**MINUTES**

**TURBEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**July 11, 2023**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mayor Kathryn Turbeville, Councilmembers Herbert Mims and

Albert Mobley

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Kaitlin Alexander, Town Administrator Bill Taylor, Public Works Director Ellis Evans, Tammy Hicks, Pat Coker, Cheryl Wingard, and Dorn Smith

1. Mayor Turbeville called the town council meeting to order at 6:30 pm and declared that a quorum was present. **Councilmember Mims** offered the invocation.
2. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the agenda for the July 11, 2023, regular council meeting. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.
3. Mayor Turbeville asked if anyone was present who wished to address the council. **Dorn Smith** wanted to thank the Town of Turbeville and answer any questions regarding the new library going forward with the project. **Smith** asked the council if they needed anything further from him regarding this project. **Town Administrator Taylor** noted that the town was waiting on a formal deed to transfer the town’s property to the county and that this matter was presently being handled by the county following a new survey of the overall property. Once the town receives the deed, they will vote to formally transfer the property.

**Mayor Turbeville** addressed the council, as well as the others in the room, about the Eric Coker timeline, regarding projects he has ongoing in town. When Turbeville told Coker he could go through the county to obtain permits (for the renovation of the building downtown), knowing the county would not issue them, he did not go to the county but, instead went directly to the county inspector, Craig Hurst. Turbeville received an email from Hurst and the inspection reports the town obtained were questionable. Turbeville wanted to set the record straight about this whole fiasco, and that she personally went to the county and verified that the town must have a contract with the county for them to do any such inspection work for the town. Mayor Turbeville just wanted to make sure that everyone knew that the problems related to this building activity could have been avoided had Coker first obtained the proper permit from the town.

**Clarendon County Councilmember Pat Coker** informed the room that a manufacturing plant was presently looking at an empty building in the industrial park that could bring upwards of 200 jobs to the area. The identity of the company considering the investment is being withheld at this time.

1. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the minutes from the June 13, 2023, regular council meeting. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.
2. Mayor Turbeville called attention to **ordinance No. 2023 – 04: An Ordinance Making Certain Amendments to Chapter 16 of the Turbeville Town Code Relating to Municipal Elections. Town Administrator Taylor** noted that he had been working with Sharmane Anderson, who is the new director of the County Board of Voter Registration and Elections, regarding the town’s present elections’ ordinance. Taylor was informed that the current town ordinance requires only a 45-day filing period for those wanting to run for elected office and that the state law has a 60-day requirement. Anderson had suggested that the town consider a 75-day filing period. The ordinance also specifies that those elected to office in any general or special elections would take office at the first regular meeting following the certification of the election.

Anderson had also inquired about the salaries of the mayor and council as the town’s ordinance requires a filing fee of 1% of the elected official’s salary for their entire term. Taylor informed Anderson that the mayor and council received no salary and, therefore, the filing fee was presently zero. **Taylor** did offer the council the results of a survey of the various filing fees from other municipalities around the state and the region and suggested a filing fee of $50 for candidates running for town council and $100 for the mayor. **Taylor** said that the filing fee was not something to deter those from running but it would help offset some of the costs the town pays the county to conduct the elections. After some discussion, the council indicated their interest in complying with state law on the filing period but did not see requiring a filing fee until such time that the town council begins receiving any sort of salary. **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2023-04**. The motion was then seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.

1. Mayor Turbeville then introduced for councils’ consideration **Ordinance No. 2023-05: An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal year 2023-2024 Annual Budget for the Town of Turbeville.** **Administrator Taylor** stated that a few days after the town council approved their annual budget, the town was notified about a change of the sheriff’s contract amount. Taylor had originally spoken with the Clarendon County Administrator in preparing for the budget and was told that the county was going to be providing a 1.6% cost of living increase for its employees, but he did not mention anything about any other adjustments or the update and implementation of a new compensation plan for the county.

In order to make up the additional funding necessary to fund the increase in the sheriff’s contract, Taylor is recommending that the town council increase the millage rate an additional 9.2 mills. In addition, Taylor had contacted the Santee Lynches COG and asked for their work on the town’s comprehensive plan not begin until the last quarter of 2023 which will allow the town to fund that project over two fiscal years. This millage increase and the reduction in the funding for this comprehensive plan should enable the town to meet the financial obligations of the contract with the sheriff’s office. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-05. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by unanimous vote.

1. Administrator Taylor brought to the council’s attention that the town was recently awarded funding for the Puddin’ Swamp Road Water Extension project. The town will still have to pay for the engineering associated with the project, but the town still have some American Rescue Plan money that can be used for that purpose.
2. Public Works Director Ellis Evans offered an update on the Cypress Street Well Project. He said everything was moving forward and going as scheduled.
3. There being no further business, **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Mobley** and passed by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at **7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Kaitlin Alexander**

Town Clerk