

## Minutes

### McClellanville Town Council

March 4, 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, Fire Chief Mike Bowers, Assistant Chief Brett Sims, and Susan Martindale.

Mayor Leland asked Council to review the February 5 minutes. Councilman Bates made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Leland and carried by a unanimous vote of Council.

Chief Bowers provided a monthly report for the Awendaw-McClellanville Fire District. There was no representative present from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

Next, Council discussed a zoning memo from Zoning Administrator Kathy Basha addressing Short Term Rental (STR) provisions. Council had previously requested that the Planning Commission review the current STR Ordinance and make a recommendation to Council whether additional or updated regulations were needed. Ms. Basha's memo offered a review of the current STR Ordinance. The Commission did not feel that any updates were needed at this time. Council also asked the Commission to review the policy for vacation rental trash disposal. The Commission noted that was addressed in 3.5.3(d) of the current ordinances and it was understood that the Town's current trash contract requires vacation rentals to contract for trash removal service just as other commercial businesses are required to do.

Councilman Scott said that he would like Council to consider a moderate cap on the number of STR's allowed. Mayor Leland suggested asking Ms. Basha to look at STR ordinances from comparable communities such as Rockville. Council Scott said he was concerned with the big picture and thought we should encourage people to live here and not just vacation here. Councilman Baldwin said he agreed that we should stay ahead of the curve and look into capping the number of STR's allowed.

Council considered moving the date for the Wisteria Parade to Saturday, March 30, 2024. Ms. McClellan said that there was a conflict with the Water Mission Walk that some residents were attending. Council had no objection.

Next, Council considered a request from CREECS to hold The Lowcountry Shrimp Festival and Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 4th. Council had no objections. Ms. McClellan also asked Council about a request from Tommy Graham, Coastal Expeditions, and US Fish & Wildlife to hold a seminar at Town Hall on Sunday, March 6 prior to a boat tour of the lighthouse. Ms. McClellan said there would be about 50 people and they would like to hold them at Town Hall six times a year.

Council was opposed to the seminars at Town Hall for several reasons. They were concerned about liability, overuse of the bathrooms, and that town staff would not be available to open and close the building on Sundays. The request was denied.

Council considered sponsorship of the Bulls Bay Nature Festival. Council agreed to a \$250 sponsorship as they had in the past.

Next, Council discussed a recommendation for a PARD Grant. Several options were discussed including the old school. Ms. McClellan said that the application deadline was Friday, May 3, 2024, so they did not need to decide tonight.

There were no questions regarding the January financial statements.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle McClellan  
Clerk of Council