

Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

January 4, 2021 – 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 Aaron Baldwin, Chris Bates, Bob Gannon, and Councilman Jim Scott were present. Others present included: Michelle McClellan, Fire Chief Mike Bowers, Sgt. Harold Philips, Jennifer Hightower and members of the public.

Mayor Leland asked Council to review the December 7 minutes. Councilman Bates made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Fire Chief Bowers gave a 2020 yearend report for the area.

Charleston County Sheriff's Office gave a monthly crime report and answered questions from residents regarding community policing.

Mayor Leland then recognized Ralph Swindal, CPA. Mr. Swindal provided Council with a copy of the Town's 2019-2020 Audit Report and stated that the Town had a clean audit. Mr. Swindal stated that the Town's net position at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year was \$1,495,811. This was an increase of \$86,163 over last year's net assets. Mr. Swindal stated that Town's property tax increased by \$41,030 from last year which was due to stabilized property assessment and appeals leading to consistent collections by the county. The Town's liabilities also decreased by \$1,690 from last year. Mr. Swindal stated that the Town was in good financial shape.

Next, Council discussed moving a portion of the year end fund balance to the Town's capital projects account. After discussion, Council decided to incorporate the transfer into next year's budget.

Next, Council reviewed an update from the McClellanville Tree Committee on their 2020 accomplishments and 2021 work plan. Council thanked the Tree Committee for their work.

Next, Council read a report from Dominion Energy regarding the outages that occurred in town on December 26 and 27, 2020. Ms. Hightower indicated that the loss of power on 12/6 was the result of damage caused by a third-party contractor to an underground cable on Pinckney Street. Ms. Hightower said that DE removed the device from service and performed switching to balance the load. The loss of power on 12/27 was attributed to two separate events, a defective splice on an overhead conductor and cold temperatures causing the load to increase and approach the setpoint of the other two protection devices on Cassena Street. Councilman Bates asked if the overload was a mechanical issue or if it was due to undersized equipment because of the increase in homes and residents. Ms. Hightower said that it was most likely a combination but would further investigate Councilman Bates' question with staff that could better answer that question. Ms. Hightower said they were looking for permanent solutions to the issues. Ms. Hightower also asked that residents and companies call 811 before digging to keep underground damage from occurring in the future.

Next, Mayor Leland opened the public hearing for an Ordinance to Provide for the Securing of a \$250,000.00 unsecured loan by the Town of McClellanville for the purposes of constructing a new floating dock at the Robert E. Ashley Boat Landing. There were no comments or questions from the public.

Councilman Gannon made a motion to approve the final reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

There were no comments regarding the December financial statements.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. McClellan
Clerk of Council