

Town Council Meeting – Work Session
May 12, 2022
Minutes

1. The Campobello Town Council had a Work Session meeting which was held on May 12, 2022 in the Training Room at the Fire Department located at 50 Broad Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis at 6:15 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Alician Sprouse, Wade Peeler and Aaron Ash. Also in attendance were the Police Chief, Chad McNeill and Fire Chief, Brandon McNeill. Council Member Reitha Stevenson was absent.

2. Possible cuts to the 2022-2023 budget for the Campobello Police Department were discussed. Also mentioned was the fact that some, if not all, police salaries needed to be reviewed and possibly increased. Their budget was compared to that of the City of Saluda in North Carolina who have 4 officers, including the Police Chief. Fuel cost is a huge concern, especially with the rise in fuel prices.

The cost for trash service was cut from the 2022-2023 budget for the Town, as Council has proposed that this will be an added tax that each town resident will receive on their tax bill each year. \$10 per resident was mentioned as a reasonable fee. Discussion was had about raising the percentage rate of the Duke Energy Franchise fee agreement.

Council mentioned that it would like for the Fire Department to have more full-time employees, than part-time, especially a full-time Fire Chief. Like the Police Department, the Fire Department's employees work more hours than they get paid.

Council's next Work Session meeting to focus on the budget was set for June 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

3. **Adjourned May 12, 2022 at 8:32 p.m.**

Let it be known, there are times it may be necessary for the Council Members to enter an executive meeting directly following adjournment of business meeting.

Town of Campobello Council Meeting minutes recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 12th day of May, 2022.

Campobello Town Council Meeting
May 2, 2022
Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on May 2, 2022 in the Campobello Fire Department training room located at 50 Broad Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present were Aaron Ash, Wade Peeler, Alician Sprouse and Reitha Stevenson. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Brandon McNeill and Police Chief Chad McNeill. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
2. Mayor Shamis made comment that he was going to be fair by only allowing those to speak who had completed a Request to Speak Before Council Form.
3. Mayor Shamis asked if council had reviewed the April 4, 2022 work session minutes, April 4, 2022 council meeting minutes, April 12th Public Hearing minutes, April 12th Special Council Meeting minutes, April 19th Special Council Meeting minutes and April 29th Executive Session minutes prior to the meeting and asked for a Motion to accept them. Council Member Peeler made a motion to accept the minutes of April 4th, April 12th, April 19th and April 29th, which were seconded by Council Member Ash and carried unanimous.
4. Mayor Shamis made comment that the millage rate was a hot topic and proceeded to say that this Council has worked hard trying to dial in the budget. He made mention that Mayor Wilds had said to pay attention to the budget.
5. Police Chief Chad McNeill and reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 120 calls for the month of April. Of those calls, were a couple of stolen cars and break-ins, so we made sure our on duty and reserve officers were out and about and we ended up catching one of the suspects that stole a vehicle. Council Member Sprouse asked how many of those calls were drug related. Chief McNeill answered 20-25 calls. Council Member Peeler asked if the Chief had paperwork for who was arrested. Chief McNeill answered yes and that some were DUS charges, drug charges and stolen vehicle. Mayor Shamis asked where the car was stolen from and Chief McNeill answered it was at A-1 Automotive. Mayor Shamis also mentioned that we have a job posting for an SRO and that we need to pause that job posting. Chief McNeill responded that the School District has already filled that position per our contract with them. Council Member Peeler said that in the future all decisions to hire needed to be brought before Council first, so as not to go over budget. He also asked if all of the officers have their LE01 and Chief McNeill answered in the affirmative. Council Member Ash asked if all of our volunteer officers are the reserve officers. Chief McNeill said that some were and some were not. Some guys work to keep their certification. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any further questions regarding the Police Department. No further questions were asked.
6. Fire Chief Brandon McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 22 calls for the month of April. Chief McNeill mentioned that the Fire Department attended S.T.E.A.M. at Campobello-Gramling school. We were able to give a fire extinguisher training for 150 students and 50 employees with Green River Cabin. Mayor Shamis asked if we currently have a job posting for two

part-time firefighters and Chief McNeill said that he wasn't aware of it. Council Member Peeler said it was on the website and Chief McNeill said the website keeps refreshing that post and he is ok with that as he welcomes applications. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any further questions for Fire Chief McNeill. No further questions were asked.

Mayor Shamis thanked both the Fire and Police Department for their hard work and long hours.

7. Old Business-

- Chief McNeill updated everyone that the power is working down at the sign on Asheville Hwy as the wire was cut, but the breaker has been fixed. Council Member Ash said that he reached out to the lighting company that the County uses which is The Lighting Company out of Chesnee. They will reach out to him with a quote. Mayor Shamis said that they plan to use some of the American Rescue Plan of \$295,000 to update our Park and make it nice
- The Old Asheville Hwy project has been put out for re-bid due to the State requesting us to do so as we received some of our quotes late.
- The new signs are in, but we are waiting for the lights to be put in so that the sign can be seen at night. We are working on a contract with the property owner to get a Town entrance sign put up on Hwy. 11.
- Chief McNeill gave an updated that out of all of the letters sent out to various residents and businesses regarding clean up and condemned homes, we have received all of the Returned Receipts except one. Some have called and given their plan to get the issue corrected. One owner refused to speak with anyone but the Mayor. Council Member Ash asked who our Codes Enforcement Officer is and Chief McNeill answered Officer Chris Godfrey.
- Council Member Sprouse spoke of how Family Fun Day is set for this Saturday and we have 80 vendors signed up.
- Town resident Owenby said that he has had one volunteer for the Town's sewer project.

8. New Business-

- Mayor Shamis announced that we have a new candidate for our Planning and Zoning Committee. Town resident, Dennis Iskra, volunteered to head up the Planning and Zoning. Mayor Shamis asked for a Motion to accept him for this position. Council Member Sprouse made a motion to accept Mr. Iskra as a new member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, which was seconded by Council Member Peeler and carried unanimous.
- Mayor Shamis recognized Town resident Tammy Bowers who completed the form to speak before council regarding the Town's high millage rate and how our town is not only has the highest millage rate in the County, but is the 10th highest in the State. She urged council to stop the overtaxing of its citizens and to stop the excessive spending of the Police Department, especially in the area of fuel. She was excited to hear and see that the agenda mentioned the lowering of the millage rate. She said that 80 mills is a good place to start in lower the millage. Council member Peeler commented that he had been looking at this before he got on council because everyone was blindsided and what services

are we offering. We've got to have voice in the community. Council Member Ash said it's time and that is what the people have elected us for to help with this burden. Council Member Stevenson said that we will sharpen our pencils and work on the upcoming budgets. Mayor Shamis said we want people to annex into our town, but why would they if our millage rate is so high, so our town will not grow. We need to listen to our citizens. Lou Nespeca, running for Spartanburg County Council, said while he appreciates the Campobello Fire Department and all they have done for him, but what else is there to offer other than trash service?

- Mayor Shamis recognized Town resident Phyllis Skuba who completed the form to speak before council regarding an update from her work with County Councilman, Bob Walker. She summarized Town Ordinance 5.203 and 5.204 regarding unsafe buildings. She asked what the follow-up will be after residents receive their letter to clean-up their property after the 90 days is up. Her opinion is to fine these people to give them a reason to get the work done to their property. She went on to list numerous residential and commercial properties throughout the Town that need attention. Chief McNeill stated that the Town adopted the property management codes of the State a few years ago because of the problems being able to enforce some of our ordinances. Chief McNeill stated that the Police Department gets its orders from Council. Council member Peeler stated that Mrs. Skuba read the town ordinance that stated who was in charge of enforcing the ordinances, which is the police chief and fire chief. We gave these properties 90 days to get things fixed but some of these homes already have grass that is grown knee high, which after 90 days will be even worse if they take the full 90 days to fix it.
- Mayor Shamis recognized Town resident Dennis Iskra who completed the form to speak before council regarding the millage rate and comparable towns within the State of SC. He stated that the average millage rate is .06184. We have nothing to offer to get new businesses to come into Campobello.
- Mayor and Council discussed dropping the millage rate. Council Member Ash asked if we would lose any services. Council Member Peeler said the Auditor did some calculations on a millage rate of 80 and said that the Town would still bring in \$37,458.00 extra even at this millage rate. No services would be cut. Council Member Peeler said we still need to be conservative on our budgets, but we can make 80 mills work. Mayor Shamis asked if there was a Motion to move our millage rate from .01483 to .080. Council Member Ash made a Motion to move our millage rate from .01483 to .080, which was seconded by Council Member Peeler and carried unanimously.
- Fire Chief McNeill spoke regarding the 8 lots that have been approved on Emma Drive. He spoke with Inman Campobello Water District regarding adding one or two fire hydrants. The cheapest option would be to add a line from the nearest hydrant to where Emma and Turner Ave., meet. The rough estimate for that would be \$40,000 to \$50,000. He did not get any other information as he did not want to waste time if that is not what council wanted to do.
- The culvert on Emma Drive also needs to be dealt with as it is large enough to support concrete trucks going in and out of there during construction. Mayor Shamis suggested that all of council go down Emma Drive to look at the culvert. This will also be added to the agenda for June.

9. Other Business-

- There is no update at this time from the Planning and Zoning Committee as there was no meeting April. ACOG continues to work on the Zoning ordinances.
- The scheduling of a budget work session was done for May 12, 2022 at 6:00p.m. This meeting will take place at the Fire Department's Training Room at 50 Broad Street.
- Council Member Peeler recognized that the McPeters family being present in the council meeting and their request for a speed bump when coming around the corner of Old Asheville Hwy. Mayor Shamis asked for this item to be added to June's agenda.
- Mayor Shamis asked for a Motion for council to enter into Executive Session. Council Member Peeler made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters dealing with employment, Appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee, which was seconded by Council Member Ash and carried unanimous. Council came out of Executive Session with no action taken. Motion was made by Council Member Sprouse to adjourn the Executive Session, which was seconded by Council Member Peeler and carried unanimous.

10. Adjourned- May 2, 2022 at 11:22 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Sprouse made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Peeler and carried unanimous.

Let it be known, there are times it may be necessary for the Council Members to enter an executive meeting.

Town of Campobello Council Meeting minutes recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 2nd day of May, 2022.

Town Council Meeting – Work Session
Location – 50 Broad Street, Campobello, SC 29322
May 2, 2022
Minutes

1. The Work Session of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present were Aaron Ash, Wade Peeler, Alician Sprouse and Reitha Stevenson. Also, in attendance was Fire Chief, Brandon McNeill and Police Chief Chad McNeill

2. The Work Session regarding Campobello’s current millage rate and the Town’s assessed value from 2018-2022. Council Member Peeler spoke of how we will have \$235,000 more due to an increase in the assessed value of our town. Mayor Shamis made mention that this year is an assessment year for Spartanburg County. He also mentioned that the Town could benefit from increasing the rate of our Duke Energy Service Agreement from 3% to 5%. Most other municipalities are at 5%. Also, the Mayor mentioned that City of Landrum charges its citizens \$18/month for trash service. We could discuss possibly incorporating a small fee for trash service, such as \$10 a monthly to help with the trash bill, especially when the new development comes in. Council Member Peeler said that right now citizens that live in a more expensive home pay more for trash service. Mayor Shamis also stated that the reason for the surplus in our taxes is due to the building around town and the Cane Creek Subdivision. Council Member Peeler said we are in good shape once we get the budget recalculated and that we also need a reserve fund. Council Member Peeler also spoke of the #1 issue among the residents of Campobello was high taxes. The #2 issue was roads. Mayor Shamis quoted the SC Municipal Association Handbook by saying that All municipalities regardless of size must adopt an ordinance and by ordinance, it means a balanced annual budget wherein revenues must equal expenditures.

3. The Work Session ended at 7:00p. Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 2nd day of May, 2022.