

THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 4, 2024 - 6:30 P.M.

Town of Olanta Town Hall

103 Park Avenue, Olanta, SC 29114

PRESENT:

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

Josh Jones, Council Member

Leighann Beard

Marsha Jordan

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a notice of the regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council was posted on the door of the Olanta Town Hall. A notice of the regular meeting was also provided to members of the public requesting copies.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Welch called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Council Member Beard gave the invocation. Mayor Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA-THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for the January 4, 2024, regular town council meeting. Council Member Beard made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The agenda for the January 4, 2024, meeting was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 02, 2023, REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Welch requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023, regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Jones made a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023, regular meeting of Council Member Beard seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Special Recognition

Yard of the month: Celistia Mckenzie – 133 Augusta St.

Old Business

A. SRF GRANT 210006-04 LEAD/COPPER LINE INVENTORY

Mayor Welch informed the council that the engineering phase of the project is finished. Next phase is bidding. Bidding should start in February.

B. SCIIP GRANT A-23-C154 WATER EXPANSION UPDATE

Mayor Welch informed the council that the project should go out for bids in April 2024.

C. COMMUNITY CENTER

Mayor Welch informed the council that the steel frame is up. A generator has been added to the plans so the building can act as a storm shelter. The estimated time of completion is April 2024.

D. USDA GRANT FOR SEWER JETTER

Mayor Welch informed the Council that the paperwork is completed. Waiting on delivery

E. CDBG Grant – Gathering Spot

Mayor Welch informed the council that there was a meeting with Kim Etheridge in Dec. 2023. Ideas for the plan were submitted. Should be completed by June.

E. POLICE TRUCK PURCHASE AND EQUIPMENT UPDATE.

Mayor Welch informed the council that a new police vehicle has been purchased using a grant from Senator Reichenbach's office. The vehicle is being upfitted at this time.

New Business

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION-COMPESATION INCREASE DISCUSSION

Mayor and Council entered an Executive Session.

Mayor and Council exited the Executive Session.

B. SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Welch requested nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Beard nominated current Mayor Pro-Tem, Levi Mims. Mayor Welch requested a motion to reinstate Mayor Pro-Tem, Levi Mims. Council Member Jones made a motion to reinstate Levi Mims as Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Jordan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. SELECTION OF TOWN ATTORNEY

Mayor Welch requested a motion to retain the current town attorney, Mr. Jim Peterson, as the town attorney. Council member Beard made a motion to retain

Mr. Jim Peterson as the town attorney. Council member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. SELECTION OF TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Mayor Welch requested a motion to retain the current town accounting firm, Harper, Poston, Moree. Council Member Beard made a motion to retain Harper, Poston, Moree as the town accounting firm. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. OLD LIBRARY APPRAISAL

The library was appraised at \$20,000.00. Mayor Welch put before the council whether to sell or not. The Mayor and Council agreed to put the library on the market for \$50,000.00. It will be listed with Ken Coker

F. PROPERTY -04610-03-016 AND 04610-03-014 \$25,000.00

Mayor Welch informed the council that the taxes were paid to keep the property out of a tax sale. The cost will be \$25,000.00 to purchase the property. It will be free to have it cleaned up. The town will transfer the property to Florence County in exchange for the Fire Station on the corner of Jones Rd. and Main St.

G. MAYOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

See attached.

H. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

1. Water & Sewer Report – Mayor reported that we are down to one pump at Avondale
2. Public Safety – Chief Barfield reported that there has been some disturbances on Red Rd. The Chief also would like to hire a part time officer soon.
3. Grants & Economic Development Report. No report
4. Events Report
 - a. Gator Festival meeting set for Jan 16, 2024 @ 6:30
 - b. Future plans for events on Main Street. Thursday Night Live will kick off on April 25, 2024. Mayor is looking into Movies on Main.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tony Felder asked about the management of the Community Center when it opens.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Welch asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Jordan made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Beard seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the vote, and the meeting was adjourned.