

Mayor
Ricky Waring

Council Members:
Bob Jackson
Russ Touchberry
Aaron Brown
Terry Jenkins
Kima Garten-Schmidt
William McIntosh



Town Administrator
Lisa Wallace

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

TOWN of SUMMERVILLE

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING #1 of 2
March 30, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Ricky Waring, Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt, Bob Jackson, Aaron Brown, Russ Touchberry, Terry Jenkins and Bill McIntosh. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wallace and Town Attorney GW Parker. A quorum was met. Public and press were duly notified. The meeting took place in Council Chambers at 200 South Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Ricky Waring called the meeting to order at 3:00pm on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Present were Councilmembers Aaron Brown, Terry Jenkins, Kima Garten-Schmidt, Bob Jackson, and Bill McIntosh. Councilmember Russ Touchberry arrived at 3:15pm. A quorum of Council was met.

ORDINANCES

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. McIntosh for discussion purposes, to give second reading to an ordinance to approve the renewal of the electric and gas Franchise Agreement with Dominion Energy of South Carolina, as well as the ordinance to approve the renewal of the electric Franchise Agreement with Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mr. McIntosh stated that he believes the franchise fee increased to 5% in 2012 in order to set aside funds to build roads. He stated that the money does not build anything, and that the Town is not in the road building business. Mr. McIntosh made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to amend both Franchise Agreements to reduce the fee from 5% to 4%. Mr. Brown stated that the Town of Summerville needs money to support the rapid growth, primarily in the public safety departments. Mr. McIntosh stated that the Town survived at 3% before the increase to 5% in 2012. Mayor Ricky Waring stated that the bond that was issued with the 5% franchise fee rate needs to be paid off first, and then Council can revisit lowering the percentage in the future. Mr. Jenkins stated that the Town is building roads and that the Town has a bond (\$1.25 million/year for the next 12 years) that needs to be repaid first. He also stated that if the agreement doesn't stay at 5%, then the budget will not be balanced. Mr. Jackson stated that the Town is in a different place than it was in 2012 and that he is voting to leave the fee at 5% in order to pay off the bond. Mr.

McIntosh stated that there were significant budget surpluses in the past years and there will be one this year of more than \$650,000. Mr. Jackson stated that \$650,000 is not nearly enough to bring public safety to par. Mr. Touchberry stated that he hears from his constituents that there are a lot of things that they want for the Town to provide. He also stated that Council does not have a good enough grasp on the Town's needs right now to cut the percentage at this point. The motion to amend to 4% from 5% failed with Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Brown voting in favor of the amendment. The original motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, to give second and final reading to an ordinance to adopt a redistricting plan for Council Single Member Districts in the Town of Summerville. Some discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to move item 5 from the table from the March 9, 2023 Council meeting. The item is: consideration and second reading of an ordinance to modify the sublease with Dorchester County for 312 North Laurel Street known as the Faith Sellers Senior Citizens Center. Mr. Brown stated that he needs more time to make a decision. Mr. McIntosh stated that there are only 3 years left on the Town's lease of the land to Dorchester County, and that the County has five 5-year options, so the County can continue to lease from the Town for up to 28 years, as well as continue to sublease the building to whomever they want. The motion to remove the item from the table carried unanimously. Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to give first reading to the Ordinance amending Section II (B) – TERM AND DELIVERY OF PREMISES of the current lease for the Senior Center with Dorchester County so that it will now terminate on August 2042. Mr. Touchberry stated that the Senior Center is a valuable service to our community, and that he would like the lease to state that if the tenant changes hands, the lease will terminate. Town Attorney GW Parker stated that that clause is in the contract. Mr. McIntosh stated that he is going to vote to give the ordinance first reading, but that he would not vote for second reading until Dorchester County signed the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Summerville for repairs of Midland Parkway. Mr. Jackson stated that he agrees with Mr. McIntosh's stipulation. The motion to give first reading to the ordinance carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Messervy, Town Clerk

APPROVED:



Ricky Waring, Mayor