



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

**Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Prince
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Gregory Scott, Sr.
3. ROLL CALL

Mayor stated that all council members are in attendance with the exception of Mr. Taylor and Ms. Weaver. Shortly after, Ms. Weaver entered the meeting.

4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES  
Regular Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 20, 2022- Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the minutes for Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Mr. Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

A. Annual Employee Anniversaries- Melvin Johnson, Gas, 11 years; Max Alderman, Administration, 6 years; Tyler Smith, Police, 4 years; Donald McElveen, Public Works, 3 years; Leverne Miles, Public Works, 1 year; and Robert Cousar, Public Works, 1 year

B. Wendy Woods-PeeDee Coalition- Thanked everyone for their time and stated that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and with the work that they do and her being the County Coordinator “Everyone Knows Someone” and theirs every walk of life that comes into the Coalition. It’s no them or they. If you know of someone that’s in a crisis or a domestic violence situation point them to the PeeDee Coalition. She also left the crisis line number. She stated that the Coalition has several services, such as Counseling, Shelters, Transitional Shelters (which is housed here in Marlboro County) and an emergency shelter located in Florence. Next, she mentioned the Parenting Program that serves the whole PeeDee Region, the director is Mrs. Sharon Woodham, and she is housed in the PeeDee Coalition office on Parsonage Street. Lastly, she thanked little Aniya Joye for her annual event, “Lemonade Stand” which is against Domestic Violence. She thanked the city for their ongoing support for this cause. Councilman Tyron Abraham presented a donation to Miss. Aniya. All donations made go back to the Coalition to help with services.

Mark Sobiski- MARTI Ridership Report- CareFirst Carolina from Care South. He gave an overview over the program. He stated he was very pleased to grow the program here in Marlboro County. They are getting much support from all of the communities. In the next 60-90days they will receive a new bus to help citizens get from place to place. He thanked Marlboro Hospital Charity Trust for their support. The Marlboro/Bennettsville service cover 6 counties through PDRTA. On a monthly basics they average 3,000 trips, which is about 36,000 trips a year.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deacon Willie Bright-He thanked the Police Department for their hard work and the electric crew for putting more lighting in his residential area.

Usher Buster Causey Jr.-his attendance was about an Ordinance, “violating to maintain property” he owns property on Crosland and Breeden Street on the corner. He owns the back half of the property only. He stated he spent more time picking up neighborhood trash than cutting the grass. He contacted the City Code Enforcement Officer and Holly Swann told them he needed help. Nothing happened! The city approached him again with a fine after he has reached out for help repeatedly.

7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES

- A. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 91 Animals Section of Codes Ordinances- This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 91 Animals Section of Codes of Ordinances. First reading was approved on September 20, 2022.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance Chapter 91 Animals Section. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mrs. Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. An Ordinance Amending 94.06 (B) Upkeep of Property Ordinances- This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending 94.06 (B) Upkeep of Property Ordinance. First reading was approved on September 20, 2022.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 2nd Reading of An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 94.06 (B). Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. An Ordinance Annexing 731 Craig Circle- This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending 731 Craig Circle. First reading was approved on September 20, 2022.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 2nd Reading of an Ordinance Annexing 731 Craig Circle. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. An Ordinance Annexing 760 Craig Circle- This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending 760 Craig Circle. First reading was approved on September 20, 2022.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 2nd Reading of An Ordinance Annexing 760 Craig Circle. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. An Ordinance Amending the City's Purchasing Ordinance- This is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending the City's Purchasing Ordinance 33.36. First reading was approved on September 20, 2022. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES

No Business

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

No Business

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

- A. Financial Service Contract- As I discussed at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Workshop, we are in need of temporary Financial Service until a new Finance Director is hired and learns our systems. In the past, the city council approved a contract with an outside individual to fill this void. I discussed this with Bob Mihous the City Auditor, and he suggested I contact Rebekah Hayes, the City's previous Finance Director for assistance. Ms. Hayes is willing to provide this service for a 6-month period for fees shown in the attached sheet. I highly recommend the council approve this Financial Service Contract.

Approving Action-A motion to authorize the Administrator to make a counteroffer for the Financial Service Contract & to contact the Auditor to refer additional people. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Ms. Weaver abstained. The motion carried. (All in favor: Mayor Prince, Mr. Scott, Mr. Davis, Ms. Quick and Mr. Abraham)

- B. Second Premium Pay for Retirees and Beneficiaries- Second Reading and Passage in Full of Ordinances- During the October 11<sup>th</sup> Workshop Angela Ward reviewed the details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Premium Pay and pointed out that retirees and beneficiaries of deceased employees did not receive the pay. Council consensus was to include these employees.

Approving Action- A motion to approve adding 6 eligible retirees and 2 beneficiaries of deceased employees as recipients of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Premium Pay. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Mr. Davis.

The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Increase of Christmas Bonus- Council Member Abraham has requested and the consensus of the Council at the October 11, 2022, Workshop was to increase the Christmas bonus from \$150.00 to \$300.00.

Approving Action- A motion to increase the Christmas bonus from \$150.00 to \$300.00. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Ms. Quick and Ms. Weaver abstained. Motion carried. (Voted for: Mr. Abraham, Mr. Davis, Mayor Prince and Mr. Scott) Voted against: Ms. Quick and Ms. Weaver.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION  
No Business

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
A. Executive Session to Discuss Employment of a Finance Director- Mayor Prince entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the applications for the Finance Director. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to come out of Executive Session. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded Mr. Scott. No votes were taken.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION  
A. Discussion of Finance Director Applications- Mayor Prince made a motion to authorize the Administrator and the Assistant Administrator to schedule interviews with 5 applicants on November 2, 2022. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Ms. Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

14. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

15. POSSIBLE ACTION OF A MATTER DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. ADJOURN  
Mayor Prince

**Public Comment Policy:**

Citizens desiring to speak at any regular meeting must provide a written request to notify the City Clerk prior to the agenda deadline. Citizens interested in commenting at a regular meeting, shall sign in to speak and limit comments to no more than 3 minutes.

**Mission Statement:**

To utilize all available resources for the development of plans, programs, and projects to improve services to the citizens of Bennettsville and establish and maintain an active role in economic and community development.