

BLYTHEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THE MANOR
100 ALVINA HAGOOD CIRCLE
BLYTHEWOOD, SC 29016
MONDAY, July 25, 2022
6:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

Mayor B. Franklin
Councilman D. Brock
Councilman S. Griffin
Councilman E. Baughman (present via Zoom)

Staff Present

Carroll Williamson, Town Admin
Ginny Dupont, Town Attorney
Onye Cosom, Marketing Manager

Members Absent

Councilman R. McKenrick (excused)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

Mayor Franklin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Three Council members were present with one present via Zoom, constituting a quorum.

B. NOTIFICATION AND POSTING OF THE MEETING AGENDA

Carroll Williamson confirmed the agenda was properly posted and the media notified.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Griffin made a Motion to approve the agenda as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Baughman. **All in favor; 4-0**

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. INVOCATION

The evening's invocation was given by Councilman Griffin

F. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMARKS

Councilman Brock made the following remarks:

- Wanted to extend his heartfelt prayers and thoughts to Councilman McKenrick on the passing of his Father.
- Wanted to wish great success to Melissa Cowan after she resigned last week.

Councilman Griffin made the following remarks:

- Extended heartfelt condolences to Rich McKenrick and his family on the loss of his Father.
- Excited about the direction the town is headed, although there has been some growing pains with the new Council, everything has started to come together.

Councilman Baughman made the following remarks:

- Extended his condolences to Rich McKenrick and his family on the loss of his Father.
- Congratulated the Blythewood Minors Baseball team on going to the Dixie Youth World Series.

G. Mayor Franklin made the following remarks:

- Extended his thoughts and prayers to Rich McKenrick and his family on the loss of his Father
- Said Melissa Cowan will be extremely missed and she was a great employee. Wishes her the best in her future endeavors.
- Congratulated Blythewood Dixie Youth Minor league team on winning the State Championship and advanced to the Dixie Youth World Series.
- Received many positive remarks on the July 4 celebration. Said it continues to get better and better each year.
- Attended the MASC event down in Charleston, SC. There were great networking opportunities and was able to learn a lot on what other towns around the state are doing.

H. Town Administrator's Report

- Melissa Cowan's last day was Friday. We are currently advertising for her position. Julie and Onye did some business license training today.
- Town received a \$250,000 grant from the State for parks security and improvement. Also, found out today that the town will receive a \$500,000 grant to improve the athletic fields.
- Still searching for additional security in the park.
- The zip line for the park will be here in early August. The shade structure for the park is still 8 weeks out.
- Planning commission did not meet this month but the BAR did approve a new commercial building on Wilson Blvd.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Brock requested to make an amendment to TC minutes of June 27, 2022. On page 4 the minutes state that Councilman Brock recused himself from Action Item C, at 7:39pm, it should be Action Item D and should be moved to page 5 before second reading of ordinance 2020.008. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Griffin. **All in favor; 4-0**

II. **PRESENTATION**

A. ReadyOp Software for Emergency Communications to the Town

Councilman Griffin gave remarks about the recent I-77 chemical spill and stated that the town does not have any ways to inform the public whenever these issues may arise. ReadyOp Software will give notification to citizens about pertinent information regarding emergency communications within the Town of Blythewood. The software is optional and allows the citizens to "opt in" if they wish. ReadyOp is used by many Federal agencies.

All Councilman gave positive remarks regarding this software. Wanted to reiterate that it will be "opt in" and not mandatory for citizens.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

Citizens Testimony Regarding Action Items (As item is presented)

A. **SECOND READING**

Discussion and Approval of **Ordinance 2022.011** To Provide for an Amendment to the Installment Purchase Plan of Finance Relating to Certain Capital Projects in the Town; and Other Related Matters

Councilman Brock made a motion to approve second reading of Ordinance 2022.011. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. **All if favor; 4-0**

- B. Discussion and Approval of the Use of Funds from the Community Promotions Account of the General Fund to Cover Rental Costs of Doko Meadows Park field for local sports organizations

Discussion amongst the Council was about the hourly rate and what the new rates should be. Council agreed that the current \$50.00 an hour rate was too high and not in line with other local municipalities.

Gina Dow spoke on behalf of the Blythewood Football Program. She was unable to attend the last meeting due to an emergency and she thanked the Town for their monetary contributions over the years. Would be happy and thankful with whatever financial contributions the Town can make.

Founder of the Blythewood Soccer program, Frank Cahoon, thanked the Town for the graciousness of the Town over the years. Fields that they use elsewhere are much cheaper and one field they use that has lights is just \$10.00 an hour. At \$50.00 an hour rate, it would take 30% of their budget just for field rentals. He agrees that they should pay to use the fields but think \$50.00 is just way to high compared to everywhere else.

Councilman Brock expressed concerns and asked to defer this to the Joint TC/PC meeting in August.

- C. Discussion and Approval of the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Bylaws and Appointment of Committee Members

Carroll Williamson stated that staff would like to establish term limits for the seats on the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. Staff recommends approving the Rules and Procedures and the roster and term limits.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to approve the State Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Bylaws and Appointment of Committee Members. Councilman Brock recommended amending that motion to remove the title Cultural Liaison from Chris White. Councilman Griffin accepted that change. Mayor Franklin seconded the motion. **All in favor; 4-0**

- D. Hospitality Tax Final Report- 2022 Doko Rodeo

Carroll Williamson gave gate numbers for the Doko Rodeo and where the attendees came from based on a zip code sheet at the front gate. Estimated attendance was 6,000. On Friday, 73% of the attendees came from 25 miles or more and on Saturday 78% came from 25 miles or more. Doko Rodeo is here tonight is to request the final 20% of the allocated amount of \$25,000.

Councilman Brock asked Buck Coggins how they collected the zip code data. Buck Coggins said there were four people at the gate collecting that data.

Councilman Griffin stated that the Blythewood Rodeo made around \$23,000. Buck Coggins said it was a perfect storm with weather, people wanting to get out, and good ticket sales. Buck Coggins read off Facebook comments from the Blythewood Rodeo page. There were several positive comments about the rodeo and Blythewood. The money that is brought in from the rodeo is put back into the rodeo for various needs.

Councilman Baughman made a motion to approve the final 20% of funds to be released. Mayor Franklin seconded the motion. **The motion failed with a vote of 2-2.**

- E. Hospitality Tax Final Report- 2022 Ribfest

The two day estimated attendance for the Ribfest was 1500-2000. Due to the rain, the zip code sheet were left illegible. Councilman Griffin asked Phil Frye to explain the number on revenue and expenses.

Councilman Brock made a motion to adjourn for a ten-minute recess. Mayor Franklin seconded the motion. **All in favor; 4-0**

Carroll Williamson said the Ribfest did use the money appropriately and the receipts and spreadsheet matched. Phil Frye wanted to note that the weather was brutal. It was very cold, wet, and windy which affected the attendance. Councilman Brock asked if they have ever thought about a makeup date for weather. Phil Frye said that it was not feasible because there are other rib contests elsewhere and people are already booked. Phil Frye said all debts have been paid.

Councilman Griffin made a motion to postpone the vote to get more details. Mayor Franklin seconded the motion. **The motion failed with a vote of 2-2.**

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Per SC Section 30-4-70**

At 7:52 p.m. Councilman Griffin made a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Brock seconded the motion. **All in favor; 4-0**

- A. Receipt of legal advice subject to attorney-client privilege regarding the contractual terms associated with the potential acquisition of real property.
- B. Receipt of legal advice subject to attorney-client privilege regarding claims and potential claims by and against the Town.
- C. Discussion of employment of a person to a public body- Town Clerk

V. **RECONVENE**

Councilman Griffin made a Motion to reconvene at 8:21 pm. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Brock. **All in favor; 4-0**

VI. **ITEMS REQUIRING A VOTE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Brock made a motion for the Town Administrator to conduct interviews and bring up to three candidates to fill the Town Clerk position. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. **All in favor; 4-0**

VII. **OPEN CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Griffin. **All in favor; 4-0**

Respectfully submitted,



Carroll Williamson, Town Administrator