



TOWN OF CAMPOBELLO

Council Meeting – Work Session Minutes

February 22, 2024

1. The Work Session of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis on February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. located at 50 Broad St., Campobello, SC. Council Members present were Reitha Stevenson, Alician Sprouse, Aaron Ash and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill.

2. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Council reviewed the proposed ballfield agreement which was sent back from the Town's attorney with some changes. Previously, Council agreed to charge \$50 per ballfield rental and want to continue with that. No adult leagues are allowed on the field as they may be able to hit the ball further, causing damage to homes and vehicles that are close by. Police Chief McNeill and Council Member McDowell mentioned that the field needs to be maintained on a more regular schedule to keep it looking presentable for the teams using it. Council would like to keep the fees as \$50 per four-hour period. Any seasonal teams would also pay \$300 damage and reservation deposit which would be returned if the field is left in good condition with no damage. The Agreement will be added to March's agenda for discussion and possible vote.

 - Police Chief McNeill is looking into getting power outlets, (2) 30 amp plugs and a 110, in the outfield and at the gate. He will have a quote to present to Council at the March meeting. This will also help with Movie Night at the Park. The PARD grant money has not been received and a follow-up call will be made. Lt. Miller mentioned that he has a Boy Scout troop that is wanting to earn their eagle scout status, so they are available to paint the basketball backboards, stain the pavilion posts and picnic tables and paint the swings. Mayor Shamis also wants the existing fences to be painted black and will get quotes. He also wants the old concession stand building moved to where the old buildings were torn down at the back of the ballfield. Chief McNeill will work on getting that moved and checking with the coach of the Lions team, as they were wanting to put a batting cage on the ballfield. Council Member Ash would like the tire swing to be removed from the basketball court as he can see someone getting hurt. Chief McNeill will remove that and also mentioned that railing needs to be put up at the steps leading down to the ballfield and that portable restrooms would be nice to have, however, they cost around \$30,000.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Council Member Sprouse would like an Exhaust Brake Ordinance to be considered. She mentioned that it is a horrific sound coming down Hwy 176 and Hwy 11. Chief McNeill said he would check with Landrum to see what they have for an ordinance. A first reading of the Ordinance will be done at the March Council meeting.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Mayor Shamis mentioned that he and the Fire Chief hope to have a meeting in the near future with County Council Member Bob Walker and Spartanburg County Administrator Cole Alverson about the millage rate for the Fire Department being lowered.
- Police Chief McNeill asked to speak regarding the officers and overtime. He wanted Council to know that the paid officers worked 30 hours over their normal schedule in January and 35 hours over in February. As for each of the reserve officers, they are required to work 20 hours a month. The City of Landrum has no reserve officers at this time, so they do not have the extra free help that we have. Inman has four reserve officers which worked 120 hours in a month. Our reserve officers have worked 280 hours just in January. 310 hours were worked in February. This is above and beyond working at the Forrester Center and helping with local ballgames. They still have their normal jobs during the week. Landrum PD also had to send Campobello a student who was job shadowing for the day in Landrum, due to them being short staffed. Council Member Ash asked how much of the overtime for the regular officers was spent helping other agencies? Chief McNeill could not give a definite answer as we do not pay for overtime. When the officer do help cover other agencies due to shootings, short staffed issues, etc., they are only there until the other agency gets cleared up with their call.
- Fire Chief McNeill asked about replacing a Tahoe at a cost of \$60,000, which includes cameras, lights, etc. In 2022, we paid \$37,000 for the exact same Tahoe. He also gave prices on a Chevy Silverado 1500 is \$51,900 and we paid \$42,000 in 2021. At a George dealership, a Ford Expedition is \$55,000, Chevy Silverado, not police package, is \$49,000, Chevy Tahoe is \$55,000 Ford Responder is \$50,800.00 and an Explorer is \$48,900.00. Everything is about \$2,000 in price difference. Our 2022 Tahoe responded to 40% of our calls last year, which is driven by our Asst. Fire Chief who does not get paid. The Tahoe stays at his house when not being used for the Fire Dept and has around 12,000 miles. It has a police package, along with equipment for a fire call. The Fire Department is fine with keeping the 2022 Tahoe we have, but knows that it would help the Police Department if they could purchase it for their fleet. Police Chief McNeill gave council the mileage on each police vehicle, which were reported as follows:

2009 Tahoe	113,000
2019 Silverado	87,000
2022 Tahoe	27,458
2022 Tahoe	25,698
2012 Tahoe	87,168
2020 Tahoe	87,364
2012 Tahoe	137,495
2017 Tahoe	145,987 (bought from Fire Dept)

Mayor Shamis asked if the car with the most mileage would be sold. Chief McNeill answered that it would be the one that gives them the most problems and we would get about \$4,000 - \$5,000 on the oldest Tahoes. The SROs have the ones that have 4wd as those are the best for patrolling due to gas mileage. Our reserve officers don't have their own car. There are 8 officers on payroll, and 18 total if you include reserve officers. Fire Chief McNeill knows that the Police Department does not have a car payment in their budget, so the Fire Department is good with the Police Department reimbursing the Fire Department \$20,000 for the Tahoe. Police Chief McNeill said that \$3,000 was spent this month in repairs on some of these Tahoes. Council Member Stevenson asked if the Police Department could use the Fire Department's Silverado when he is not using it. Fire Chief McNeill said yes, but it does not have an in-car camera or the capability to issue a

ticket. The Police Department already uses his truck to haul trailers and such, but he does not believe it would benefit them in patrolling. Council member Stevenson asked how much it would cost to transition a Fire vehicle to a Police vehicle. Fire Chief McNeill answered with \$6,000-\$7,000. Council Member Ask asked if the old one would have all of the equipment needed for the new one. Police Chief McNeill answered in the affirmative. Police Chief McNeill said they continue to look for grants to help purchase vehicles. DOJ only gives you \$25,000. He has also asked Senator Corbin if there was any money earmarked for first responders. He said he will look into it. Lt. Miller mentioned that a lot of our officers and fire are cross trained and can show up on any call. He also mentioned that if you get a grant for a traffic safety officer vehicle, that officer can only work traffic safety issues and cannot go on police or fire calls. If he did, we would violate the terms of the grants and could be required to pay back the grant money. This happened to an agency in the Upstate. Mayor Shamis asked that this item be added to March's agenda.

- Police Chief McNeill expressed his dislike for the current IT company that is currently being used. There are issues with our LawTrak program and printers that could have been prevented if this IT company would have contacted the IT support for the program. We have received four quotes from IT companies and to get everyone covered with the appropriate coverage we need will be close to \$1,000 a month. This includes 24/7 monitoring on our computers and quarantines a company should it become compromised. The IT company also has to have CJIS certification. We need get someone in the office soon to fix our issues, as our online ticket program is not working.

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:18 p.m., the Work Session was adjourned on the motion made by Council Member Ash, which was seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimously. Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 22ND day of February, 2024.



TOWN OF CAMPOBELLO

Council Meeting – Work Session Minutes

February 5, 2024

1. The Work Session of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis on February 5, 2024 at 6:32 p.m. located at 50 Broad St., Campobello, SC. Council Members present were Reitha Stevenson, Alician Sprouse, Aaron Ash and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- Review of a proposed Food Truck Article/Ordinance was done. Mayor Shamis asked about the food trucks being 250 feet away from a restaurant establishment. Clerk Hyder said it ultimately comes down to the owner of the food truck will need to get permission from the restaurant. Chief McNeill said the required decal will be the business license they purchase.
- February 22, 2024 at 6 p.m. has been tentatively set as a Work Session meeting, assuming it works with council's schedule. The meeting will consist of working on ballfield agreement and items needing attention at Gosnell Park.
- At 6:42 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Sprouse to enter into Executive Session in regards to contracts, which was seconded by Council member McDowell and carried unanimously. At 7:03 p.m., Council exited the Executive Session with no action taken.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- Clerk Hyder prepared a calendar just for teams using the field and asked council if each of them received the invite to join the calendar. All answered in the affirmative.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:04 p.m., the Work Session was adjourned by Mayor Shamis. Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 5th day of February, 2024.



TOWN OF CAMPOBELLO

Council Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

February 5, 2024

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Jason Shamis on February 5, 2024 at 7:04 p.m. located at 50 Broad St., Campobello, SC. Council Members present were Reitha Stevenson, Alician Sprouse, Aaron Ash and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
2. Council was introduced.
3. Mayor Shamis asked if Council had reviewed the January 2, 2024 work session minutes and January 2, 2024 council meeting minutes. Council Member Stevenson made a motion to accept the January 2, 2024 work session minutes and the January 2, 2024 council meeting minutes as written, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimously.
4. Mayor Shamis spoke on the demolition of the old Town Hall and Police Department and how it was a step closer to getting something built that we all can be proud of. He mentioned the State of the State address and how one of Gov. McMaster's key points was about infrastructure and funding for rural areas with regards to infrastructure. We definitely want to make sure we are tapped into that resource.
5. Police Chief Chad McNeill reported the Police Department had a total of 102 calls for the month of January. Of those calls, the SROs had 39 home visits and 2 welfare checks. Chief McNeill said that they also assisted Inman and Landrum. He said that calls are up due to the increase of new people in the area, including the County areas. Last weekend the department backed up Landrum in a shooting and once they cleared up, they covered calls for Landrum while they dealt with SLED. Also, Lt. Miller and several others helped out at the Forrester Center with their ASAP classes. Council member Sprouse asked if there were any drug cases and Chief responded 2 or 3. He also introduced one of the newest Reserve Officers, Alec Medley, who is originally from Hendersonville, but moved to Campobello a few years ago. Mayor Shamis asked how many wrecks happened at Hwy 11 and I-26. Chief responded that there was one, but it was during the daytime. Mayor Shamis commended Chief McNeill on his work in heading up the demolition project. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any further questions for the Police Department. No further questions were asked.
6. Fire Chief McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 65 calls for the month of January. 15 of those calls were in Town limits, 40 in the fire service area and 10 were assisting other agencies. Fire Chief McNeill said he just received confirmation of a V-SAFE grant that he had applied for in the amount of \$13,280.00 for extraction equipment. This grant was awarded by the State. Council Member Stevenson mentioned that there was another grant out there that was due to open. Fire Chief McNeill said he does know about it and it opened February 2nd, and he will be applying for \$300,000 for new air packs. Mayor Shamis asked if council had any further questions for the Fire Department. No further questions were asked.
7. **Old Business-**

- Police Chief McNeill reported on behalf of Code Enforcement. Nothing has changed and Mr. Mock is still searching for the remaining owners of the 203 N. Main Street property in order to purchase their interest.
- Mayor Shamis would like to get some quotes on getting the fence painted at Gosnell park. He would also like to meet at the park to see what we need to do before having the event, Movie Night at the Park. Chief McNeill has the netting for the ballfield and is waiting to put it up in the spring to keep it from getting damaged by winter weather.
- The 'Watch for Children' signage, has been put up on Asheville Hwy. Clerk Hyder mentioned that a resident on Depot Street has also asked for one of the Watch for Children signs to be placed on their street. The cost of each sign is \$85-\$90. The County and State does not make those signs, so they had to be ordered from a sign making company. The 'Park Parking Only' signs are due to come in this month. Motion was made by Council Member Sprouse to add a Watch for Children sign to Depot Street, which was seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimously. Council Member Stevenson mentioned that the Watch for Children sign at Caldwell Street and Hwy 176 needs to be moved as it was blocking her view of oncoming traffic.
- Chief McNeill spoke on the ballfield use by rec teams. He said this was a miscommunication on the County's end as they call the ballfield off of New Cut Road the Campobello ballfield.
- Mayor Shamis asked that the ballfield agreement, rules and regulations be tabled until the March council meeting.
- In regards to a sewer update, Council Member McDowell has received a proposal from Summit Engineering and is waiting to receive one from WK Dickson, which should be done before the end of the week. He also has reached out to Erik Horton and will meet with him this week. Once he obtains all three proposals, he can present them to Council for discussion and possible vote. Mayor Shamis said if we can get shovel ready, then we can get sewer in this Town as soon as in the next five years. Council Member Stevenson asked if natural gas could also be piped in at the same time. Mayor Shamis said he would like that, but the expense of that would have to be factored in and the main goal is to get sewer. Town resident, John Owenby stated that it had been 27 months since the owners of the brick building across the street came to Council asking for funding to help get sewer, so he is glad to hear that Council has some kind of schedule now, especially since the Rails to Trails is coming.
- Mayor Shamis is waiting for better weather to get the Hwy 11 town sign posts painted.
- Police Chief McNeill said that the tree trimming had been completed at the ballfield and park. The District Office has approved of the work done.
- A meeting with SCDOT will be had towards the end of the month or beginning of March to discuss the sidewalk grant. Chief McNeill said we will need to have a drawing from an engineer closer to the time that the grant is awarded, which is April.
- Council has scheduled a Work Session for Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss items needing attention at Gosnell Park and to work on the ballfield agreement.

8. New Business-

- Mayor Shamis reached out to McKinley Cooper to speak about the proposed FYE 2022 audit, but they were not available for tonight's meeting and so this will be moved to March. Mayor

Shamis would like to hear what they have to say before Council approves the audit and will reach out to them again to confirm they can be at March's Council meeting.

- Council Member Stevenson spoke on wanting to get a time capsule together to be buried where the new Town Hall/Police Department will be built. A copy of the last minutes, pictures of the old Town Hall and a coin are some of the items that will be submitted. Mayor Shamis asked that something be added to Facebook to invite the town to include items that would tell about Campobello.
- A First Reading of CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VII – FOOD TRUCK AND ROADSIDE VENDORS was done by Mayor Shamis. This included Sections 8.701 – DEFINITIONS, 8.702 – REQUIREMENTS AND FOOD VENDOR AGREEMENT, 8.703 – STREETS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, 8.704 – MOBILE FOOD VENDORS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, 8.705 – APPLICATION CONTENTS, 8.706 – GENERAL MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS, 8.707 - INSPECTIONS and 8.708 – PENALTIES, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION. Clerk Hyder said she has run this by ACOG and that it originally came from the Municipal Association. Motion was made by Council Member Stevenson to accept the first reading of CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE VII – FOOD TRUCK AND ROADSIDE VENDORS, Sections 8.701 – DEFINITIONS, 8.702 – REQUIREMENTS AND FOOD VENDOR AGREEMENT, 8.703 – STREETS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, 8.704 – MOBILE FOOD VENDORS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, 8.705 – APPLICATION CONTENTS, 8.706 – GENERAL MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS, 8.707 - INSPECTIONS and 8.708 – PENALTIES, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimously.

9. Other Business-

- County Councilman, Bob Walker said that it was his understanding that the Rails to Trail will start at Hi-Bridge in Inman and continue on the NC/SC State line which is all that the County is concerned about.
- Laura Ringo, executive director for PAL (Play, Advocate, Live Well), gave an update about the Rails to Trails, which included a power point presentation. In attendance with her were her colleagues, Michael Forrester and Sophie Schwartzbauer. There are three non-profit groups working collaboratively on the Rails to Trails project, which are PAL, Conserving Carolina and Upstate Forever. They formed a new non-profit, Saluda Trail Conservancy, for the purpose of purchasing the rail line. Their group is the entity that will make the purchases. Laura said that she has been in contact with Spartanburg County Council and their intent is to hand over the trail to Spartanburg County, upon its completion, for them to maintain. However, the County has not taken any formal action.

Sophie gave a summary of the rail, which happens to be the steepest grade in all of the Country. It will start in Inman and run all the way through Zirconia, NC. We hope the trail will be travelled by bike or on foot. The trail will be a total of 31 miles with 15.5 miles being in SC and 15.9 in NC.

One of the two main benefits of the trail would be economic development. TIME Bicycle will not be the only business that will find this trail beneficial. It is a great way to sponsor the entrepreneurial spirit of local residents. PAL is focused on health and the trail would be a great way to get out and get healthy. There have been feasibility studies done on how to connect the trail to USC Upstate, to the Daniel Morgan Trail and the Ecusta Trail. They are in the midst of

doing an economic impact study and will share that with us when finalized. So far, what most people would like to see along the trail are wildlife viewing areas and connections to the different cities and towns.

The City of Inman and Landrum have offered their support for the trail. Laura stated that they welcome support from Campobello. There is a SC Advisory Committee that is looking for members which can be anyone from the communities. Federal grants and other private grants are being sought after for funding to help with getting surveys done so they can speak knowledgeably with residents who have questions about their property. There will be a lot of community engagement. Upon getting these grants, they would start this summer to work towards getting everything lined up. They hope by this time next year that they will have ownership of the line. It is hopeful that construction will begin by sometime in 2026. Of course, this depends on getting through the different phases of the project. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Laura Ringo or her colleagues at lringo@palspartanburg.org; 864-598-9638 or info@saludagraderail.org sschwartzbauer@palspartanburg.org. Their website is www.palspartanburg.org

Town resident A. Bruce moved from Greenville to Campobello due to the crime on the Swamp Rabbit Trail, which is why she is not in favor of the trail. Michael spoke in response that as part of their research on crime statistics on trails, which on a national scale are less than crime in the community itself. There is a little difference when you have an urban setting like that of the Swamp Rabbit Trail than a more rural setting such as with the Rails to Trails. Most of the time these trails are active which deters crime. He referenced Damascus, Virginia which is home to the 'Virginia Creeper Trail' which is now a popular destination for cyclist. Ms. Bruce asked if the trails would be open at night. He said yes, but that you would have more people walking up and down the railroad track at night now than when it is a paved walking trail. Mayor Shamis did say we would want to make sure that the more wooded areas of the trail are patrolled. Michael commented that crime on the Swamp Rabbit Trail has decreased due to the trail transforming those certain areas for the better. Mayor Shamis mentioned that our public safety officers are mostly concerned about safety and how to get to someone in need on the. Laura reiterated that the Swamp Rabbit Trail has certainly turned some of those questionable areas around and that they definitely want police and community input when they get to that phase of the project. Bob Walker said that this is through the County so the County will certainly be there to help.

Town resident J. Owenby mentioned that the Town needs to take advantage of the trail coming and develop some type of boardwalk so that our wetland could be utilized. The wetland is located between Hwy 176 and Hwy 11 of about 2 miles. Laura said she would be glad to work with them in developing that when the time comes.

Town resident T. Williamson asked about the anticipated project timeline. Laura could not give a definite answer and that it will all come down to money, but she will certainly share that information when she knows more.

- Chairman Rick Sweeney gave an update on what the Planning and Zoning Committee has been working on. They received two annexation requests. One was a large piece of property on Old Mill Road (former Campobello Oaks Conference Center). However, the owner would like to review the benefits of annexing into the Town. The other property was being leased by someone and was told the owner of the property would have to be the one to petition for annexation. There is still a vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Committee and the only requirement for this seat is they must be a town resident. Their next meeting is set for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

- Mayor Shamis gave an update on what the Town Hall Planning Committee have been working on. A picture of Travelers Rest's Town Hall and Police Department was shown as an idea for the project. He believes this type of architectural structure or something similar would fit great into the Town. The Committee will begin looking for contractors to find out the cost of such a project.

10. Adjourned- February 5, 2024 at 8:08 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Ash made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Sprouse 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 5th day of February, 2024.