

— South Carolina —
SPRINGDALE

MINUTES

Town Council Work Session
Wednesday, January 19th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

The media and public were duly notified of the date, time, and place of this meeting. A quorum was present.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson, Councilmembers Fecas, Hook, Reeley, Hallman and Wilbourne.

COUNCIL ABSENT: Mayor Juston Ricard.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator Ashley Watkins, Municipal Clerk Leann Eden, Police Captain Chris Manuel, Public Works Supervisor Kevin White, and Attorney Sierra Carini.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present. Councilmember Hallman provided the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Consent Agenda

Council unanimously approved the January 19th, 2022 Work Session Agenda.

III. Items for Discussion

- A. Noise Ordinance. Councilmember Reeley stated that he requested this item to be added to the agenda due to complaints he has received from residents. He stated that he has reviewed the ordinance and believes it to be relatively solid. Councilmember Fecas asked Captain Manuel what measure is used to consider a violation. Captain Manuel stated that reasonableness is the measure for noise ordinance violations, as is with multiple other statutes. He stated that the noise has been investigated and is not a violation.
- B. American Rescue Plan. Administrator Watkins explained the recently published final rules of the American Rescue Plan Act. She covered how the new standard allowance allows for funding of the new municipal complex project. Councilmember Hook stated that the municipal complex project and other infrastructure projects seem like a worthy use of funds, but he would like more time to research the best use of funds. Councilmember Hallman asked about the monthly balance on the sewer note and if a ballpark estimate of finishing the sewer is available. Administrator Watkins stated that the monthly bill is approximately \$8766.00 and that multiple individuals were supposed to reach out to American Engineering, but she has not heard anything yet. She also stated that according to Jeff Shacker with the Municipal Association, there is an infrastructure bill in the works that will bring funding to Springdale that can be used on the sewer expansion project. Councilmember Wilbourne asked how much it would cost to complete the Municipal Complex project and if the plans have been finalized. Administrator Watkins stated that it is right over one million dollars and plans have been completed. She also stated that Mayor Ricard discussed the possibility of demolishing the former Jewelry Warehouse building and starting from the ground up. Councilmember Wilbourne stated that he would be in favor of spending the money on the Municipal Complex project but not starting from the ground up. Councilmember Fecas stated that she spent a

long time researching uses for the funds. She discussed her previous inquiries for uses, and stated that there are no blighted areas in Town that would need the funds and broadband access is widely available to residents. She stated that she concurs with Administrator Watkins' assessment of using the funds for the Municipal Complex project. Councilmember Fecas asked if the standard allowance for lost revenue of 1.3 million is claimed, does the Municipal Complex project have to fit the parameters of the Public Health and Economic Impacts feature allowed by the final rule. Administrator Watkins stated it is her understanding that it would not. Councilmember Fecas stated that if justification is required, the community center could be justified by reporting it could be used to administer vaccines, and for students to complete homework. She stated that she believes employees deserve bonuses when appropriate, but premium pay is very specific. There was a discussion of the Municipal Association's definition of essential employees and essential work. She stated that she is still not agreeable with paying premium pay to Administrative Staff. Administrator Watkins stated that she respects Councilmember Fecas' opinion but does not agree with her because the final rule explains who qualifies for premium pay and the work done by the Administrative staff falls into the parameters of the final rule. Councilmember Reeley asked if the funds could be used for enhancing the Town's greenways or street lights. Administrator Watkins stated that it is a possibility, but it would be a better use of funds to focus on infrastructure, premium pay, and the Municipal Complex project. Councilmember Hook suggested using the money that is already budgeted for the Municipal Complex project to pay off the current sewer note if the ARP funds are used for the project, and then the sewer expansion project can be ventured into. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson stated that his first priority would be premium pay; in order to take care of the staff members that were doing what was asked of them. He explained that his second priority would be to allocate funds to the Municipal Complex project. He stated that the sewer note can be paid off as soon as possible, and then expansion could be performed section by section. Councilmember Fecas stated that if the funds have no strings attached, she is less worried about premium pay. Council agreed to place a vote for the use of ARP funds for premium pay and the Municipal Complex project on February's Regular Council Meeting agenda. Council agreed to apply for other funding opportunities for the sewer expansion project. Administrator Watkins suggested working with Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc. to come up with a project for sewer expansion to be submitted to the Lexington County Capital Project Sales Tax Program.

- C. Lexington County Capital Project Sales Tax Program. Council discussed projects for submission to the Lexington County Capital Project Sales Tax Program. Projects discussed included a litter catch being placed in the creek at Crest Drive, a debris trap to catch sediment flowing into Huffstetler Pond from the the upper ponds, Kitty Hawk Drive sidewalk extension, storm water issues, maintenance on Town-owned Silstar Road, and sewer expansion. Council agreed to focus on sewer expansion, storm water issues, and road maintenance on Silstar Road for submissions to the program. Council discussed meeting with Lexington School District Two regarding a partnership for the Kitty Hawk sidewalk extension, and resubmitting the project to the Lexington County Community Development Block Grant.
- D. Residential Rental Registration. Council agreed to postpone discussion to the next Work Session.

IV. Town Council Reports

- A. Parrish Plantation. Councilmember Fecas discussed a concerned resident contacting her regarding issues with the pond. She stated that she had the resident contact Administrator Watkins directly. Councilmember Fecas stated that liason roles within Council need to be discussed soon. She suggested that Council needs a retreat to review the Master Plan, and suggested that the incoming intern could assist with the writing. She stated that she never received a copy of the Rules of

Procedure, and requested Administrator Watkins to provide a copy for everyone. She stated that Lexington County Council is meeting to update their animal control ordinance to prohibit dogs from being chained up in yards with no shelter and water. Administrator Watkins stated that since Springdale has adopted the Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance, any amendments the County makes would need to be adopted as well. She discussed the need to promote physical activity in the master plan. She concluded by stating she would like to revisit discussion on abandoned properties within Town.

- B. DOT. Administrator Watkins stated that Public Works Supervisor Kevin White will be the point of contact for reporting issues to DOT and obtaining updates from DOT.
- C. Elected Officials. Councilmember Fecas informed Council that the Lexington County Municipal Association has a meeting via Zoom on January 20th, 2022.

V. Adjourn

Council, on motion of Councilmember Reeley, seconded by Councilmember Hallman, voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Jacob Wilkerson, Mayor Pro Tempore

Attest:

Leeann Eden, Municipal Clerk