

Town Council Meeting – Work Session
Location – 50 Broad Street, Campobello, SC 29322
October 3, 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, Reitha Stevenson and Alician Sprouse. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill.

2. Trash service and the cost associated with this service was discussed and how Council would like to hear the opinions of residents who live in the Town. Therefore, a Special Meeting will be held October 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to hear from the Town's residents.

Also, Spartan Waste will be contacted to ask for the driver to notify us when a trash can has not been put out for several consecutive weeks and if they believe the home is vacant.

3. The Work Session ended at 6:59 p.m. Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 3rd day of October, 2022.

Campobello Town Council Meeting

October 3, 2022

Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on October 3, 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, Alician Sprouse and Reitha Stevenson. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
2. Introduction of the Mayor and Council was done.
3. Mayor Shamis asked if council had reviewed the September 6, 2022 work session minutes and September 6, 2022 council meeting minutes. Council Member Stevenson made a motion to accept the September 6, 2022 work session minutes and September 6, 2022 council meeting minutes as written, which was seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous.
4. Mayor Shamis spoke on how the council meetings will start being ran more tightly with less interruptions. Ordinance 2.210 (Unlawful to Interrupt Meetings) was read by Mayor Shamis and shown on the overhead screen. It was explained that this Ordinance is for all meetings, including those of the Planning and Zoning Committee.
5. Police Chief Chad McNeill reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 32 calls for the month of September. This includes 25 traffic stops resulting in 31 tickets. Speed was monitored more closely on Depot Street due to a complaint. Cars are not speeding in excess of a mile or two over the posted speed limit, as evidenced by the radar speed device. There was a complaint of a kid jumping the railroad tracks but they have not caught her yet. Chief McNeill reported that both police vehicles have been sold with \$7k being paid for the Tahoe and \$5k for the Charger. Carmax would only offer \$3k for each vehicle so we sold the vehicles using GovDeals. The 25 mph speed limit signs have been placed on Old Asheville Hwy. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any questions for Chief McNeill. Council Member Ash asked if any of the traffic stops were drug related. Officer Godfrey spoke on one of his stops, which was at the park, where he obtained 48 grams of marijuana, a 22-caliber pistol and some paraphernalia. Council Member Ash asked if any officers have come in contact with any Fentanyl and Chief McNeill said they have not. Mayor Shamis asked if cameras being added to the park would help. Officer Godfrey said it would depend on the location of the cameras and the lighting. Council Member Sprouse asked if a light could be added over the park bathrooms. Chief McNeill answered that we could use our own lighting and get this done. No further questions were asked. Mayor Shamis did commend the Police Department for all that they do.

6. Fire Chief Brandon McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 23 calls for the month of September. Of those calls, 9 were in the Town limits, 10 in the Fire District Area and 4 assisting outside agencies close by. Chief McNeill mentioned that 3 of the 6 calls assisting an ambulance were subjects not breathing. That means in a months' time in our Fire District there were 3 individuals that suffered a heart attack. Our department made a difference because 2 of the 3 were breathing by the time they left in the ambulance. 9 people showed up on the call and only 2 are paid employees. Mayor Shamis asked about many AEDs the department has. Chief McNeill said 7. The Department also has a device called the "Lucas" which does compressions for you. It was bought 4 years ago and at that time Campobello was the only one to have one besides Spartanburg. There are a lot of times we get calls from an ambulance to bring the machine so we are able to share it with anyone. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any further questions for the Fire Department. No further questions were asked. Mayor Shamis thanked the Fire Department for all that they do.

7. **Old Business-**

- The second reading of Ordinance 5.701 – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance., Not Repealed., was done by Mayor Shamis. Mayor Shamis asked if there were any questions. None were asked. Motion was made by Council Member Ash to accept the second reading of 5.701 -Standard Codes Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, Not Repealed., and the amendments thereto, which was seconded by Council member Stevenson and carried unanimous.
- Mayor Shamis gave update on what the Mayor's Intern has done. The PARD grant will be submitted by October 10th which will give us \$20k-\$25k to use towards Gosnell Park. Also, Wheeler Street will be closed to use as parking for the District Office and they will take over sole responsibility for it. Emily is also looking into grants for funds to have movies in the park and other events once renovations to the park are complete. The Hometown Grant has been submitted which will help us with the \$18k expense of our Comprehensive Plan being done by ACOG (Appalachian Council of Government). Emily also has gone through the Ordinances and updated them which will be uploaded to our website. Emily is also finishing up a grant writing class. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any questions. None were asked.
- Officer Godfrey is working diligently with those who have code violations and in turn, they are working to get things fixed. Mayor Shamis said that under the Ordinances, we can fine people, but he fails to see how that would help when the owners could use that money to fix the property in violation. Council agreed.
- Mayor Shamis confirmed that the millage certification form has been provided to Spartanburg County, which lowers the rate to .0800. There have been many comments and complaints as to why it was not lowered before now. The reason for the delay and why it could not be lowered in April when it was voted on it was due to our having to wait for the County to send the certification form and the end of

their budget year had not happened. Mayor Shamis said that if you have an escrow, the difference will be credited back to you by your mortgage company.

- Chief McNeill said that he has attempted to make contact with the owners of the property on Hwy 11, where the Town is wanting to move the town sign to. He received an answer that they are waiting on two members of the family to give the ok.

8. New Business-

- Discussion was had about updating the Town's fee schedule and the possibility of adding a grading fee and encroachment fee. Chief McNeill explained that an encroachment fee is a permit purchased to allow a government agency to use land not owned by them. We had this when the Post Office did not want to sell their land, but SCDOT needed to widen the road and put-up power pole, thus the need for the encroachment permit. Mayor Shamis said he is more concerned with adding a grading fee. Council agreed and this will be added to November's agenda for more discussion and possible vote.
- Police Chief McNeill gave an update on the Hwy 357/176 Road project and provided a map on the screen overhead. SCDOT paved the intersection today and the light should be put up shortly. They were striping/painting the road this evening. Mayor Shamis asked if a traffic study would be done afterwards. Chief McNeill answered that they did the traffic study before it began. The project should be finished up shortly.
- Three new lights will be placed at the bridge on Hwy 11 at I-26 in hopes that this will help with reducing accidents. Council Member Stevenson asked what time of day the accidents usually occur. Police Chief McNeill said that it is both in day and night. Two lights will go at Compton Bridge Road and across from it. The other will be placed on the on ramp coming from Spartanburg. In meeting with Duke Energy, it was thought these would be the best location so as not to interfere with traffic on I-26.

9. Other Business-

- Dennis Iskra of the Planning and Zoning Committee spoke that the September Public Hearing had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 and they are working to get it rescheduled. The Flexible Review District plan will help when the Rail Trail comes and Ingleside Meadows is developed.
- Katherine Williamson, a candidate being considered for the Planning and Zoning Committee, gave a brief background on herself. Motion was made by Council Member Ash to accept Katherine Williamson as a new member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, which was seconded by Council member Stevenson and carried unanimous.

- Town resident, John Owenby, was given the opportunity to ask which zoning book is the most current. Mayor Shamis answered that the latest version was 2000. Mr. Owenby also spoke on when Mayor Huff came to council meeting earlier this year. He gave a detailed discussion on how to get grants for sewer. Inman got grant approval for sewer service for \$13 million. Mr. Owenby summarized all of this and provided it everyone. He has put in 100 hours and the topic of sewer doesn't even appear on the agenda anymore. He questioned why not put in for a grant for sewer service. Mayor Shamis agreed and spoke of how he has been the mayor for only 8 months. Mayor Shamis asked Mr. Owenby when he was on the Planning and Zoning Committee years ago, why it wasn't handled at that time. Also, if you are not dig ready, you're not getting the money. Owenby firmly stated that if he does not see any progress on the sewer project, he will resign from the sewer committee. Mr. Owenby thanked the mayor for his service and Shamis also expressed appreciation for all of Mr. Owenby's work.

- At 7:44 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Stevenson to go into Executive Session regarding pending litigation, which was seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous. At 8:08 p.m., Council exited the Executive Session with no action taken.

10. Adjourned – October 3, 2022 at 8:09 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 3rd day of October, 2022.

**Town of Campobello
Special Council Meeting
October 17, 2022
Minutes**

1. The Campobello Town Council had a Special meeting which was held on October 17, 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 6:30 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Reitha Stevenson and Aaron Ash. Council Member Alician Sprouse was present by audio only. Also in attendance, was Police Chief, Chad McNeill and Fire Chief, Brandon McNeill.
2. Mayor Shamis began with the introduction of Senator Tom Corbin who spoke on his relationship with former Fire Chief Ed McNeill and Police Chief Chad McNeill and how they had mentioned wanting to build a community center. Senator Corbin didn't forget that request. The Senate voted to rebate a billion dollars back to the taxpayers and also to cut taxes. Also, there is usually some money left over in the budget. As such, he put in a budget request for the Town of Campobello to help us get a community center. He then proceeded with presenting the Town of Campobello with a check for \$200,000 to build a community center. He mentioned his love for this community and willingness to help.
3. **Old Business-**
 - Mayor Shamis opened the floor for any town residents to speak and share their thoughts and concerns in regards to the trash service. He explained that this is not a public hearing but a time to hear from our residents. In an effort to get the millage rate lowered to .0080, it was necessary for trash service to be added to the residents' tax bill that Spartanburg County sends out. Mayor Shamis did not know that in order for this to be done and trash service to be mandatory for all residents, he would need to inform the County by no later than July. He takes full responsibility for this not getting done. The options now are to 1) have no trash service, 2) charge all residents separately for trash service, 3) look into our budget and find the money to pay this year's trash bill or 4) collect it at the end of this year through Spartanburg County which would put us collecting in arrears. He wanted to hear from the public as to what options they would like to see done.

Town resident, J. Owenby, asked what the amounts were for each of those options. Mayor Shamis responded that if an individual were to get trash service it would be \$24.00/month as opposed to \$14.50/month through the Town. A savings of \$10.00. The Town's current bill for trash service is about \$39,000/year. His concern about the Town paying for it is when a new house is built, the person buying that home is essentially getting free trash service for two years as taxes are not collected on a new home for two years, which puts the Town in a hole. Mr. Owenby asked if the new home owner could be made to pay an availability fee like the water district enforces, due to the

water service already being installed and paid for by the previous owner. Mayor Shamis said that was a good idea. Mr. Owenby also asked if there would be minutes from this meeting. Mayor Shamis answered in the affirmative.

Town resident, B. Taylor, wanted to confirm that the new houses are not the issue, but that this particular line item was forgotten or left out when doing the budget. Mayor Shamis said it was not forgotten, but more along the lines of he did not realize that it had to be given to the County in July since their fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. It was built into the budget before when the millage rate was .1483 and Council's goal was to get taxes down as much as possible.

Town resident, K. Taylor, asked if the town had a residual emergency fund to use. Mayor Shamis said that we have money in the bank and could talk about using that. Council Member Ash said we just want to do what is fair. Mr. Taylor made the comment that this is the best trash service he has ever had and even if he was billed half of it, he would be fine with that. Mayor Shamis asked if he was billed all of it would that be a problem. Mr. Taylor said that even at \$14.50/month that is still a good deal and would be willing to do that as long as we continued to receive the same great trash service. Mayor Shamis said the driver of our trash route is very dedicated and helpful to the point that he goes above and beyond by helping our elderly residents who are physically unable to get their trash can to the end of their driveway.

Town resident, J. McNeill, expressed her frustration with the Town wanting the residents to pay for their trash service due to the mayor's mistake. She does not think residents should have to pay for it. She was fine with paying her taxes at the old millage rate when the trash service was included. Council Member Ash said that if it's taken away from the Town, it also affects them. Mrs. McNeill understood that and said that dropping the millage rate like they did didn't help the situation either.

Mr. Owenby asked what the amount of residual revenue was received. Mayor Shamis has not had a chance to sit down with the Town Clerk and go over that, but will have that number by the next council meeting.

Mayor Shamis asked if council had any other questions. Council Member Sprouse said that she would rather the Town pay the cost for the trash service this year, instead of asking the residents to pay for it. Mayor Shamis asked how many residents have trash service and Clerk Hyder responded 244. Mayor Shamis then calculated the amount needed for trash service, which would be \$42,456.00.

Mr. Owenby asked if there was a difference in the amount paid for businesses versus households. Mayor Shamis said there was not and if a business wanted a dumpster, the business paid for that.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that everything has double in price now except for household income, so this may put a strain on some people to have to add this back into their personal budget.

Council Member Sprouse said that this was not all of Mayor Shamis' fault, that they as a council try to do all they can to help the Town and its residents.

Mr. Owenby asked what the date of the next council meeting would be and would it interfere with the general election. Clerk Hyder responded that it is scheduled for Monday, November 7th, which would not interfere with the general election on Tuesday, November 8th. Mr. Owenby mentioned that we should put more notices on the sign at the corner of Hwy. 11 and Hwy 176 and out front of the Town Hall office. Mrs. Taylor mentioned that a mailout flyer might help.

4. New Business-

- none

5. Adjourned October 17, 2022 at 6:55 p.m

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

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

Town of Campobello Council Meeting minutes recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 17th day of October, 2022.