

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
DECEMBER 03, 2012  
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Crout. Councilman Hagood gave the Invocation and the mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilmen were present.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to accept the minutes from the November 5, 2012 meeting. All voted in favor.

Public comments were given by Pam Owens, Mike Looper, Roger Fields, and Dr. Mack Durham.

**BUSINESS LICENSE AMENDING ORDINANCE** Mayor Crout made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend the business license ordinance provisions concerning insurance companies. All voted in favor.

**CDBG GRANT STATUS UPDATE** Mayor Crout said that the town received one bid for the work to upgrade the sewer lines and it was \$30,000 over budget. Mayor Crout made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to re-bid the project. All voted in favor.

**GRAY DRIVE BRIDGE STATUS** Mayor Crout said that the bridge is not in the town and it is the county's problem, but council should make a recommendation to the county. Councilman Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to go into executive session to discuss any contractual issues. All voted in favor.

Councilman Looper made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to return to public session. All voted in favor. Mayor Crout stated that no action was taken. He further stated that the contractual issue was between the county and the railroad and not the town. Councilman Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to recommend that the bridge be made serviceable. All voted in favor.

**GRANT FROM CINDY WILSON** Mayor Crout announced that Cindy Wilson has given the town \$10,000 from Anderson County stipulated for replacing the fence around the spring with an ornamental iron fence and upgrades to deteriorating old gazebos. Mayor Crout made a motion seconded by Councilman Durham to accept the grant. All voted in favor.

**ADMINISTRATOR POSITION FUNDING** Councilman Durham stated that in the interest of achieving our financial goals for the second half of our fiscal year, he made a motion to defund the Administrator's position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Looper. During discussion Councilman Durham said that the town is headed for a

deficit of \$230,000 and that we need to make some spending changes and cuts. He further stated he would rather make those changes in ways that would not affect services. It is his opinion that the town could absorb the responsibilities of the administrator position in other positions and not affect services. He went on to say that if this is not passed that up to 3 other positions possibly service related would need to be cut. Mayor Crout stated that the \$230,000 was for the parking lot out back of town hall and that council had approved that expenditure. Councilman Durham also said that tightening our belt, cutting expenses, finding grant monies, or raising taxes were ways of making up the deficit. Councilman Looper said that the Administrator had done a good job and then quoted Councilman Middleton who said before the administrator was hired that "hopefully they would work themselves out of a job in 2 or 3 years". Councilman Durham said that his motion was not due to the quality of Administrator Lollis' work but just a mathematical fact that he does not believe we can afford this position. Councilman Hagood suggested that cuts first be made on council salaries and insurance. The motion to defund the administrator's position did not carry by a vote of 2 to 3 with Councilman Durham and Councilman Looper in favor.

#### SPENDING LIMITS

Councilman Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to limit spending outside of our schedule A expenses not to include employee Christmas bonuses and for amounts over \$750 to require approval of council. Mayor Crout said we would continue making payments for our contractual as well as our waste water treatment plant obligations. The motion did not carry by a vote of 2 to 3 with Councilman Durham and Councilman Looper in favor.

#### HIRING / FIRING FREEZE

Councilman Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Looper to place a moratorium on hiring and firing until the new administration takes effect Jan 7th. Mayor Crout said he had no intention of making any changes this late in his administration because it would be foolish to do so when the new administration is the one who is going to work with the employees. The motion carried 3 to 2 with Mayor Crout and Councilman Harvell opposed.

Mayor Crout in his closing statement said he has enjoyed working for the town as Mayor for the last four years and two years before that as councilman. He said he leaves the town debt free. The only financial obligation of the town is the five million dollar loan/grant from RUS to upgrade the waste water treatment plant which was required by DHEC. The next meeting will be on January 7, 2013 under new leadership and a new council.

The mayor made a motion seconded by Councilman Durham to adjourn. All voted in favor. Adjournment was at 6:48 p.m.