

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2013
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Durham. Councilman Hagood gave the Invocation and ROTC cadet Marty Ford led the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilmen were present except for the Ward 2 seat which is vacant.

Councilman Scott made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2013 meeting. All voted in favor.

Police Chief Tony Taylor swore in a number of his officers. Sworn in were: Josh Rogers, Lauren Mulz, Melissa Simmons, Chris Whitfield, Alexis Eliopoulos, Kevin Winn, Lisa Ritter, Treaco Hoover, and Ronnie Drennon. Chief Taylor and Mayor Durham then presented a commendation to Officer Winn for his actions in recovering some stolen property and Officers Simmons and Hoover received a commendation for their actions of going above and beyond the call of duty to recover stolen property of a personal and sentimental nature in a wooded area.

Mayor Durham read a letter from DHEC which commended David Rogers and his crew regarding their quick actions, exceeding expectations, and protecting and insuring the safety of the town of Williamston's drinking water in response to a 12" water main break early in the morning on January 20, 2013. Mayor Durham recognized and presented commendations to: David Rogers, Jimmy Childs, Chris Guthrie, Terry Sheridan, John Owen, Chief Ellison, and Capt. Grubbs.

Councilman Hagood, chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. road dedication committee, gave a report on the status of the project. He said they met on Jan 23rd and have decided on 2' x 6' signs at two entrances to the street and two smaller signs at the midpoint. Coming from Pelzer, the sign would be a few feet from the town limits sign, and the second sign will be right in the curve by BB&T Bank. The signs will be typical green DOT signs with 6" reflective letters. Councilman Hagood said that would conclude phase 1 and they are going to be moving into phase 2 which will take a little more time and foot work.

Chief Ellison of the Fire Department reported on the open fire ordinance. He said the original ordinance dated from 1960 and had not been updated since. He said they have collected ordinances from nearby communities to look at and asked for a little more time to redo ours.

J. T. Gentry presented a preliminary proposal for his Eagle Scout project. He wants to dedicate his project in honor of Kenneth Bearden. He intends to place a bench and some shrubbery around the new gazebo and also have a plaque recognizing the project and its honoree. Mr. Gentry said the Springwater Committee has agreed to help out with the cost of the shrubbery but he will still need donations from the town for the bench and the plaque.

Public comments were given by W. L. Cantrell who announced this year's Pig in the Park will be on May 17th and 18th. Marnie Schwartz-Hanley presented her plans for helping needy people in the area through the Community Stop Gaps organization, located at 900 Greenville Dr., Williamston.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM	Mayor Durham asked for nominations for mayor pro tem. Councilman Hagood nominated Councilman Scott. All voted in favor.
SPECIAL ELECTION ORDINANCE SECOND READING	Councilman Scott made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to approve second reading of the special election ordinance to fill the Ward 2 Seat on April 2, 2013. All voted in favor.
PROCLAMATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH	Mayor Durham read a statement proclaiming February as Black History Month. A copy of the proclamation was given to all members (Ted Mattison, Councilman Hagood, Steve Ellison, and Mike Looper) of the MLK Memorial Drive Committee in recognition of their service on this project.
APPOINTMENT TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION	Mayor Durham made a motion to approve his appointment of Kelley Peden to the Election Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hagood. All voted in favor.
APPOINTMENTS TO ANDERSON REGIONAL JOINT WATER BOARD	Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Scott to appoint Mayor Durham as Commissioner and David Rogers as Alternate to the Anderson Regional Joint Water System board. All voted in favor.
ANNEXATION ORDINANCE FIRST READING	Councilman Scott made a motion seconded by Mayor Durham approve first reading to annex property located at 1503 Anderson Drive, TMS# 221-03-01-005 consisting of 1.03 acres more or less bordered by Foster Road and Highway 20 Connector. Councilman Harvell recused himself from voting due to his relationship to the property owners. All voted in favor.

Mayor Durham thanked the people of Williamston for their overwhelming show of support at the last meeting and read a statement about his goals and intentions of improving services at the very best cost. He first focused on the Police Department which has made a number of positive changes including walking about in the community. He further intends to work with each department in a similar fashion. Operationally, many management functions from the Administrative position have been moved back to the department heads to empower them to do their job without being micro-managed. He encouraged citizens to ask any of our employees how they feel our operations are going and encouraged employees to speak frankly and honestly to both him and our citizens. A goal setting retreat was held Saturday with Doug Burns from ACOG along with Council and department heads. The mayor said employee morale has already returned to a level not seen in years.

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