

Town Council Meeting
November 2, 2020
Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on November 2, 2020 in the Campobello Fire Department bay area where the CDC Guidelines were followed by sanitizing all tables and chairs, spacing seating 6 feet apart, the wearing of face masks and hand sanitizer. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Philip Wilds at 7:02 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Don Cohenour, Reitha Stevenson and Alician Sprouse. Invocation was done by Mayor Philip Wilds, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of the Council Members took place immediately following the invocation. Also, in attendance were Fire Chief, Eddie McNeill and Police Chief, Chad McNeill.
3. Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to accept the October 5, 2020 minutes, which were seconded by Council Member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous.
4. Chief McNeill reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 55 calls for the month of October.
5. Chief Eddie McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 94 calls for the month of October. 63 of the 94 calls were due to fallen trees and damage done by tropical storm, Zeta.

Mayor Philip Wilds thanks both the Police Department and Fire Department for their hard work during and after tropical storm, Zeta passed through the area.

6. **Old Business-**

- Fire Chief, Eddie McNeill, gave an update on the PARDDs Grant for the updating of equipment at Gosnell Park. At this point in time, the grant has been completed and submitted to the Legislative Delegation for their review and approval. This could take until February 2021. Therefore, Mayor Philip Wilds asked that this be revisited in February and added to that month's Agenda.
- Town Clerk, Kim Hyder gave the update on the progress of getting a portion of Hwy. 176, in front of Big Glenn's restaurant in front of the bridge repaired. Mrs. Hyder has been in contact with SC DOT and they are sending out an engineer to assess the issue, but do feel that the remedy will be to completely redo that portion of the road.
- Chief Chad McNeill still had no update to give regarding more secure emails for the Town and Police Department. He expects to receive an answer from School District Office as to the company they have their emails through. Mayor Philip Wilds asked that this be revisited in January and added to that month's Agenda.

7. New Business-

- Mayor Wilds asked council if they had come up with recommendations for what the hours should be at Gosnell Park. Council Member Don Cohenour responded that most parks in the area are from daylight to dark. Chief Chad McNeill was asked what his recommendation would be and he said that 8:00 a.m. until dark should suffice since no one should be using the park before 8:00 a.m. and by saying it closes at dark with coincide with when Daylight Savings time begins and ends. He also mentioned that two or three signs should be sufficient as they will be posted at the pavilion and on the gate so it is clear to all who visit the park. Motion was made by Council Member Alician Sprouse for the hours of operation of Gosnell Park to be from 8:00 a.m. until dark, which was seconded by Council Member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous. Mayor Wilds asked Town Clerk, Kim Hyder, to work on getting signs for the park with the new hours.
- Mayor Wilds announced that he and Council Member Jason Shamis had thoroughly discussed the request for the Town to take over the remainder of Emma Drive. Also, the cost to do so was provided by Chief Chad McNeill which consists of the following:

(5) pieces of pipe needed for culvert under the road	\$500.00
Gully cost	\$1,000.00
(5) loads of gravel	\$4,500.00
Skid Steer rental	\$500.00
(4) workers (\$100 per worker/per day)	<u>\$400.00</u>
Total cost:	\$6,900.00

Mayor Wilds added that this breakdown only reflects the initial cost to take over Emma Drive and to bring it up to code and does not include the cost to maintain the road throughout the years. Therefore, it is his recommendation that the Town should not take over the remainder of Emma Drive due to the cost and that there are other roads that are in need of repairing. Motion was made by Council Member Reitha Stevenson for the Town not to take on the remainder of Emma Drive at this time, which was seconded by Council Member Don Cohenour and carried unanimous.

- Town Clerk, Kim Hyder updated the Mayor and Council on the progress of the 2018 -2019 audit. She and Council Member Jason Shamis have been in contact with the CPA and were told that they are trying to get the audit completed in a timely manner, but this being their first year working with the Town and the fact that a lot of records for 2018 are missing is adding to the time it is taking. Also, that the Town was not set up in Quickbooks as a Governmental Entity is adding to the length of time to complete the audit as the Accountants are having to correct this on their end and will ultimately get with the Town Clerk to correct this on our end.

8. Other Business-

- Fire Chief, Eddie McNeill confirmed that the Campobello Christmas Parade will take place on the first Sunday in December, which will be December 6th at 3:00 p.m. However, in the best interest of everyone, the meet and greet with Santa will not take place this year. Council Member

Don Cohenour asked what Council would ride on in the parade, which was decided to be addressed at a later time.

- Town resident Jeanne Rist asked why the police and fire stats were not posted anywhere such as the website, and Town resident John Owenby asked what the Police Department planned to do in preparation of the outcome of the elections, such as, if riots break out. Mayor Wilds responded that the minutes from each council meeting are posted to the website, which include the total calls made by both the Police Department and Fire Department. He also suggested that Ms. Rist visit the Town's Facebook Page, as it will have the most up to date information on happenings around town because of the volume of people that can be reached via this social media outlet. As for police presence during the election, Police Chief Chad McNeill confirmed that his officers are on alert and will check in with voting precincts in the area, even though Landrum High School is not in Campobello's jurisdiction, but in Spartanburg County. He also contacted Henry Laye of the Spartanburg Voter Registration and said that if anyone feels it is unsafe for them to vote or intimidated in any way, for Mr. Laye to contact him and he will have an officer escort the individual to the voting poll. Mayor Wilds imputed that he has lived in Campobello for 10 years and believes his Town to be one of the safest in the area.
- Town resident, Jeanne Rist, also inquired as to the law on carrying guns to the voting polls. She said that she had heard an elected official announce that he was carrying his concealed weapon while speaking at an event. Mayor Wilds spoke that the elected official she was referring to what Senator Tom Corbin, but that he was allowed to carry his gun as he is also a licensed constable. As for carrying your concealed weapon to a voting precinct, it is up to the churches whether to allow this or not, but it is illegal for a gun to be on school property. Police Chief Chad McNeill confirmed this and also noted that security was up to each individual polling place, but that he was told by the County that the cut off time was 7:00 p.m. and that an official would be probably be placed behind the last person in line at that time to ensure that the polls were closed.
- Town resident, John Owenby, was also concerned at the low turnout for Campobello's Council Meetings and that an elected official who lives but a stone's throw from Town Hall doesn't even try to attend. Mayor Wilds responded that COVID-19 may be a big reason for the low attendance, but was certainly not trying to use it as an excuse. He went on to say that 350 people live in Campobello, but yet only 100 came out to vote when he was running for Mayor. Fire Chief Eddie McNeill said that at one time in Campobello's history, that a Mayor was elected with only 13 votes. Mayor Wilds said that he is trying to get town residents interested in their town by way of Facebook, the Town's website and through his newsletter. Mr. Owenby recommended that the electronic sign be reinstated and used to draw the attention of residents. Police Chief Chad McNeill said that the sign had been hit by lightning and that the cost for these types of signs run close to \$20,000. Fire Chief Eddie McNeill said that he had applied for a grant for an electronic sign and if approved, they would be 30 days from getting a sign.
- Town resident Joann Treacy asked when she would get a street sign for Emma Drive. Police Chief Chad McNeill said that the sign had been ordered, but that the County had misspelled the name of the street and they were correcting the sign and that it should be ready by the end of this week.
- Council Member Don Cohenour reported on at least three potholes on Hwy. 11 near Interstate 26 and said that one is in the driver's side track of the road and is certainly deep enough to do major damage to a vehicle. Council Member Reitha Stevenson also reported of a pothole on Park

Street near her neighbor's house. A formal request will be submitted by the Town Clerk for the repair of these potholes.

9. Adjourned- November 2, 2020 at 7:35 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Reitha Stevenson 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 November, 2020.

Town Council
Special Meeting - November 19, 2020
Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on November 19, 2020 at Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council Member Jason Shamis at 6:02 p.m. Members present were Mayor Philip Wilds, Council Members, Don Cohenour, Reitha Stevenson, Jason Shamis and Alician Sprouse.

2. **New Business-**
 - Council Member Jason Shamis spoke on the 2018-2019 audit and the cost incurred thus far, which is \$21,758.37. He addressed concern over the fact that no detailed billing has been provided with invoices sent. He also called and left a few messages with Elliott and Painter and did not get a response until he followed up the calls with emails. There is concern of why the Auditors did not address their hourly rate in their engagement letter to the Town and that we were also billed for the production of such engagement letter. On the detailed billing they provided after we requested it, the hourly rates ranged from \$65.00/hr to \$275.00/hr. Council Member Shamis called MASC (Municipal Association of SC) to inquire as to their opinion on the matter. Our representative, Jeff Shacker, was surprised at the amount of money being charged and gave several names of other auditors to contact and get estimates. Council Member Shamis did contact another auditing firm out of Greenville and was told that a town of our size should not be paying more than \$12,000 - \$18,000 for an audit. When asked if they could simply take over the 20182019 audit, their response was they would have to start over as they do not know our current auditing firm and would not feel comfortable in relying on their work being accurate. Police Chief Chad McNeill stated that the Town of Duncan confirmed that their audits usually cost them \$15,000 each year. Council Member Shamis would like to get another firm started on the 20192020 audit and did ask Elliott and Painter to halt any further work on the Town's audit until council could meet and decide where to go from here. Mayor Wilds reviewed where the Town had been in the past with auditors and that another firm out of Spartanburg used for fiscal year ending 2016 cost the town \$60,000, followed by a local auditor out of Inman who was hired to perform the 2017- and 2018-year audits, but failed to do so. Therefore, before we end up paying \$60,000 for another audit, Mayor Wilds would like to have a meeting with the current auditors so they can explain why they are charging the fee they are and why it will cost the town \$60,000 to

complete one fiscal year's audit and agrees that we should get the 2019-2020 audit underway with another auditor. Motion was made by Council Don Cohenour for a meeting to be scheduled for the current auditors, Elliott and Painter, to come to Town Hall and discuss the 2018-2019 audit, and for the 2019-2020 audit to be started by using a different auditor, which was seconded by Council Member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous. Mayor Wilds asked Town Clerk, Kim Hyder, to work on getting the meeting scheduled with them as soon as possible before the Christmas holiday. Council member Shamis will contact the auditing firm in Greenville and meet with them about getting the town's 2019-2020 started.

3. Other Business-

- Council Member Don Cohenour brought up an article that he read, and provided a copy for all, that told of how the City of Spartanburg uses a percentage of their hospitality money to fund the city's debt service and multi-year capital project commitments. Also, at least 44% of their hospitality tax revenue goes into the city's general fund budget. Council Member Cohenour wanted to show how those funds can be used in multiple ways to help better our Town.

4. Adjourned- November 19, 2020 at 6:38 p.m.

With no further business presented, Mayor Philip Wilds made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Reitha Stevenson 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 19th day of November, 2020.