

Campobello Town Council Meeting

January 4, 2021

Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on January 4, 2021 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 Council Member Jason Shamis at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Jason Shamis, Don Cohenour, Reitha Stevenson and Alician Sprouse. Invocation was done by Council Member Alician Sprouse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of the Council Members took place immediately following the invocation. Also, in attendance was Lt. Brandon McNeill.
3. Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to accept the December 7, 2020 minutes, which were seconded by Council Member Alician Sprouse and carried unanimous.
4. Lt. McNeill reported that both Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Ed McNeill were absent due to contracting COVID-19. Furthermore, he had contacted them by phone and monthly totals had not been provided to either of them at this time.
5. **Old Business-**
 - Council Member Shamis asked as to the progress of getting a new email domain. Town Clerk Kim Hyder responded that upon Police Chief McNeill's return, he would inquire from other towns as to what they are using and the expense. Council Member Shamis asked Mrs. Hyder to explain to the residents present at the meeting why we are looking for a new email domain. Her explanation was that SLED is requiring us to have a more secure email domain due to the sensitivity of their emails to the Town and Police Department. SLED has given us a year to comply with their request.
 - Town Clerk, Kim Hyder had no new 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 will be in contact with SCDOT to get an estimated date of when they will be out to repair the road.
 - Council Member Shamis updated everyone that the road signs for Emma Drive were now in place.
 - Council Member Shamis urged town residents to consider being a part of the Planning and Zoning Committee for the Town. At this time, 3 additional members are needed. A meeting with the committee's current members will be scheduled for next week.
 - Council Member Shamis asked for an update on the PARDS grant for new playground equipment for Gosnell Park. Clerk Hyder said that Fire Chief McNeill had last told her that he had been

given an extension on some of his grants, but she was unsure as to whether it pertained to the PARD grant. This will be added to next month's agenda.

6. **New Business-**

- A first reading of the Town's Ordinance 13.513 – Drugs/Possession and 13.514 – Exposing A Child To Methamphetamine was done by Council. Motion was made by council member Don Cohenour to accept the first reading of the amendment, which was seconded by council member Alician Sprouse and carried unanimous. After the Motion was made, town resident Beth Short asked if this Ordinance was not already a State law. Lt. Brandon McNeill responded that it was but by our making it illegal in the Town will allow our Judge to hear the case and prevent it from going through the Spartanburg County Solicitor's Office.
- Council Member Don Cohenour reported that there are many potholes throughout the town and in the coming days he will be out and about marking each one. House Representative Josiah Magnuson added that he would also reach out to SCDOT about getting a crew to Campobello to work on repairing them.
- Council Member Jason Shamis introduced House Representative Josiah Magnuson and asked if he had anything he would like to add to the meeting. Rep. Magnuson outlined a few things that the House of Representatives are continuing to work on and some new items added to the list. They are as follows:
 - a) Continue to deal with the Santee Cooper class action suit and are not going to give up on that anytime soon and the debt that was incurred;
 - b) Education is a big topic this year. They hope to get the step increase for teachers back on track after it had been suspended due to not knowing what revenue the State would receive;
 - c) Redistricting is another big topic. This would not only be for schools, but also include congressional and legislative districts;
 - d) Topics that always on the mind of Legislature are pro-life and 2nd amendment;
 - e) Making sure that Campobello gets its portion of the \$100 million budgeted for rural roads in South Carolina. Council Member Jason Shamis confirmed that more and more people are moving into our town and that the roads will only get worse if nothing is done to fix them now.
- Council Member Don Cohenour commended Rep. Magnuson on his hand in the reconstruction of the Mt. Lebanon Road bridge.
- Council Member Reitha Stevenson asked for an update on the bridge over I-26 at Exit 5 and what was being done since the bridge is higher than the road, which interferes with drivers being able to see if traffic is clear to proceed from the exit ramp. Could a traffic light not be installed? Town resident Beth Short expressed that the traffic light at Exit 10/Hwy 292 is helpful, but causes traffic to back up which causes issues. Council Member Stevenson suggested traffic lights

for both ends of the Exit 5 bridge since traffic from the frontage road/Compton Bridge Road is constant. Rep. Magnuson explained that he is working with the district coordinator and that it was bumped up on the list, but due to changes in staffing, the issue is in limbo at this time. Rep. Magnuson would like for the town to provide him a list of what issues they have regarding traffic lights and road repairs and he would reach out the SC DOT with the requests. He mentioned that it was in question about the amount of cars/traffic came through Campobello. Lt. McNeill confirmed that SC DOT does their own study as far as the number of vehicles and have good results. Council Member Shamis asked Clerk Hyder to look into the last study done by SC DOT and to also prepare a list of the most problematic traffic issues and email that to Rep. Magnuson.

- Council Member Don Cohenour spoke about the much needed change coming to the intersection at Hwy 357 and Asheville Hwy and confirmed that stakes had already been placed where the road will be widened and intersection straightened. The SC DOT said that the Campobello Post Office's access drive closest to the intersection will have to be permanently closed when construction begins.

7. Other Business-

- Council Member Jason Shamis opened the floor for anyone in attendance to ask any questions they may have. Town resident John Owenby began by saying he would like to see what the Planning & Zoning Committee are doing once the committee is fully staffed and requested that it be on the Agenda/Minutes.
- Council Member Jason Shamis addressed one last item before the close of the meeting. He read aloud the Town of Campobello's 2020 year-end report of account balances which were as follows:

General Fund balance as of 12/31/2020:	\$50,619.29
Fire Department	\$207,601.31
Hospitality	\$45,751.50
Fire Dept Savings acct	\$40,549.28
Money Market Savings	\$21,549.28

Council Member Jason Shamis explained that in the past the Town has had nearly nothing left over in the accounts in years past and to have balances like the ones mentioned tonight is outstanding. He went on to say that the Town's books have been in a mess, but we are recovering from that and hope to have an audit done by the end of this year's first quarter. Council Member Don Cohenour added that the switch to go with Quickbooks has been very beneficial, as well as, Clerk Hyder and our accounting firm working together to straighten things out.

9. Adjourned- January 4, 2021 at 7:26 p.m.

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

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 4th day of January, 2021.