**MINUTES**

**TURBEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 11, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

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

Doyl Gray and Tammy Hicks

**Others Present:** Town Clerk Kaitlin Alexander, Town Administrator Bill Taylor, Public Works Director Ellis Evans, Clarendon County Councilman Benton Blakely, Bill Hancock from The Brittingham Group

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 requested consideration of the meeting agenda. **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember** **Hicks** and passed by unanimous vote.
3. Mayor Turbeville introduced Mr. Bill Hancock from The Brittingham Group to present the Town of Turbeville’s Annual Audit Report for 2020. This was a transition year as the Brittingham Group was taking over for an auditor who had been performing the town’s annual audits for over 10 years. Initially, the auditors had some issues at locating some past records but, in the end, the firm was able to issue an unmodified opinion on the basic financial transactions undertaken by the town during the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2020.

Hancock stated the Town of Turbeville had some issues with internal controls but believes that the town has taken the necessary steps to correct those. He stated that the water and sewer utilities were reviewed separately in an effort to determine if each were able to stand on its own, He stated that the town council would need to make some serious decisions on rates in the near future if it expected the utilities to be self-sustaining.

Hancock noted that the town’s net positions for Government and Business-type Activities were overstated by $2,200,265 and $3,584,864, respectively, because the town had not maintained a proper listing of all capital assets for each area. A proper asset listing has now been created and is being maintained by town staff.

Last year was definitely different with the national pandemic and utilities were ordered by the state to not disconnect any customer for non-payment of their accounts. However, during this particular fiscal year there were 100 customers who were more than 90 days past due on their accounts (a violation of the town’s debt service covenants with Rural Development). This represented $85,856 in past due bills and not all of these were within that timeframe where the town could not disconnect services because of COVID.

The town has seen a dramatic shift in the overall funding for services since the police department and the municipal court were disbanded. Although law enforcement activities are now being performed by the Clarendon County Sheriff’s Department and all fines are going to that office. All fines and assessments previous to the Sheriff’s contract are still being collected by the town and being disbursed to the State Treasurer’s Office and to the Attorney General’s Office for victims’ assistance.

The next year should offer the town a clearer picture of its financial needs as it will reflect the full fiscal year without the police department and municipal court. Hancock thanked the mayor and town council and staff for working with him and his team in developing this annual audit. He urged the council to continue to seriously review the town’s financial positions and to address reasonable rate increases so that the utilities can be self-sustaining.

1. Mayor Turbeville asked if anyone was present who wished to address council. County Councilman **Benton Blakely** stated that the county council recently passed an ordinance creating a $60 annual service fee for the disposal of residential solid waste. He stated that this amount to $5.00 per month fee added every month and will be used to clear the trash from the public roads and rights-of-way throughout Clarendon County. He also stated that council would be passing their annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
2. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the minutes from the April 13, 2021 regular council meeting. A motion was made by **Councilmember Hicks** to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Gray** and passed by unanimous vote.
3. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the second reading of **Ordinance No. 2021 – 02: An Ordinance to Establish the Standards for The Placement of Small Wireless Facilities in The Town of Turbeville, South Carolina, and Matters Related Thereto.** This ordinance allows municipalities to have considerations on these small cell wireless facilities and regulate where they may be located. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the second reading of this ordinance. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Hicks** and passed by unanimous vote.
4. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the first reading of **Ordinance 2021-03: An Ordinance Establishing an Annual Budget for the Town of Turbeville for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.** Administrator Taylor stated The Town of Turbeville will need to have a public hearing for this budget next month and that the paper would need to be notified 14 days prior to the meeting. Turbeville Town Council decided to have a budget workshop Monday, May 17, 2021 to discuss the annual budget in preparation for the public hearing. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the first reading of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Gray** and passed by unanimous vote.
5. Mayor Turbeville introduced for council’s consideration the proposed contract with Waste Management for Solid Waste Management Collection, Transportation, and Disposal Services. This proposed contract has a flat monthly rate for fuel instead of a fluctuating fuel surcharge. A motion was made by **Councilmember Mims** to approve the proposed Waste Management Contract. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Hicks** and passed by unanimous vote.
6. There being no further business, **Councilmember Mims** made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by **Councilmember Hicks** and passed by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at **7:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Kaitlin Alexander**

Town Clerk