

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Durham. Reverend Baker gave the Invocation. ROTC Cadet Troy Mauldin led the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilmen were present.

Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to approve the minutes from the October 7th regular monthly meeting. All voted in favor.

Public comments were given by Otis Scott, Pam Owens, and Pam Childress.

Larry Finney from Greene, Finney & Horton presented the FY 2012 – 2013 audit results. He announced they gave the Town an “unmodified opinion” which replaces the “unqualified opinion” used in previous years and that it is the best opinion anyone could get.

Kellie Lancaster from the Career and Technology Center introduced three students who would be interning with the Town for a few weeks.

Mike Gowan gave an update on the Veterans Day Parade which will be November 9th at 1:00 pm.

Chief Ellison gave an update on the new fire truck purchase and showed some pictures of its present build status as well as examples of similar trucks already built.

Chief Taylor gave reports on police activities and the Police Citizens Academy that he is planning for January 2014.

Councilman Harvell gave a report on community safety. Chief Barr also gave a report on EMS activities.

Councilman Scott gave an update on community clean-up. He said they were planning to divide the Wards into smaller sections and start the program in February.

Councilman Hagood gave an update on naming a section of Hamilton Street as a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. and said he hoped to have a dedication ceremony on January 21, 2014 which is Mr. King’s birthday. The ceremony would be at the Palmetto Primary field.

Councilman Burgess is working on cleaning up wording in the Town ordinances and plans on meeting with the Planning Commission on November 21st.

Marnie Schwartz-Hanley presented information about an assistance program (sponsored by the United Way) that she is directing out of an office in the Town Hall.

David Meade said that the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to move a memorial from in front of the amphitheater to a different location and also widen the amphitheater to allow for bigger events.

Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters. All voted in favor. Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Hagood to return to regular session. All voted in favor. The mayor stated that no action was taken.

VOTE ON CHURCH
REQUEST FOR USE
OF AUDITORIUM

Richard Thompson worded a motion to amend Paragraph 5 of the memorandum of understanding with Revive church which would require the church to clean up after their meeting. Mayor Durham stated that was his motion and Councilman Hagood seconded. The motion carried with Councilman Harvell and Councilman Scott opposed. Mr. Thompson again worded a second motion with various changes. Councilman Burgess made that a motion and Councilman Hagood seconded. The motion carried with Councilman Harvell and Councilman Scott opposed. The mayor directed Mr. Thompson to put this in the form of a lease agreement for Revive Church to consider.

SECOND READING
OF RULES OF
COUNCIL

Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Burgess to approve second reading on the rules of council. Considerable discussion followed concerning the deadline for agenda items. Mayor Durham withdrew his motion and Councilman Burgess made a motion to use five working days as the amount of time before a meeting to present agenda items. The mayor seconded and all voted in favor. Then Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Harvell to approve the entire rules as amended. All voted in favor.

VOTE ON POLICE
DEPT. PROCEDURES
MANUAL

Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Scott to table voting on the Police procedures manual to give council more time to review the large document. All voted in favor.

BORN LEARNING
TRAIL

Tammie Willmore from the United Way gave a presentation about the Born Learning Trail program. She said that to bring the program to Williamston, it would require a \$1495 commitment from the Town. Mayor Durham made a motion to approve the program. Councilman Burgess said he would like to see a diagram and more information about it first. The mayor said that the motion could die for lack of a second and it would be tabled to the next meeting.

In the mayor's closing comments, he said council would be having some work sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 am and 6:30 pm to improve communications with the first

meeting on November 12. He also announced three events in November: the Veterans Day Parade on the 9th, the Festival of Unity (our first Latino festival) on the 16th, and the Christmas Park opening on the 23rd.

Councilman Burgess pointed out that based on the audit report, revenues for the Town have been decreasing and he said we should give the new Main Street Program director a chance to do her job so that the program can work to increase revenues and growth for the Town.

Mayor Durham made a motion seconded by Councilman Burgess to adjourn. All voted in favor. Adjournment was at 8:33 pm.