendale Road repair was another project that needs DOT's attention due to pot holes. Discussion continued into pot holes and paving in various parts of Town. Mayor Bishop discussed flooding problems that Springdale Baptist Church has been having due to road pipes that are not draining properly. Administrator Stilwell stated that he has put in several DOT work orders for it and the problem persists. Councilmember Fecas has stated a similar problem behind her house. Councilmember Reeley offered to assist with Springdale Baptist's issues with DOT. Mayor Pro Tem Ricard suggested getting an easement on property bordering the church and school to create drainage to alleviate the area.

E. Facility Improvements.

Mayor Bishop brought up for discussion the possibility of installing an electronic sign at Town Hall to announce Town events. Councilmember Peters mentioned the sign for the dentist's office and how he had not asked permission, but it was a very nice sign. Administrator Stilwell said that the Planning Commission was working to change the sign ordinance to allow for electronic signs that would conform to community standards. Mayor Bishop and Administrator Stilwell discussed putting a Town sign on the property at Delree if it is acquired. Councilmember Wilkerson stated that he was not in favor of a LED sign at Town Hall, but would be in favor of a sign that is more noticeable. Mayor Bishop suggested a community bulletin board for the park and Councilmember Hallman said that there used to be one. Councilmember Wilkerson stated that he wanted something that was classy and would catch attention. Administrator Stilwell suggested tasking the Design Review Board with selecting a new sign.

F. Town Partnerships.

Mayor Bishop informed Council of his desire to have a local delegation meeting with local, county, and state officials to present them the Master Plan. Council discussed inviting Representative Kenny Bingham. Councilmember Wilkerson asked about the forum, if it would be at a Town Council meeting and Mayor Bishop and Administrator Stilwell discussed hosting an event similar to the Christmas party or a Town dinner. Mayor Bishop also suggested inviting Senator Nikki Setzler. Mayor Bishop asked about the status of the Master Plan and Administrator Stilwell responded that he was told it was not complete and that he is not paying until the Master Plan has been received. He informed Council that the next step once it is received is to make a presentation to the Council and suggested that Council also make calls to encourage the development company to finish the Master Plan.

Councilmember Peters asked after the Town's pursuit of Town signs at the Town Limits of Platt Springs Road. Administrator Stilwell said that the Town was waiting on the Master Plan and issues with the junction boxes before continuing with the signs.

G. Future Development.

Mayor Bishop discussed his conversations with Tom Ledbetter at Midlands Technical College to develop a relationship that is mutually beneficial. Administrator Stilwell discussed the Town's payments to Midlands RTA. Council listed several grievances with Midlands RTA such as their refusal to present figures to the Council concerning ridership, MRTA's claim that the Town signed a contract despite the Council not remembering that event, and the value of the benefit received for what the Town pays. Councilmember Wilkerson stated his belief that stopping payment would put the Town in a bad place with Lexington County.

IV. Executive Session to discuss contractual matters regarding land purchases and town utilities.

Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Peters, voted unanimously to enter executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss contractual matters regarding land purchases and town utilities. Council, on motion of Councilmember Fecas, seconded by Councilmember Reeley, voted to come out of Executive session at 7:30 p.m. No action was taken.

V. Action Taken from Executive Session

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

VI. Adjournment

Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Hallman, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Michael Bishop
Mayor

Attest:

Jeff Stilwell
Town Administrator