

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crout. The Invocation was given by Councilman Cole. Mayor Crout led the Pledge of Allegiance. All members of council were present.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Cole to accept the minutes from February 1, 2010. All voted in favor.

Chief Inman introduced Derek Bannister a new Police officer who will be replacing Patrick Marter who left the department. He also recognized Berry Kelley as being promoted to Sergeant.

Public comments were given by David Meade, Otis Scott, and Willie Wright. Otis Scott complained about pot holes and how the crush & run filler was not staying in. He advocated filling with asphalt. Willie Wright complained about the ward number not being on the water bill and about overhanging tree limbs hitting school buses.

David Meade had two issues concerning the Spring Water Festival that would require a vote. He recommended starting the festival on Friday evening Aug. 27 at 6:00 pm to allow for some entertainment that night. He also requested \$7,800 in funding for the festival. Councilman Cole made a motion seconded by Councilman Middleton to amend the agenda to discuss the issues. All voted in favor.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to start the festival at 6:00 pm on Friday. All voted in favor.

Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Cole to approve funding of \$7,800 for this year's Spring Water Festival. All voted in favor.

The Police Department report was presented by Chief Inman.

Johnnie Bell from the Williamston Area Historical Committee made a request to refinish the Lander College sign in front of the Municipal Building. Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to allow the committee to do the work. All voted in favor.

RECYCLING UPDATE	John Owen gave Mayor and Council an update on starting up a temporary recycling center. He said that temporary signs are being worked on, DHEC is developing brochures for handout, a permanent site is being looked for, and grants are being applied for.
SECOND READING – WRECKER ORDINANCE CHANGES	Discussion about changes to the wrecker ordinance included storage inside or outside of town, type of phone service, and the amount of insurance a wrecker company should have on stored vehicles. Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Middleton to accept the ordinance as is with the idea of changing it further at the next meeting. Storage location was left at being within 2 miles of the Town limits. The motion carried with Councilman Harvell opposed.
SECOND READING – PORTABLE SIGN PERMIT FEE	Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to move this item to the end of the meeting following the executive session.
RELOCATING PELZER AVENUE	Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Cole to discuss the issue. All voted in favor. Councilman Middleton said he would like to develop the downtown area with the money from the county without regards to a grocery store. The attorney representing Jim Simpson the owner of the property said that Mr. Simpson would not require a property swap and that the existing exit could be used as a right turn only which would save parking spaces. He also said that the \$373,000 from the county would be enough to fund the project. Councilman Middleton suggested that Mr. Simpson do all the work on his own and the Town reimburse him but Mayor Crout pointed out that we couldn't because it was not Town property. Councilman Middleton asked if something could be worked out and Mr. Simpson's attorney said he believed it could be. Mayor Crout made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to not relocate Pelzer Avenue. The motion carried with Councilman Cole and Councilman Middleton opposed.
RESOLUTION ON DEBT POLICY	Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to approve a resolution on debt policy whose purpose is to establish parameters and minimize Town debt. All voted in favor.
FIRST READING OF WATER & SEWER RATE	Mayor Crout and Phyllis Lollis stated that a condition of obtaining the loans and grants from the USDA Rural Utility Service required certain

- INCREASES minimum charges for water and sewer to be in place by March 1, 2011. Mrs. Lollis also pointed out that in less than 10 years the cost of water from Anderson Regional Joint Water System to the Town had gone up 47%. Meanwhile, the Town has only passed on about 24% of those increases and after the March 1, 2011 increase of 6%, the Town will still be charging 17% less than our cost. Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to approve first reading of the water and sewer rate increase. The motion carried with Councilman Harvell opposed.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION Councilman Middleton made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. All voted in favor. Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to return to general session. All voted in favor. No action was taken in the executive session.
- PORTABLE SIGN
ORDINANCE Councilman Harvell made a motion seconded by Councilman Middleton to table the sign ordinance until the next meeting to allow the Town's attorney time to do more work on it. The Town will continue to operate under our existing ordinance.

During the Good of the Order, Councilman Cole asked John if the Town tore down abandoned houses and he said no. Councilman Cole also asked if we could install speed bumps, flashing lights, or some other option on the road which was very near the back door of New Prospect Church. Mayor Crout said that it was a county road and maybe the County could do something there, like maybe a speed hump. Councilman Harvell asked if the Police Department had a mileage limit on driving their cars home. That issue would be looked into. Mayor Crout stated that sidewalk problems on state roads were being repaired and improvements made at no charge to the Town. He also said that the big tree (which tends to drop limbs in the street during storms) in front of the Municipal Center would be evaluated by Clemson to determine if it could be saved.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn. All voted in favor. Adjournment was at 7:37 pm.