

Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

October 5, 2020 – 7:00 PM

McClellanville Town Council met on the above-noted date. Notice of the meeting had been published in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Mayor Rutledge Leland presided at the meeting. Council members Chris Bates, Bob Gannon and Jim Scott were present. Councilman Aaron Baldwin was absent. Others present included town administrator Michelle McClellan, Jingle Jangle organizers Christina Oyler and Paul Holloway.

Mayor Leland asked Council to review the September 14 minutes. Councilman Gannon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting.

Charleston County Sheriff's Office representative Sgt. Harold Phillips gave a monthly crime report. There were no reports from the Awendaw-McClellanville Consolidated Fire District.

Council considered a contract with Jon Guerry Taylor for demolition of the old government dock and construction of a new dock at the boat landing. Councilman Gannon made a motion to sign the contract and proceed with the project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting. All Councilmen present were in favor of the motion.

Next, Christina Oyler and Paul Holloway addressed Council regarding a request for a Special Event Permit to hold the Annual Jingle Jangle on Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Pinckney Street in the business district. Ms. Oyler stated that the members of the Jingle Jangle committee wanted to seek approval to hold the event before more plans and preparations were made.

Ms. Oyler stated that if allowed, the event would take all necessary COVID-19 precautions. She asked Council for permission to close the street from 10-4 for the safety of the children and the attendees. Several Council members stated that they were uncomfortable closing the street for six hours on a Saturday and were concerned how it may affect businesses that did not want the street closed in previous years. After discussion, Council decide that they would not allow closing of the street at this time. Council asked that the committee speak with other busines owners and come back to discuss specifics at the November meeting. Councilman Gannon made a motion to approve the event with the condition that all local, state and federal COVID-19 rules and regulations were followed, liquor license was approved by SCDOR, insurance was obtained, safety precautions were taken and signage was adequately placed in town to slow the flow of traffic. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting.

Next, Council considered a request for Municipal Facility Use for the Palmetto Swamp Fox Adventure Race on Saturday, March 27, 2021. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the event. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gannon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gannon and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting.

Council discussed the issue of trick or treating in the Village. After discussion Council agreed that While Halloween is not an official holiday and is not regulated by the Town, they wanted to remind everyone to continue to follow federal, state and local guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Next, Council discussed the Town's Tree Conservation Ordinance regarding the conservation of grand pine trees. Councilman Scott asked about a property located on Mercantile Road where the property owner was told that a house could not be built on the lot because a grand pine tree is located where the septic field would need to be placed. Ms. McClellan said that she would check with the Zoning Administrator but believed that the property owners could apply for a variance to remove the grand pine tree if it was located in the only location a septic field could be placed. Council discussed getting a committee of Planning, Zoning, Council, Tree Committee members and residents to review the Town's Tree Ordinance.

Council considered purchasing a utility shed for maintenance storage for the Town. Council had no objections. Mayor Leland asked Councilman Bates to work with Town Staff to purchase the shed.

There were no comments regarding the August financial statements.

During a time for public comments, Mayor Leland stated that he had met with Kathryn Basha earlier in the day regarding the pedestrian bridge project. Mayor Leland said that there were six bids placed. Two of the bids were "nonresponsive" because they did not include all required certifications regarding compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity or use of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) requirements. The third lowest bidder was rejected by DOT because they did not complete 12% of the project using DBE subcontractors. The second highest bidder met all the requirements of the bid package except for the 5% cap on mobilization. Its mobilization costs were \$150,000 higher than the lowest bidder and if awarded would risk being appealed because it exceeds the stated mobilization cap. The highest bidder was over budget. Ms. Basha felt that the only option was to rebid the project for 21 days. SCDOT has agreed to complete the bid analysis to expedite review so that a contract can be awarded in early November.

Next, Mayor Leland addressed an article in the Post and Courier that intimated that the Town has raised property taxes. Mayor Leland wanted to make it clear that the article was referring to the reassessment value of homes that had increased and not the Town's millage. The Town's millage has not increased from 10.2 since 2014.

Council Gannon made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. McClellan
Clerk of Council