

Town Council Meeting Minutes
North Town Hall
October 09, 2017

Mayor Carson called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:01 p.m. Present were Council Members Cook, Jackson, and Jones.

- Mayor Carson declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.
- Mayor Carson then led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 11th, 2017 Council Meeting. Mayor Carson seconded the motion. Councilmember Cook and Mayor Carson voted to approve the minutes. Councilmembers Jackson and Jones refrained from voting since they were not present for that meeting.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Lin Shirer (report attached)

- Chief Shirer announced that the North Police Department would be participating in Red Ribbon week at the North Elementary and Middle Schools from October 23rd through October 27th. The Police Department will also be joining in a Trunk or Treat for the Dover Elementary School children.
- The Police Department will be working during the North High School Homecoming on Friday, October 20th. The Homecoming parade will be held at 4:30, followed by the Homecoming Football Game that evening.
- Chief Shirer also stated that shoplifting has been a problem in North. The Police Department has been getting calls daily from local businesses complaining of shoplifting. Chief Shirer announced there is a zero-tolerance policy for shoplifters.
- Chief Shirer announced the hiring of a new full-time officer, James Thorpe, who was formerly North's part-time officer.
- Chief Shirer also explained how Victim's Assistance Funds the town has collected are spent. Chief Shirer and Officer Mizell are victim's advocates and are sent yearly to training. In order to comply with state regulations, a donation was made to CASA, equaling \$2,500, a service that helps victims of domestic violence.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mayor Carson introduced the Mayor's Youth Council. The Mayor's Youth Council consists of Seniors from North High School who are concerned about and want to invest in improving the town. Members of the Mayor's Youth Council include: Brianna Byrd, who is a member of JROTC, has 3.6 GPA, sings in chorus, plans to go to Midlands Tech to study in early childhood education and image technology and join the Airforce. Nireon Fields has a 3.8 GPA, is captain of the basketball team, travels with the football team as a trainer, plans to study sports medicine, and is in a leadership class at Claflin. Zaacheaus Edmonds has a 3.6 GPA, participates in the Upwards Bound program at Claflin, student voice campaign, and plans to study computer technology. Daiquel Houser, who is an Eagle Scout, is 8th in his class, has 3.9 GPA, tutors 6th and 7th graders, and is a member of the Palmetto Boys Club. Patrick Mack, who has 4.1 GPA, is the class historian and parliamentarian, participates in Claflin's Upward Bound program, is a tutor for 21st Century Kids in English. Amber New was unable to attend the meeting; she is 6th in her class, captain of the volleyball team, a member of Palmetto Girls State and planning to study nursing.
- The Account Statement for September, 2017 was reviewed by Council. Mayor Carson announced that penny sales tax checks were received that day in the mail totaling around \$41,000. After the penny sales tax money has been receipted the North accounts will total over half million dollars.
- Councilmember Jackson commented on his Neighborhood Revitalization project. He stated that he is still working on it and will continue to give Council updates. He will choose a small project that is accomplishable and research grants to help fund the project.
- Suzanne Reed gave an update on the 2017 Christmas at the North Pole. Mrs. Reed reminded those in attendance of the upcoming October the 14th Community Yard Sale. The Christmas committee will be

selling breakfast sandwiches and holding a raffle at the yard sale to raise funds for the 2017 Christmas. Mrs. Reed also announced that the Christmas Parade's Grand Marshall will be Chuck Darby. He will send a bio ahead of time to help advertise the event. Mr. Darby will also sign autographs. Mrs. Reed will send flyers and parade information to over 25 area churches. One food vendor for the event has been confirmed, a barbeque restaurant out of Columbia. Mrs. Reed is also looking into getting a fire simulation trailer to promote and teach fire safety, since there is an increase in fires around Christmas time. She reached out to the North Airbase, but since they have limited weekend personnel, they would not know if they would be able to participate until the day of the event. Mrs. Reed is also going to reach out to independent organizations and the Shriners. She also plans to have a toy raffle for the children. She is still in need of entertainment and volunteers. For the raffle North Furniture Store donated a recliner, R&J Drugs donated a child's bike, Best Auto donated an oil change and Jeffcoat's Tax Service donated a free tax return preparation. The pet photo contest pictures are to be turned in at Town Hall and the winner will get to ride on a float in the parade. Also, a mail box to Santa will be put in front of the Town Hall for the children's Christmas letters.

MAYOR'S REPORT (attached)

- Mayor Carson reminded everyone that the Annual Turkey Give Away is being held at the Town Square on November 12th from 2 to 4pm. It is sponsored by St. Peter AME Church.
- Mayor Carson thanked all the residents who participated in the 'Clean Your Sidewalk' Saturdays, as part of an overall initiative to clean up the town.
- Mayor Carson asked Councilmember Jones for an update on his part in the initiative to clean up the town. Councilmember Jones has gotten garbage bags from the County to help in the cleanup and filled some of them. Councilmember Jones also stated that he was unable to get a grant for the purchase of a generator or shelters.
- Mayor Carson announced that there would be no Election since only Councilmember Washington and Jones filed to run, they would retain their seats. Election Committee member Mrs. Mary Stack has resigned, so Councilmember Jones stated that he would search for a replacement member.
- Mayor Carson stated that she would like to start having sit down meetings, called "Coffee with the Mayor", with church or civic groups. In these meetings groups could discuss with the Mayor topics such as, town projects and improvements.
- Mayor Carson also announced that she received a Palmetto Pride trash can grant. The grant provided the town with several new trash receptacles that were placed around town and at the ballfields to beautify our town.
- Mayor Carson recognized our Municipal Association Field Representative, Bill Taylor, for his attendance. She thanked him for his friendship, training and providing information.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Councilmember Cook gave an update on the Economic Development plan. She and Mayor Carson submitted a Hometown Economic Development grant application for \$25,000 to improve structures in the downtown area to attract and retain businesses. Councilmember Cook and Mayor Carson are also working with the planning commission on an Empty Building Tour, scheduled for December 7th at 10am, to showcase all of the buildings available for businesses in North. Real estate agents, the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce, building owners and people interesting in starting a business in North will be invited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 7:47pm Councilmember Cook made a motion to move into executive session to discuss contractual matters. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and upon vote it was approved unanimously. Council returned from executive session at 8:22p.m. During executive session no votes were taken and no decisions were made. Upon returning to public session Mayor Carson announced that during executive session the Council discussed proposed contracts for tank maintenance and well and pump maintenance. Councilmember Jackson made a motion to accept the quotation from Graves Water Services for annual maintenance on our pump and well. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and upon vote it was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (written request)

- There were no written requests for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS per sign-in sheet (3 minutes)

- One person had signed in; however, the topic was not on the agenda nor was on the previous agenda. Therefore, the topic was not eligible for discussion; Mayor Carson offered to meet offline for a discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business Councilmember Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jackson and upon vote was unanimously approved.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday November 13th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Culler
Town Clerk

Mayor Patty Carson: _____

Council Members:

Jeff Washington: _____

Julius Jones: _____

Daniel Jackson: _____

Deborah Cook: _____