

Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

December 4, 2023 – 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. Council members Aaron Baldwin, Chris Bates, Bob Gannon and Jim Scott were present. Others present included: Michelle McClellan, Fire Chief Mike Bowers, Deputy Mitchum, Detective Mike Thompson and Detective Will Martin with Charleston County Sheriff's Office and Cheves Leland.

Mayor Leland called the meeting to order and asked Council to review the November 6 minutes. Councilman Gannon made a motion to amend the minutes to include Council's appreciation of Ms. Addie Bates for her service and dedication establishing the Land and Sea Market and operating it for seven seasons. The motion to approve the minutes as amended was seconded by Councilman Scott and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Detective Mike Thompson gave an update on the recent crimes in Town. He said that the suspects had been apprehended. He offered his assistance with a Community Watch Program and said that residents could call him anytime to ask questions or provide information if they saw something suspicious. Mayor Leland asked, "when should we call 911?" Detective Thompson said that you could call 911 at any time. Just tell them that it is not an emergency, and they may place you on hold, but they would answer your questions or redirect your call. He also said they were having a free trailer stamping event at Berkeley Electric Co-op on Saturday, December 16th from 8 am until 6 pm.

Fire Chief Mike Bowers gave a monthly fire report for the community.

Ms. McClellan updated Council on the TST Fund request to add speed bump in Village Commercial District. Ms. McClellan said Charleston County informed her that placing another speed bump in between the two existing bumps in the Village Commercial does not meet the minimum spacing requirements. The County said that they could put a flashing beacon at the existing crosswalk. Council did not want a flashing beacon and asked if the Town could get the request denial in writing. Council did ask if they could repaint or freshen up the crosswalk and existing speedbumps. Ms. McClellan said she would make that request.

Council discussed the mold on the ceiling in Council's chambers. Councilman Bates and Baldwin did not think there was a leak involved but rather a moisture issue. Ms. McClellan said that the roof had been repaired and painted four years ago in 2019 but the warranty was only for two years. She said the painters came back and looked at it and suggested it be painted with two coats of stain blocker and repainted. Council agreed that it needed to be repaired.

Council discussed a letter from the Department of Agriculture regarding Central Electric Power Cooperative's requesting financing from the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities to construct a 25.8-mile 115 kilovolt Electric Transmission Line in Berkely and Charleston Counties. They wanted to know if the Town was interested in possibly consulting on the project or

participating in the Programmatic Agreement (PA) which will govern specific Section 106 procedures for the identification of any historic properties, determinations of effect, and the resolution for any adverse effects. Mayor Leland said that the proposed line was not going to be located in the Town and he felt that individual property owners should participate. Council agreed.

Council considered quotes to paint town offices. Councilman Gannon made a motion to award the contract to Michael Bellows. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott. Mayor Leland opened the floor for discussion. After discussion, Councilman Bates made an amendment to the motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder to paint and do the repairs – Allen Miller. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland. A ye a vote was given by Councilmen Baldwin, Bates, Scott, and Mayor Leland. Councilman Gannon voted Nay. The motion passed. Councilman Gannon stated ‘point of privilege’ and left the meeting.

Next, Council discussed a proposal from Home Telephone for internet and phone services for Town Hall. Ms. McClellan said that TDS service had been very slow and Town has issues sending and receiving large files via email. Council agreed that Ms. McClellan should make that decision.

Council discussed Zoning Ordinance review. Councilman Baldwin said that he and Councilman Bates were supposed to review the ordinance. He said that it is such a big undertaking he has started on it yet. He said that he is now out of school until January and will try to review it before the next Council meeting.

Mayor Leland asked if there were any public comments or questions regarding the financial statements before Council went into executive session. There were no comments from the public. Ms. McClellan stated that she had received a notice from Charleston County Library that the McClellanville Branch would be closed for renovations beginning December 23, 2023.

Councilman Bates made a motion that Council go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting.

Council returned from executive session. Mayor Leland noted that no action was taken while in executive session.

Councilman Bates made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland and carried by a unanimous vote of Council members present and voting. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Sincerely,



Michelle McClellan
Clerk of Council