

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2009

6:00 PM

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

Councilman Cole was sworn in by his brother Keith Cole.

A motion was made by Councilman Looper to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Middleton. The vote carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to amend the agenda to allow the auditors presentation to be presented at the beginning of the meeting before public comments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harvell. The vote carried.

Mike Downing with Greene, Finney, and Horton presented the June 2008 audit. The key highlights mention were the town was given an unqualified opinion, which is good. The general fund is strong, but the water/sewer fund is struggling financially due to the engineering cost of the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The internal control issues need to be addressed.

Public comments were heard from Pam Owens requesting use of town hall on September 12, 2009 instead of June 13, 2009 for the Williamston Historic commission. She also asked the council to consider displaying a quilt made and donated to the Save the Hut Committee by Sylvia Loskoskwi in town hall. She said it would be protected in a glass case.

A motion was made by Councilman Looper to amend the agenda and to vote to allow the Williamston Historic Commission use of town hall, and also for the quilt to be displayed somewhere in town hall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cole. The vote carried.

Public comments were also heard from Allen Ashley, he wanted to invite the town to the unveiling of the cannon at the Battle of Anderson County. It will be on March 27, 28, 29, 2009 at 11:00 am. This will be located at 715 Due West Road in Honea Path.

A motion was made by Councilman Looper to discuss funding for the Spring Water Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilman Middleton. The vote carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to table this item until the next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harvell. The vote carried.

Mayor Crout appointed Councilman Cole and Councilman Looper to attend the meeting with the Spring Water Festival Committee and bring back their recommendations to council.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to discuss funding for the Southern Hospitality Ball from the hospitality tax. The motion was seconded by Councilman Looper. The vote carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to table this item until the next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Looper. The vote carried.

Mayor Crout appointed himself and Councilman Harvell to attend the Williamston Historic Committee meeting concerning the Southern Ball on March 10, 2009 at 6:00 pm at town hall and bring back their recommendations to council.

The Mayor presented the council with new forms to be completed by individuals requesting town funds. This was for information only.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to pass a resolution for custody of the cannon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harvell. The vote carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to have first reading on a sewer rate increase to compensate for a 5 million dollar loan, with the terms being 40 years at a 3.65% interest rate. The base rate will go up \$4.49 for the base rate to be \$21.83 on the first 2000 gallons. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cole. The vote carried. Councilman Harvell opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to have first reading on a 4% water rate increase. Anderson Regional Joint Water is raising their rates on water purchased by the town. The average bill will increase .86 cents on the minimum usage. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cole. The vote carried. Councilman Harvell opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Looper to purchase a fold & seal machine for the water bills. The amount for this machine is \$3995. The motion was seconded by Councilman Middleton. The vote carried.

Mayor Crout asked David Meade with The Journal to repeat a reminder in the weekly paper that the new rates for turn offs, and returned checks will go into effect March 15, 2009.

Councilman Middleton asked the town to please remember Will Drake's family in their prayers. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence and prayer in his honor.

A motion was made by Councilman Looper to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Middleton. The vote carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.