

Campobello Town Council Meeting

December 6, 2021

Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on December 6, 2021 in the Campobello Fire Department training room located at 50 Broad Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Philip Wilds at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Don Cohenour, Jason Shamis, Alician Sprouse and Reitha Stevenson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Mayor Wilds opened with a word of thanks to the Town for the opportunity to serve as Mayor of Campobello for the past three years. He also thanked staff members, Police Chief Chad McNeill, Fire Chief, Brandon McNeill and Town Clerk, Kim Hyder for their servant's heart and for all that they do for the Town. A special thanks went out to Council Member Don Cohenour and his unwavering and dedicated service for the past 21 years. Council Member Cohenour jokingly said that when he first came a part of council that he had a lot more hair and it was not this shade of white. Mayor Wilds commenced with the swearing in of Reitha Stevenson as Council Member, Aaron Ash as Council Member and Jason Shamis as Mayor.

3. A presentation of a plaque was made by Mayor Jason Shamis to former Mayor Philip Wilds who was recognized for his dedication and service to the Town of Campobello. Also, the presentation of a plaque was given to former Council Member Don Cohenour for his 21 years of dedicated service to the Town of Campobello. A round of applause was given for both deserving recipients. Afterwards, Don Cohenour asked to address the council and town. He thanked the Mayor and Council Members for helping this Town to become as good as it is. Next, he went on to thank Town Clerk, Kim Hyder for her work ethic and job skills used to put the Town back on solid footing for the future. Next, he thanked the glue that has held our town together for a very long time, Ed McNeill. He set the bar high for all those who work for this Town. Ed's leadership and training of the Fire department was to be envied by other departments across the State. Don went on to say that Police Chief, Chad McNeill took on the Police Department, which was in need a leadership, with great gusto and with his leadership and training formed a great group of officers, making this department a professional department. The area is in good hands. Don continued on by saying that Fire Chief, Brandon McNeill, started with fire training from the time he could walk. Brandon has made it his lifetime profession and has trained many others to do it right. Don ended by thanking everyone for their service for the Town.

4. Mayor Shamis opened with thanking his wife, mother and stepfather for their support throughout the election. He included Mayor of Inman, Cornelius Huff, in his thanks for pushing him to get on board and become a part of town council. Mayor Shamis exclaimed that the Inman, Campobello, Wellford and Landrum areas are such great places to live. Help and support pour out from these cities and towns. He went on to say that we have the cream of the crop in regards to employees. Police Chief Chad McNeill is the epitome of selflessness and always puts this town first even when he shouldn't. Fire Chief Brandon McNeill is the same type of incredible person. He is always striving to get you what you need or how he can help. Kim Hyder was hired and walked into a mess as in the past we had part-time clerks and then no clerks at all and file mismanagement. She walked in with a smile willing to learn and help and has done an incredible job right out of the gate. Mayor Shamis went on to say that we also have the perfect town council who care about its residents. In the coming months,

we intend to work hard as public servants and get some of his visions, as well as their visions, accomplished for the Town.

5. Mayor Shamis asked if council had reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting and asked for a Motion to accept them. Council Member Stevenson made a motion to accept the November 1, 2021 Council Meeting minutes, which were seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous.
6. Police Chief Chad McNeill reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 128 calls for the month of November. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any questions for Police Chief McNeill. No questions were asked.
7. Fire Chief Brandon McNeill reported for Fire Chief Brandon McNeill that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 20 calls for the month of November. Chief McNeill commented that our parade this year was tremendous and thanked everyone who came out to help and hopefully we can continue to build it bigger and better for next year. Mayor Shamis asked if anyone had any questions regarding the fire department. Mayor Shamis did have a question regarding smoke alarm assistance and installing those for residents throughout town. Chief McNeill said that they do that throughout the year and not just around this time. Actually, the Fire Department just installed 3 smoke detectors yesterday and have home health nurses that call the Fire Department to come out and check smoke detectors. Mayor Shamis mentioned that it would be a good idea to make a post on the Town's Facebook page to let people know that the Fire Department can help with providing and installing smoke detectors.

8. **Old Business-**

- A second reading of Ordinance 2.320 – Qualifications for Candidates, was done by Mayor Shamis. This Ordinance states that to be in compliance with State law, the town would only require that candidates for office would be a town resident for at least 30 days prior to the election and be a registered voter. Motion was made by council member Stevenson to accept the second reading of the Ordinance, which was seconded by council member Sprouse and carried unanimous.
- Mayor Shamis spoke about getting meters installed by Duke Energy at each entrance sign of the Town so that the signs can be lit up at night. Also, Mayor Shamis mentioned that some ideas for new signage for the Town is in the works and that he plans to meet with Council in a Work Session to present the plans and cost.
- Police Chief Chad McNeill spoke regarding the potholes in town. None have been fixed, but that meetings have been held to get bids on how much it would cost to fix the potholes and other road issues we are having throughout Town. Hope to have an updated in January. The pothole on Cantrell continues to get worse. Mayor Shamis said that we hope to get that done soon. Also, Mayor Shamis mentioned that there are no longer any purple lights in Town due to Duke Energy replacing the defective bulbs.
- Mayor Shamis spoke about the issues with Old Asheville Hwy. That particular bridge will never be opened again due to the damage. SCDOT inspected the bridge last year and documented a crack in the bridge and said that if the crack grew at all that the bridge would have to be condemned. Mayor Shamis guarantees that the crack has grown and is in the center of the bridge. We will have to come up with a new bridge somehow, but the cost is about one million to replace the bridge.

- Mayor Shamis gave an updated on the Road fee money tax imposed by the County. A \$25.00 fee was charged for each vehicle you own and at that money go towards roads in your Town. However, if a Town does not use the money in a timely manner, Spartanburg County puts those funds into their General Fund account and uses it for their benefit. Mayor Shamis has a huge problem with that especially if that money is not being used for the Town's roads. He spoke with Spartanburg County Councilman, Bob Walker and asked him what was Spartanburg County going to do with the money that is frozen. He could not give Mayor Shamis a good answer. The mayors in neighboring towns are going to come together and continue to seek answers and resolutions in regards to this. Campobello resident R. Sweeney asked why lawyers had not been obtained for this. Mayor Shamis said that he is strongly considering that, but wants to talk with council as a whole in a work session. We cannot miss out on this money that is due to us. Town resident Owenby said that the towns should come together as a whole and seek legal action. Mayor Shamis agreed that it would take a group effort and that one person could not make a difference. Spartanburg County will at least receive an earful on this issue. The Town is not even able to use its road fee money to purchase replacement road signs due to the road fee money accounts being frozen by Spartanburg County.

9. New Business-

- Mayor Shamis made mentioned of the Ladies Auxillary Group who paid for the new flags at each of the Town's entrances. He thanked them for their support and donation and for their hard work in decorating the town each season.

10. Other Business-

- Council member Shamis gave an update as to the Planning & Zoning Committee, starting with the meeting had with Appalachian Council of Government (ACOG) in regards to planning and zoning. ACOG is working on a new map so we are ready for growth that will come our way. An engineer will also come out to give us a better idea on a cost for sewer for the town and have a plan in place should we ever acquire enough funds to follow through with getting sewer. Town resident Owenby asked to be a part of the meeting with the engineer when that happens. He has 20+ years of experience in sewer.
- Mayor Shamis said that Duke Energy is supposed to be taking inventory of the equipment in all of the powers substations to see if any updates are needed. He knows that many residents had issues with outages. He is unsure that outage complaints sparked this, but rather the issue of growth. Council Member Stevenson asked if they had given a date of when that will be done and Mayor Shamis said not at this time.
- Mayor Shamis opened the floor for Mayor of Inman, Cornelius Huff to speak. Mayor Huff spoke of his willingness to work together with other towns and being here for each other to help grow our communities for the better. He looks forward to seeing what will take place in the future. Council Member Stevenson asked Mayor Huff about the sewer system in Inman and how that got started. Mayor Huff said it was developed back in the early 30s. It is a part of their budget, but as a separate entity. They run their own financials but it does go through council for approvals. They connect through Spartanburg Water and also use Summit engineering who are from the Inman area. They can help you develop a plan and follow through with it.

- Mayor Shamis mentioned his appreciation for Mr. Ash and Mr. Sweeney helping with the cleanup of Main Street before the parade. Also, Mayor Shamis commended Council Member Sprouse for decorating the float for the parade this year and in years before.
- Town resident Owenby mentioned that we need to keep certain items on Old Business so they do not drop off and not receive a follow-up. He suggested that we have a 'Follow Up' column. Mayor Shamis said that this has already been addressed and will be done in the future even if that means we have 50 items under Old Business.
- Town resident Kaminer asked if the Town had considered solar powered lights for the signs. Mayor Shamis said that we had them previously, but that they didn't last long.

11. Adjourned- December 6, 2021 at 7:43 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Sprouse 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 6th day of December, 2021.

Town Council Meeting – Work Session
December 16, 2021
Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on December 16, 2021 at Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Alican Sprouse and Aaron Ash.
2. Also in attendance was Police Chief, Chad McNeill.
3. **New Business-**
 - Mayor Shamis opened with speaking on communication among himself and council. He placed emphasis on how important it is to received responses from everyone in a timely manner as some items are time sensitive. He stated that the agenda will now be sent to not just him, but to everyone on council for their input.
 - Mayor Shamis asked if anyone had any ideas on more events the Town can have throughout the year besides the Family Fun Day event and our Christmas Parade. Council Member Sprouse suggested that we review letting Campobello First Baptist to hold a festival at Gosnell Park. Police Chief McNeill suggested a bluegrass music event, as he said our area has some talented people as witnessed at one of Buck N’ Brew’s open mic nights. Council Member Sprouse is fine with any kind of festival as long as there is no alcohol involved as she feels that does not seem like the right thing to when she’s having recovery meetings for substance and alcohol addiction/abuse. She also mentioned that a community grilling event would be nice. Mayor Shamis mentioned a chili cook off event would be fun. Town resident W. Peeler said that around the 4th of July he called local Fire Departments to find out if they were cooking and selling any BBQ for the holiday and he said there were none in our local area.
 - Mayor Shamis asked Chief McNeill if the officers could start reporting on any road damage, potholes or lighting issues they see while out on patrol. Chief McNeill said that the officers did indeed do that, but Don Cohenour took that over when he came on council. However, now that Don is no longer on council, it should not be a problem for the officers to report any such finding to the Town Clerk.
 - Mayor Shamis reported that he had obtained an estimate for our audit for FYE 2021 from McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC and that they come highly recommended by Jeff Shacker from the Municipal Association. After they reviewed the financial statements from our last audit, they came back with a proposed estimate of \$10,500, which is \$8,000 less than what we are paying now. They currently handle Woodruff and Newberry’s audits. Mayor Shamis asked if council were ready to put it to a vote to change to this CPA. Council Member Sprouse said she would like time to think about it and asked that we place it on January’s agenda. Council Member Ash is in favor of going with this new CPA as it would save the town money. The issue will be brought up again in January.
 - Mayor Shamis said that turn out for the last trash pickup day was low and would like to plan on a certain date in advance to get the word out so that anyone in our community could come out and help. Council Member Sprouse said any day would work, but Saturdays. Mayor Shamis said that Sundays would not be good either. Council member Sprouse added that she would like to have banners made about the Recovery Campobello meetings. Chief McNeill suggested that 4x8 size work

better than some and suggested that some type of pole system be made to help hold the banners in place.

- In the past, council members have been given certain depts/tasks to handle. Mayor Shamis said that everyone has a duty. Council Member Sprouse said that she had parks, Don had roads, Reitha had trash and Jason has sewer. Mayor Shamis said that tasks need to be assigned to himself and each council member. Council member Ash said that he would take over beautification of the town.
- The median at Hwy. 176 and 11 needs work. Council Member Sprouse suggested mulch. Mayor Shamis liked that idea and said that some kind of small shrub would look nice. Chief McNeill said anything under 3 foot would be fine and not obstruct views. Town resident Peeler said that trees would not be good as the median near Fuddruckers at Southport Road has trees and it blocks a driver's view. He said that Boiling Springs had used some type of azalea that produces blooms and stays green throughout the year. Council Member Ash said he would contact SCDOT about getting started on something. Mayor Shamis said it's the little things that will improve the look of our town. He said that SCDOT was quick to respond when he had Clerk Hyder submit a request for the rock wall that was broken.
- Mayor Shamis said that our town has some areas that need some added lighting and asked who would like to be in charge of doing a lighting survey around town to find out where are darkest spots are. Council Member Sprouse suggested that it be a collaborative task for all of council to do. Even if we add a little at a time, it is better than nothing. Chief McNeill said the cost to add the light pole on Old Asheville Hwy was about \$750 initially. Clerk Hyder said she didn't remember Duke Energy ever sending a bill for that. Mayor Shamis asked her to check into that to make sure. Town resident Peeler said that he would like more lighting up and down Old Asheville as many residents walk the road. He stated that when he called Town Hall about that a year or so ago that he was told there wasn't enough money to do that. He said another place that is dark is at the frontage road at I-26 and Hwy 11. He has witnessed motorist backing up because they missed the frontage road. Council Member Sprouse mentioned that the green Campobello sign on the off ramp is gone and needs replacing. Clerk Hyder said she would submit a request to SCDOT.
- Mayor Shamis brought up the list of places that need to be cleaned up or need to be condemned. Houses on both Smith St. and Pine St. are both examples. Town resident Peeler brought up the Fireworks stand on Asheville hwy across from Briar Patch and how bad it looked. He was informed that it is actually in the County and the County seldom does anything to make residents clean up. Chief McNeill suggested that Mr. Peeler call the County to complain as he may get further since he is actually a resident of Campobello. Council Member Sprouse said that a couple live there, one of which is disabled. Mayor Shamis said he is not for kicking anyone out of their home, but if there are safety issues then something needs to be done. Also, that building is zoned for commercial use and not residential. Council Member Sprouse wondered if there were money via grants out there, we could ask for to help residents clean up. Mayor Shamis suggested maybe doing a letter to the residents to give them a chance to clean up as most people say they didn't know our Codes Enforcements officer was coming or they would have started cleaning up sooner. Everyone liked the idea of making a post on Facebook regarding everyone helping to clean up our town and to let them know that our Codes Enforcement officer will be out and about to assess the situation.
- Discussion was had as to the allocation of money towards our park and how to improve it. Chief McNeill says that he takes the blame for letting the PARDS grant fall through, but was told by Tom

Corbin that he should still submit it because there is money out there for such a project. Council Member Sprouse asked that the 2 fans and 2 lights be installed at the park's pavilion. Mayor Shamis said that when he was being interviewed by students at Campobello-Gramling School that the most asked questions were what we were going to do to improve our park and sidewalks.

- Mayor Shamis said that one thing that all of council needs to learn is how to write grants and that this should not fall solely on the shoulders of the Police and Fire Chief. On an unrelated note, town resident Peeler said that the Police Dept could put the speed limit sign near his house, as he has had a neighbor complain about speeders in the Cane Creek area.
- Mayor Shamis said that he would like ideas of how to beautify our town. He, along with Chief McNeill suggested making a Facebook post to let the residents know that we all need to work together to make our town better and that our codes enforcement officer will be out and about looking for places that need cleaning up. Chief McNeill said that by law a resident has 30 days to be working on cleaning up their property and as long as they are trying they can work with people.
- Mayor Shamis said that he would like to have a 30 minute work session before every council meeting to discuss the agenda or bring up things that need discussing. He also mentioned that he didn't necessary care to hear a breakdown of the police and fire department calls and feels like it doesn't help. Council Member Sprouse said he liked hearing the breakdown of calls. Chief McNeill mentioned that he can start hitting the high points of the calls and also focus on issues that need to be addressed if there are any such as a rise in car break-ins or theft.
- Mayor Shamis mentioned that we need to attached dates to certain projects or tasks that need to get done so that council doesn't forget about them.

4. Old Business-

- Mayor Shamis proposed that two new signs be constructed for the entrances of the town. He has come up with a design with the help of Nichols Decal and the cost would be \$4,800 for two signs. He hopes to have this completed by the end of January. Council member Sprouse said that she has a cousin who does signs and would like to get him to quote what he would charge.
- Mayor Shamis has spent a lot of time arguing with Spartanburg County about the repairs that need to be done to Old Asheville Hwy., but they will not help. He sent an email to Ron Kirby at Spartanburg County and also copied Rep. Josiah Magnuson and County council member Bob Walker. The road was paved many years ago and is 16 inches wide; however, underneath that is the old road that is 20 inches wide. Chief McNeill said that in his 15 years of employment, the County has given him the same answers that they are providing now. Mayor Shamis says he wants to use our Road Fee money to fix it. Rep. Magnuson said that he would have an answer by the end of the week.
- As with the repairs of Old Asheville Hwy., Mayor Shamis is not getting anywhere with the County regarding the Road Fee money due to Campobello. He was told it was frozen and now it is unfrozen. The County denies there is any legislation in the works about the road fee money, yet the Municipal Association confirms that there is.

5. Other Business

- Mayor Shamis asked what each council member would like to see done as far as projects around town. Council Member Sprouse said that we need to focus on the kids. Council Member Ash said updating the park and cleaning our sidewalks. Council Member Sprouse said that she has not heard from the man who was going to build the food boxes; however, the Ladies Auxiliary group is looking into getting it done. Chief McNeill said that it would also be good to have a food pantry here to use for families in need. Mayor Shamis said that when being interviewed by the students at Campobello-Gramling that their main concern was the park, sidewalks and why does our town not have a library. Town resident Peeler said that it would be nice to have a digital library, but he guessed that wouldn't help those who didn't have internet. Chief McNeill said that if a new Town Hall/Police Dept ever got built, that it would be nice to have a place for kids and parents to come to be able to access the internet and do their homework.

6. Adjourned December 16, 2021 at 6:41 p.m.

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

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 16th day of December, 2021.