

Minutes
McClellanville Town Council
February 5, 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 Chris Bates, Bob Gannon and Jim Scott were present. Councilman Aaron Baldwin was absent. Others present included: Christine Freeze, Malcolm Baldwin, Cheves Leland, Larry Mellichamp, Marylou High, Andrew Redden, and Mike Bowers.

Mayor Leland asked Council to review the January 8 minutes. Councilman Gannon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott. All present Council members voted to approve minutes as written.

Chief Bowers provided a 2023 year-end review of activity from Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Department. There was no representative present from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

Council heard from Malcolm Baldwin on his preliminary report to Town Council regarding the drainage issues in Town. Mr. Baldwin indicated that he believes some of the drainage catch basins under the Town may be covered up, which is contributing to the flooding issues. He also noted that some of the old drain material that is under ground includes hollowed-out cypress logs, which are collapsing. Mr. Baldwin stated that there should be old drainage infrastructure records at DOT, and he will attempt to obtain them in order to help with putting together the new drainage plan for the Town. Andrew Redden asked if the Town had considered grants that may be available, which could include technology-based flooding assessment options such as the use of drones. Mayor Leland indicated that the Town is going to be working with Philip Sexton as part of the Charleston County Legislative Delegation - Intergovernmental Flood Taskforce, and such options may be available through that program.

At Council's request, Mr. Baldwin went on to address the two bids that were received by the Town for installment of an engineered septic system to serve the existing buildings at 711 Pinckney Street. Mayor Leland asked Mr. Baldwin why the Town did not receive any bids from septic companies local to McClellanville. Mr. Baldwin responded that the request for bids specified that the bidding company must be a Tier 3 licensed installer due to the nature of the required system, and local companies do not have that licensure. Councilman Gannon made a motion to accept the lowest bid, which was from Walker and Sons Enterprises, LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bates. All present Council members voted to accept the bid from Walker and Sons Enterprises, LLC.

Mayor Leland provided an update on the Middle School, stating that the Town sent a letter to SC State Representative Lee Hewitt requesting funding from the State Budget to help provide healthcare in McClellanville, as an underserved rural community.

Council then considered the appointment of Scott Youngblood as a new member of the Planning Commission, and Ruthie Lacey as a new member of the Tree Committee. Council had no objection to either appointment.

Council agreed to hold the Wisteria Parade on Saturday, March 23rd. Mayor Leland indicated that the Town would provide the same funding as last year for some of the parade activities.

Next, Council considered a request from CREECS to hold an oyster roast under Town Hall on Saturday, February 10th. Council also considered a request from the Village Museum to use the Meeting Room in Town Hall for a book signing on Saturday, April 27th. Both requests were approved by Council.

Consideration of TST Project requests was revisited, but no new project ideas were identified.

There were no questions regarding the December financial statements.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine R. Freeze". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christine R. Freeze
Executive Assistant