

**MINUTES**  
Town of North  
February 10, 2014  
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council members Jones, and Carson. Council member Washington was unable to attend due to illness. Council member Lane was unable to attend due to a death in her family. Also in attendance were Chief Mark Fallaw and Town Clerk Carrie Garrett.

Mayor Jeffcoat led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jeffcoat declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.

Council member Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2014 regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Mayor Jeffcoat, and upon vote minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

- None

Water/Sewer Report:

Rick Bryan presented the Water/Sewer report for January, 2014 (copy attached). Bryan noted that we had a sewer spill on Carolina Avenue at Palmetto Avenue. DHEC has taken exception with this incident and are doing some additional investigation. Bryan will give an updated report on this incident next month.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report for January, 2014 (copy attached). Chief Fallaw added that the Police Department will hold a Drug Takeback on April 26, 2014. Chief also noted that the Police Department has applied for a Highway Safety Grant for new cameras in all patrol vehicles. Chief also addressed an article in the Times & Democrat that printed on 1/24/2014, wherein the Orangeburg County Sheriff was asking County Council for more funding. In that article the Sheriff referred to our Police Department with some negative views. Chief noted multiple times within the last month alone that our PD has assisted the Sheriff's Office, and noted that our officers do not work Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

Old Business:

- Jeffcoat reviewed the financial statement for January, 2014.

New Business:

- Discussion was had on the proposed Engineering Project at Creek Mill Well. Council member Carson inquired as to why the town would not get bids on this engineering project. It was noted that this particular proposal includes Rick Bryan doing all of the engineering work with his prior employer agreeing to sign off on his work to provide the engineering certificate that DHEC would require. This could not be sent out for bids as no other engineering firm would sign off on Rick Bryan's work. There was also discussion regarding possible alternative solutions to the issue of Well #2 having radon levels higher than DHEC allows. The possibility of removing the radon is very expensive and would not be cost effective given the low levels of radon. There is a possibility to drill another well, however that could cost \$100,000 and there is no guarantee the new well would not be contaminated. Council member Carson expressed her concern that this would be a band aid approach to resolve the radon problem. Rick Bryan informed Council that this is the resolution recommended by DHEC. Council member Jones made a motion to accept the offer of Burgin Engineering to sign off on the engineering certificate with Rick Bryan doing

the project calculations. Motion was seconded by Mayor Jeffcoat and upon vote carried by two to one vote with Council member Carson opposing.

- Council discussed pros and cons of updating our phone system to the proposed new IP phone system by TDS. This upgrade would put the Town into a 5 year contract with TDS. Council member Jones made a motion to approve the new phone system. Motion was seconded by Mayor Jeffcoat and upon vote carried by two to one vote with Council member Carson opposing.
- Chief Fallaw made the request to replace the spare vehicle for the Police Department mid-fiscal year. The Butler dealership is running special pricing and is offering a 2014 plain white Dodge Charger for \$23,865. The 2001 Crown Vic caught fire and burned last year and we have recouped approximately \$5,700 from the insurance company. We also have budgeted to transfer \$9,000 to savings for vehicle depreciation. Chief proposed that we use the insurance and depreciation funds to go ahead and replace the spare vehicle, with the remaining amount to be paid in the new budget year. Discussion was had regarding the ability to better use the hours of our reserve officer with him in a separate vehicle from Officer McCormack. Discussion was also had regarding the purchase being made now would require the vehicle to be in next year's budget. Motion was made by Mayor Jeffcoat to postpone the purchase of the car until after July 1<sup>st</sup> when it could be approved in a new fiscal year budget. Motion was seconded by Council member Carson and upon vote carried by two to one vote, with Council member Jones opposing.

#### Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Jeffcoat announced that he met with a gentleman who is making a promotional video of different towns in Orangeburg County, but the fee for us to participate would be \$3,500 and the Mayor cannot see where we could justify spending that kind of money on this project.
- Mayor Jeffcoat also announced that he will be meeting soon with Orangeburg County regarding Penny Sales Tax.

#### Council Announcements:

- Council member Jones announced that the deadline for Statement of Economic Interests has been moved up from April 15<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. He wanted to be sure Council was aware.

#### Public Comments:

- Buss Argoe addressed council regarding the issue of the radon contamination of well #2 and the project of blending the waters from well #1 and well #2. He noted that if well #1 becomes contaminated with radon then the proposed action of blending waters will not have resolved the problem. He urged Council to consider the option of drilling a new well.

There being no further business, Council member Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Garrett