

## Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

January 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM

McClellanville Town Council met on the above-noted date. Notice of the meeting was 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, Stacey Moree, Jana Stevenson, Don Phillips, James and Barbara Aton.

After calling the meeting to order, Notary Stacey Moree administered the Oath of Office to Council and the Mayor for the 2024-2025 term of office. Council then discussed election of Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Bates made a motion to elect Councilman Gannon as Mayor Pro Tem for the 2024-2025 term. The motion was seconded by Councilman Aaron Baldwin and carried by a unanimous vote of Council. Council agreed to leave standing committees the same: Personnel- Bob Gannon, Jim Scott; Public Works – Aaron Baldwin, Chris Bates, Bob Gannon; Finance – all members of Council to include the Mayor. Council confirmed appointment of town offices: Town Clerk – Michelle McClellan; Town Attorney – Andy Gowder; Town Marshal – Larry McClellan; and Code Enforcement Officer Hank Resch.

Mayor Leland asked Council to review the December 4 minutes. Councilman Bates made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baldwin. Councilman Gannon abstained from voting. All other Council members voted to approve minutes as written.

There were no representatives present from the Sheriff's Office or Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Department.

Mayor Leland then recognized Stacey Moree with Harper, Poston & Moree, CPAs. Ms. Moree provided Council with a copy of the Town's 2022-2023 Audit Report and went over the executive summary. Mr. Moree stated that the Town had a very strong fund balance. The Town has a fund balance of \$832,364 in unrestricted funds and \$145,477 in restricted boat landing funds. Council had no questions regarding the audit and thanked Ms. Moree for a thorough review of the audit. Councilman Scott made a motion to accept the audit results. The motion was seconded by Council Baldwin and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Council considered a request from Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) to use the meeting room at Town Hall while the library is being renovated. Jana Stevenson, CCPL's associate director for the East Cooper District, addressed Council regarding the request. Ms. Stevenson said that the space would allow patrons to pick up books on hold, check in material, and obtain reference assistance. She said they hoped to have everything set up by the end of January and it would be needed for approximately four months. Council had no issues with allowing the library to use the meeting room.

Next, Council addressed the drainage issue in Town that were intensified by the recent Nor'easter storm on December 17, 2023, that brought 16.35 inches of rain into McClellanville. Mr. and Mrs. Aton said that their yard at 119 Oak Street was completely flooded, and the water was not draining. They had previously spoken to Charleston County Public Works (CCPW) and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), but they did not offer any solutions. Ms. McClellan said that Malcolm Baldwin, PE had been working on several solutions for the Town and she suggested that Council hire Mr. Baldwin as a consultant to work with the town, CCPW and SCDOT to provide a master drainage plan for the Town. She said that the County and SCDOT would no longer maintain ditches if there was not an easement. Council agreed to hire Mr. Baldwin to provide a master plan and work with SCDOT and Charleston County on the town's drainage issues.

Rebecca Vance provided a memo to Council regarding her work on the old school. Mayor Leland stated that the Town was working with Lee Hewitt to secure funds from the State Budget to help provide healthcare in an underserved rural community.

Next, Council reappointed Planning Commission members Mary Duke and Dan Fifis for another four-year term. Council had no objection.

Consideration of TST Project request was deferred to next month.

Council considered a request from the Town's Municipal Association of SC Field Representative Ashley Kellahan. Ms. Kellahan asked if the town would be interested in submitting a project for MASC's Advanced Leadership Academy Team. Ms. McClellan stated that through the Advance Leadership Academy, MASC provides participants with real world experience working with a local government on a specific policy or service issue. They have seasoned former managers/administrators who serve as project mentors. Ms. McClellan stated that they were looking for projects such as a review or analysis of planning/zoning regulations which Council had discussed at length. Council agreed that this would be a great opportunity for the town to have its planning/zoning ordinances reviewed by an outside source.

There were no questions regarding the November financial statements.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. McClellan  
Clerk of Council