

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009
MINUTES

The Mayor and all Councilmen were present.

Mayor Carver called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Councilman Smith gave the invocation.

Councilman Hudson made a motion to accept agenda. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. All in favor. The agenda was approved.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on January 5, 2009 as presented. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

Citizens Input

Mr. Sloan spoke with Council on the interest of purchasing a warehouse. He is requesting more information in order to get the money for the business. He disturbed another handout with information that he needed. Councilman Miller will be handling this project and will get back with Mr. Sloan.

A USC student was present to ask for information on the town for a school project. Mayor Carver let the student know his daughter will be requesting the same information and he will set up a meeting for both students and get back in touch with her on the time and date of the meeting.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Fire Chief Redd reported 15 calls last month with a combination of mutual aid calls, first responder calls, and EMS calls. Chief Redd presented Council with 2 insurance proposals (1. VFIS and 2. State Firefighter Associations). The department voted to go with State Firefighters Associations. Chief Redd has concerns on equipment not insured and the depreciation of equipment insured now with the Insurance Reserve Fund. Scott Neely will meet with Chief Redd and discuss the options.

Police Department – See report.

Parks – Mayor Carver read a resignation letter from Sam Smith resigning from the Chairman of the WDDC committee. He will complete the last project on the Veterans Memorial Park. He has enjoyed serving as Chairperson but due to other commitments he doesn't have the time needed for this committee.

Buildings -No Input.

Water Department –Kenneth Smith reported 4 water leaks in January. Two were caused by SCDOT and one of old age. Thirty millions gallons of water lost. All the material has been purchase to complete the sewer pond. One building has been completely rewired. The TV camera on the sewer system is broken. Mr. Kenneth will be taking it to Sumter one day this week to have it repaired.

Collins Control will be coming to Wagener on 2/2 or 2/4 to see if we need to replace the valve at the pond.

Councilman Miller has concerned with the \$50.00 reconnect fee. He feels it's too high. With the economy down turn and the unemployment rates dropping people seem to be having a hard time paying their bills on time for example we had a gentlemen that had a 20.00 water bill he couldn't pay and then we turned around and added 50.00 to it. He would like for Council to revisit the Town Ordinance. Mayor Carver said "he is open to what Council wants to do but in the long range we have to look out for what's best for the Town. We have bills that have to be paid and they are gradually going up, sometimes we have to hurt this one person to make it better for the other 600 citizens. I have always told this group that I don't care how we do it but it must be fair to all the citizens. If we give one person a break then every citizen has to get that same break. I told Councilman Smith that it upsets me that two or three people never pay the \$50.00 but some people are charged every month. If we're not going to follow the ordinance one hundred percent of the time then we must change the ordinance. We can't have two sets of rules and apply them according to our likes or dislikes of a citizen." Scott Neely said we have to be aware that the state monitors our finances due to a State Loan we have and they are already concerned with the rate increase not being enough to make an impact on this year's budget. Mayor Carver said that "if they're not happy, they could mandate our rates. Again Mike I'm not disagreeing with what you are saying. I'm just saying that if we need to change it and Council agrees, let's change it but understand water accounts number 1 through 630 are all going to live by that ordinance". Councilman Miller stated "that's the most important thing that everyone is treated the same but I do think the 50.00 fee is a little high for first time late customers".

Councilman Smith said we have all those things in place but we are not implementing them. Councilman Miller suggested we put a copy of the Town Ordinance in the Wagener Monthly. Mayor Carver suggests we mail a copy and explain why we are mailing a copy and we will talk about that in executive session due to new job assignments for 2009. If it's okay with everyone let's move on to New Business and discuss this further in executive session.

Mayor Carver stated each Councilman received a copy of the FY 2008 audit and asked if there any questions or concerns with the Fiscal Year 2008 Audit. Councilman Hudson made a motion to accept the 2008 FY audit as presented. Councilman Miller seconded. All in favor.

New Business

Mayor Carver read a letter from the Edisto Baptist Association seeking permission to use the Wagener Mfg. Building for the Youth Rally on March 28, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Heffron made a motion to let the EBA use the building. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Carver read a request from A.L. Corbett Middle School asking Council to purchase an ad for their 2008-2009 yearbook. Councilman Miller made a motion to purchase a ½ page ad for \$77.00. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Carver asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss issues with water procedures. Councilman Heffron made a motion to go in Executive Session. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn the meeting. Councilman Smith made a motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor.

ATTEST:

Mayor

Tina Salley/Clerk