

South Carolina
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Springdale Planning Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Springdale Town Hall – Council Chambers

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

Member(s) Present: Chair Bill Jordan, Vice Chair Jeff Hendrix, Members Keith Driggers and Lynn Hutchinson

Member(s) Absent: Member Chris Peake

Staff Present: Administrator Ashley Watkins

I. Call to Order

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

A. Invocation. Member Hutchinson provided the invocation.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Agenda. The Commission, on motion of Vice Chair Hendrix, seconded by Member Hutchinson, voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

B. Approval of Minutes. The Commission, on motion of Vice Chair Hendrix, seconded by Member Driggers, voted unanimously to approve the November 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes without objection.

III. Items for Discussion

A. Strategic Planning for the Town of Springdale. Chair Jordan requested an update from Administrator Watkins concerning the strategic planning discussed by Council at the Work Session on 1/14/19. Administrator Watkins summarized the goals that each Councilmember presented for the Town of Springdale in 2019. Vice Chair Jeff Hendrix asked Administrator Watkins if there have been any updates concerning the Master Plan of Springdale, specifically in concern to the entrances to town on Platt Springs Road. Administrator Watkins stated that she suggested seeking funding for mast arms to be installed at major intersections. She also stated that work is currently being done on the second town sign. There was a brief discussion of currently placed town signs and placement for future signs.

Chair Jordan offered a list of strategic planning ideas that included addressing the progress of the Master Plan, downtown area, outdoor spaces expanding tax base, improvement of physical spaces and attracting businesses into the town. Administrator Watkins stated that there have been meetings with local business owners and some of the

businesses have applied and benefited from the facade grant in concern to renovations and upgrades. Vice Chair Jeff Hendrix suggested extending the façade grant fund availability to qualifying individuals that own multiple rental properties. Administrator Watkins was in agreement with this idea. Chair Bill Jordan stated that another item on his list is enhancement to events held within the town, which led to a discussion of event ideas. Chair Jordan stated that advertisement of Town activities and opportunities is vital. Administrator Watkins stated that she met briefly with the Mayor concerning hiring a firm to manage PR and advertisements for the Town to include social media.

Chair Jordan asked if there has been any discussion regarding a Beautification Committee. Administrator Watkins stated there has been discussion. There was a discussion of ideas for fundraising for beautification efforts. Chair Jordan expressed that fostering partnerships with private entities is extremely important in the advancement of goals. Administrator Watkins stated the Public Works Director, Scott Bolser, has a goal to strengthen the relationship with Midlands Technical College and the airport. Vice Chair Hendrix suggested implementing a community garden. Chair Jordan inquired about the needs of the Public Works Department. Administrator Watkins expressed difficulty with hiring and keeping dependable employees. She continued by stating the department could be expanded to meet more needs but the difficulty with hiring dependable employees has been a hindrance.

Chair Jordan expressed the importance of communication and collaboration between the staff, elected officials, boards, commissions and residents of the Town of Springdale. Administrator Watkins agreed and stated that being proactive and engaged is crucial to meeting the goals set forth for the Town. Vice Chair Hendrix suggested having a plan that includes realistic immediate, short term and long term goals. Administrator Watkins stated that she will compile a list of the ideas discussed and send it out to Council for further discussion. Chair Jordan mentioned improved infrastructure and Administrator Watkins stated that 50% of the Town is still on septic tanks. Vice Chair Hendrix suggested that some residents do not want to tap into the sewer system with Member Driggers agreeing, stating that he does not wish to tap into the sewer. Chair Jordan suggested that Administrator Watkins identify the most mentioned ideas and submit them to Council for further discussion.

Administrator Watkins asked if anyone else had any suggestions and Member Hutchinson suggested that he would like to hear from the business owners in the Town on their level of satisfaction with the services offered by the Town. A local business owner was present and offered comment. The business owner stated that he tries to advertise to get more business into the town but has difficulty due to the selection of businesses already in the Town, specifically the lack of retail establishments. He stated that businesses want to come in and make money so he would like to see an increase in traffic. He stated that he is in need of a security light around his property. Administrator Watkins instructed him to call SCE&G to have one installed.

The Commission thanked the business owner for his comments. Administrator Watkins and the Commission discussed traffic calming and speed limits within the Town. Commission and Administrator Watkins discussed openings in the Police Department and strategies to retain officers. Vice Chair Hendrix emphasized the availability of Façade Grant funds to individuals who rent out properties, traffic calming and work on the entrance to the Town on Platt Springs. Chair Jordan emphasized traffic calming and suggested Council drafting a resolution to DOT concerning traffic calming. Administrator Watkins stated that the website is undergoing improvements to be more

user-friendly by Public Works Director, Scott Bolser. Vice Chair Hendrix complimented Public Works on their timeliness for garbage collection. Administrator Watkins asked Commission for their main ideas. Commission discussed their top goals for the Town for 2019 as traffic calming, addressing the progress of the Platt Springs Master Plan and the Rental Façade Grant match.

IV. Adjournment

The Commission, on motion by Vice Chair Hendrix, seconded by Member Hutchinson, voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:12pm.

Bill Jordan, Chair

Attest:

Leeann Eden, Municipal Clerk