

**BLYTHEWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**THE MANOR**

100 ALVINA HAGOOD CIRCLE

BLYTHEWOOD, SC 29016

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

6:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Eddie Baughman, Mayor Pro Tem  
Sloan Griffin  
Rich McKenrick  
Donald Brock  
Bryan Franklin, Mayor

**Staff Present**

Carroll Williamson, Town Admin  
Ginny Dupont, Town Attorney  
Onye Cosom, Marketing  
Sharon Durst, Town Clerk

**Members Absent**

None

**Staff Absent**

None

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bryan Franklin at 6:00 PM.

A. ROLL CALL

All Councilmen were present.

B. NOTIFICATION AND POSTING OF THE MEETING AGENDA

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

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Councilman E. Baughman made a Motion to approve the agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman McKenrick. All in favor; 5-0**

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. INVOCATION

Councilman Griffin gave the invocation.

## F.COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMARKS

Councilman D. Brock made the following remarks:

- Taco Bell and Frank's Car Wash are coming along, and they welcome continued economic development within the Town.
- He along with Councilman Griffin, Senator Scott and First Lady Baron attended the 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Little Zion Baptist Church. Pastor and First Lady Davis were very welcoming.
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. he and Councilman McKenrick would be hosting an informal town hall event to discuss the re-drafting of A-Tax and A-Tax policies and applications. The meeting is opened to the public specifically requesting those individuals who have received Town monies within the last three years or those who may wish to apply in future years attend.
- Offered his thanks on behalf of the various constituents that he spoke with in Oakhurst about the top-notch response by Richland County Emergency Responders in regards to the active shooting hoax at Blythewood High School.

Councilman E. Baughman made the following remarks:

- Fall Festival at Sandy Level Church is Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. He will be grilling 300 hotdogs and they are free. He invited everyone to be his guest.
- He attended the 2nd annual Car Show and Freedom Fest at the Lake Wateree VFW. Over 70 vehicles and motorcycles were in attendance. Freedom Fest for the children, there was face painting and bouncy houses.
- Reminder of the Veteran's Day celebration at Doko Manor Park on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Also, October Fest is that Friday on November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Veteran's Day 5K race on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the front of Lincoln and Green streets.

Councilman S. Griffin made the following remarks:

- Reminder to everyone that early voting started November 24<sup>th</sup> and he challenges everyone to exercise the right to vote and find someone and take them to the polls. He has spoken with some local legislators to get voting polls closer to Blythewood.
- Met with the General Manager and her staff of Home 2 Suites. Very nice hotel and good addition to the town.
- He also attended the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Little Zion Baptist Church. Very welcoming.
- Thanked the First Responders, fire and sheriff's departments for the response to the Blythewood High School active shooter hoax. Being a former fireman and an emergency manager, he knows how important it is to plan for these types of emergencies.
- Updates on transportation and infrastructure within the town; Public comments for project on the study for Blythewood and Langford Roads ends on November 25<sup>th</sup>. After the 2nd and final reading, the vote will go to SCDOT for the Commissioners to vote on it in December. Once voted on updates will be provided.
- TAP grant application will be opened the first week of November.
- Wished his son Tristan a happy 3rd birthday.

Councilman R. McKenrick

- Attended a meeting downtown to discuss the McNulty Road improvements. Richland County awaiting proposals from SCDOT on the suggestions made from the meeting.
- November 17<sup>th</sup>, he attended TPAC monthly meeting. Continued updates were given on the various projects funded by the Penny Tax and all three Blythewood Road projects.
- Stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming rodeo.

## G.MAYOR FRANKLIN'S REMARKS

- The town had two near misses; Hurricane Ian and the active shooter hoax at Blythewood High School. He commended Sheriff Leon Lott, Capt. Duke and Richland School District Two for their response to the active shooter hoax
- Asked the Town Administrator to reach out to Capt. Duke and invite him to be the honorary tree lighter for this year's tree lighting ceremony
- Made note that previously Councilman Brock had spoken on A-Tax and H-tax , citizen input is needed to get a solid policy
- October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6p.m. Home 2 Suites will have their ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by The Chamber of Commerce
- November 12<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Celebration at Doko Meadows Park
- November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October Fest will be held at Doko Meadows Park
- November 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Range Fore Hope King for a Day Golf Tournament at Cobblestone Park
- November 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council and Planning Commission joint meeting
- November 21<sup>st</sup> Town Council monthly meeting
- December 28<sup>th</sup> Town Council monthly meeting

## H. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Board of Architecture Review approved a certificate of appropriateness for the combat Veterans Memorial and deferred the decision on the proposed townhomes on Langford Road because of a request to modify the design of the structures.
- The November 14th meeting with the Planning Commission he will be conducting some training to review the Commission's role in approving subdivisions.
- Moving forward on installing artificial turf on the playground in the park. Will be finalizing on receiving quotes to present at the November's Town Council meeting.

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(TC Meeting 9-26-22)

**Councilman McKenrick made a motion to approve Councilman Baughman's request to make an amendment to TC minutes of September 26, 2022. On Councilman Baughman's remarks it states that Daniel Stover was the chaplain of the VFW, it should state that Daniel Stover is the chaplain of the American Legion Post 130. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Griffin. All in favor; 5-0**

## II. APPOINTMENTS

**Councilman Griffin made a Motion to approve the appointment of Sharon Durst as Town Clerk, The Motion was seconded by Councilman McKenrick. All in favor; 5-0**

## III. PROCLAMATIONS

A. American Pharmacists Month

Mayor Franklin presented a proclamation declaring the month of October as American Pharmacist Month in the Town of Blythewood

B. 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Little Zion Baptist Church

Mayor Franklin read a proclamation in recognition of Little Zion Baptist Church 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary and recognizing the service of Pastor Eddie W. Davis and First Lady Davis.

IV. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Update on the 2022 Blythewood Christmas Parade and Christkindl Market by Mr. Phil Frye, Executive Director of the Greater Blythewood Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Phil Frye gave an update on the plans and changes for the 2022 Blythewood Christmas Parade.

V. **ACTION ITEMS**

**Citizens Testimony Regarding Action Items (As item is presented)**

A. **FIRST READING**

Discussion and Approval of **Ordinance 2022.015** An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 2013.019 – An Ordinance to Prescribe Term Limits for the Mayor and Town Council Members

Town Administrator Williamson stated that the that SC Attorney General issued an opinion in 2010 stating that only the S.C. Attorney General could establish term limits for elected officials in the state. He also indicated that the new ordinance would bring the town's ordinance into conformity with the Attorney General's opinion and that the Municipal Association of South Carolina provided a letter supporting the repeal. Councilman Baughman stated that he was a sitting council member during that vote and that going into the vote it was known that the Attorney General had issued an opinion that it wouldn't be legal. There was still a need to vote by Town Council and although the mayor and sitting councilman at the time knew it was not technically enforceable, the vote still passed 3-2. Councilman Brock asked if the ordinance was never codified and it's not on the books were the Council repealing an ordinance that isn't an ordinance or if the Council were repealing the action taken by the council repealing the vote. Councilman McKenrick also noted that the Council's meeting packet contained a copy of Ordinance 2013.019 which included wording that stated "whereas, the town attorney has advised the mayor and town council that the S.C Attorney General's office has rendered an opinion which concludes that term limits are not authorized by the state law." Mr. Williamson asked the town attorney to comment and Ginny Merck- DuPont stated that best practice would be to repeal the standing ordinance whether it was codified or not.

**Citizens Testimony Regarding Action Item A**

Mr. Ed Garrison addressed the Council. He stated the ordinance created some discussion and conflict in terms of interpretation. Mr. Garrison also stated that he believes the term limits need to be discussed and that a rotation on the Council would mean fresh ideas and enlightenment in terms that positions are not being camped out in after serving more than two years. Mr. Garrison recommended that Council be creative and come up with an alternative solution that would help people keep their interest to do two terms and move on

**Councilman Brock made a motion to request a roll call vote. A roll call vote was taken; Mayor Franklin-Yes, Councilman E. Baughman –Yes, Councilman R. McKenrick -Yes Councilman S. Griffin-Abstain, Councilman D. Brock-Abstain, and The Motion passed with a vote of 3-0**

**B. Discussion and Approval of FY23 Local Accommodations Tax Final Report- SC Women’s Golf Tournament**

**a. FY 2022. "SC Women’s Golf Tournament”**

- i. . Requesting organization/person: SC Women’s Golf Association
- ii. Person submitting report: Clarissa Childs
- iii. Dates of event: August 11-14, 2022
- iv. Total HTAX amount awarded:\$25,000 (80% paid = \$20,000)
- v. 20% amount if approved: \$5000
- vi. Reported Revenue: \$57,855, Expenses: \$51,926.08

**b. Highlights from Report**

- i. 4 Day format estimated attendance -1,630+
- ii. Approximately 47.3% of revenue came from LAT funds, with the other 52.7% coming from entry fees, sponsorships, mulligan packets etc.
- iii. Major expense included the event venue, marketing and hotels.
- iv. Zip code analysis revealed that 80% of attendees traveled greater than 50 miles for the event and stayed approximately 4 days on average including family and players.
- v. The marketing campaign included both digital and print ads, social media campaigns, radio promotions, and television promotions.
- vi. All LAT funds were expended properly. Receipts and proofs of payments were provided.

**Councilman Baughman made a Motion to approve the remaining 20% Local Accommodations Tax to the SC Women’s Golf Tournament. The Motion was seconded by Councilman McKenrick. All in favor; 5-0**

**C .Discussion and Approval of the FY23 Hospitality Tax Final Report- Range Fore Hope King for a Day Golf Tournament**

**c. FY 2022. "**

- i. Requesting organization/person: Range Fore Hope
- ii. Person submitting report: Alvin King
- iii. Dates of event: September 12, 2022
- iv. Total HTAX amount awarded:\$10,192 (80% paid = \$8153.60)
- v. 20% amount if approved: \$ 2038.40
- vi. Reported Revenue: \$31,098 Expenses: \$24,755

**d. Highlights from Report**

- i. 1 day format, estimated attendance - 144
- ii. Approximately 41% of revenue came from HTAX funds, with the other 59% coming from participants, sponsorships, silent auctions etc..
- iii. Major expense included the Cobblestone’s venue, food and beverage fees.
- iv. Zip code analysis revealed that 89.6% of attendees were tourist from Blythewood.

- v. .
- vi. The marketing campaign included both print ads, ranging from banners to yard signs All HTAX funds were expended properly. Receipts and proof of payments were provided.

**Councilman Griffin made a Motion to approve the remaining 20% Hospitality Tax to Range Fore Hope. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Baughman. All in favor; 5-0**

D. Discussion and Approval of the Overall Design and Concept of the Combat Veterans Memorial

Mr. Williamson stated that The Blythewood Historical Society is seeking approval from Town Council on the design and concept of the proposed Combat Veterans Memorial. This design has received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Board of Architectural Review, with the stipulation that the poles for the service flags be removable, the American flag be lit, and that the pathway lighting be provided.

Mr. Jim McLean addressed the Council and stated that they are seeking three things:

- Approval of the design
- Location of the monument
- Support in assisting in the funding of this memorial

There was some discussion on funding and Mr. McLean stated that once the overall design was approved he could then go out and seek funding for the memorial.

**Councilman S. Griffin made a Motion to approve the Overall Design and Concept of the Veterans Memorial. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Brock. All in favor; 5-0**

E. **SECOND READING**

Discussion and Approval of **Ordinance 2022.014** An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map and Zoning District Classification for Tax Parcels R15100-03-06, R15100-03-05(partial), R15100-02-01(partial) and R15100-01-06(partial) located on Community Road and Blythewood Road from TC Town Center District to L1-2 Limited Industrial Two District.

Town Administrator Williamson stated that there were no changes since the first reading.

Councilman Griffin asked would the 300 ft approved in the first reading be enough space with the future road infrastructure improvements along Blythewood Road. He stated that he would like to see that doubled.

Mr. Davenport addressed the Council and stated that without exhibits his recollection of discussions with the engineers shows the improvements being made at 350 ft. If that were to double it goes into property that's valuable as industrial property that is retail or commercial. The thought process was to leave adequate retail commercial property in place for Town Center activities.

**Councilman Brock made a motion to approve the second reading. Councilman Baughman seconded. Councilman Griffin opposed. The Motion passed with a vote of 4-1**

F. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022.013 An Ordinance Amending Section 93.03 of the Town's Code of Ordinance in order to establish new fees for the use of Doko Manor and Doko Meadows Park.

Town Administrator Williamson stated that there were no changes since the first reading. Mr.

Williamson noted that if approved the fees would go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> , 2023.

**Councilman Brock made a motion to approve the second reading. Councilman Baughman seconded. All in favor: 5-0.**

G. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Design and Redesign of the Doko Meadows Park athletic fields.

There was some discussion on the design and how much field space would there be with bleachers. A suggestion was made to have portable bleachers. Mayor Franklin noted that the drawing was just a sketch on how to configure the athletic fields. Mr. Williamson asked the council if they would like a specific workshop dedicated to this project. Mayor Franklin suggested a joint planning session to get the Planning Commission approval as well.

**Councilman Brock made a motion to defer the possible approval of the Design and Redesign of the Doko Meadows Park athletic fields to the November 14<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Councilman Griffin seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0**

**VI. OPEN CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Garrison addressed the Council. He applauded the Council and Town on their support of veterans through the many organizations, activities and recognition of people for their service.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Per SC Section 30-4-70**

A. Receipt of legal advice subject to attorney-client privilege regarding claims and potential claims by and against the Town.

**Councilman Baughman made a motion to go into executive session following a 10 minute recess. Councilman McKenrick seconded the motion. All in favor: 5-0.** Town Council went into executive session at 7:38p.m.

**VIII. RECONVENE**

Mayor Franklin resumed open session at 8:05 p.m.

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

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilman Brock made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Griffin seconded. All in favor: 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Durst*

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Sharon Durst, Town Clerk