

Campobello Town Council Meeting

November 1, 2021

Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on November 1, 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. Introduction of the Council Members took place immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Wilds asked if council had reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting(s) and asked for a Motion to accept them. Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to accept the October 4, 2021 Council Meeting minutes, which were seconded by Council Member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous.
4. Chief Chad McNeill reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 126 calls for the month of October. Mayor Wilds asked if council had any questions for Police Chief McNeill. Council Member Shamis asked about wrecks on I-26/Hwy 11. Council Member Stevenson asked if it was a hotspot. Chief McNeill responded in the affirmative and said that there had been 4 wrecks there just this past weekend, one wreck with fuel leak. Mayor Wilds asked if this was westbound on I-26 and Chief McNeill said that wrecks were mostly eastbound. The problem is the guardrails are too high for any lowriding cars. SUVs and trucks have a better view of oncoming traffic. Mayor Wilds asked that Chief McNeill provide a record of wrecks at the next council meeting. Spartanburg Council Member Bob Walker asked how long this had been going on and asked if it had been reported to the State and if so, to whom. Chief McNeill said that this has been going on for years and that DOT had been contacted, as well as Rep. Josiah Magnuson. Bob Walker said that he would speak with Brandon Wilson at DOT to see what can be done. Council member Stevenson asked if numerous calls to Mr. Wilson by different individuals would help and Mr. Walker answered in the negative.
5. Police Chief McNeill reported for Fire Chief Brandon McNeill that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 30 calls for the month of October. Mayor Wilds asked if anyone had any questions regarding the fire department. Council member Stevenson asked if there were any open positions at the fire department. Police Chief McNeill said that they had someone resign and that they were looking to fill that position which would be for an engineer.
6. **Old Business-**
 - A first reading of Ordinance 2.320 – Qualifications for Candidates, was done by Mayor Wilds. 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 Don Cohenour to accept the first reading of the Ordinance, which was seconded by council member Alician Sprouse and carried unanimous.

- Council Member Shamis spoke about the contract with Appalachian Council of Government (ACOG) to help get our planning and zoning ordinances updated. The cost would be \$18,000, which would not be due at one time. They have already provided some preliminary ideas. Mayor Wilds asked what the town would gain from doing this. Council Member Shamis responded that our ordinances are outdated, having been done by Spartanburg County in 2000, which were not very good to begin with. Growth is coming to Campobello and we need to be prepared so that our citizens do not suffer in their property values. Council Member Cohenour was glad that Council Member Shamis jumped on this and believes that ACOG will be a big help. Town property owner, Dawn Ford, asked if other companies were considered before going with ACOG. Council Member Shamis responded that ACOG pretty much has the field when it comes to this matter and that they help other surrounding towns with their ordinances and getting plans for growth in place. Ms. Ford also asked if there would be ordinances in place prior to sewer. Council Member Shamis answered in the affirmative, but that sewer was a plan that is further out in the future. Town Resident Mr. Peeler made mention of a post he saw wherein Governor McMaster proposed a \$500 million investment in rural infrastructure improvements. Mr. Peeler suggested that we put in for any money that we can get to help with sewer. Motion was made by council member Don Cohenour to accept the contract from ACOG, which was seconded by council member Jason Shamis and carried unanimously.

7. New Business-

- Mayor Wilds asked if council had a chance to review the financial statements from our accountants in regard to fiscal year 2019-2020 and were there any questions or corrections that needed to be made. No questions were asked so Mayor Wilds announced that the financial statements for FYE 2019-2020 were approved.

8. Other Business-

- Council member Shamis gave an update as to the Planning & Zoning Committee, starting with the meeting had with Spartanburg Water regarding sewer. According to them, to run sewer from Main St. to EZ Mart on Asheville Hwy., would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8 million. That does not include having the sewage force pumped back to the pump station behind Landrum High School, which would cost another \$3 to \$4 million. Bob Walker spoke about Chesnee allowing Spartanburg Water to buy their sewer like the City of Landrum did years ago. However, that is only for sewers that are already established and when the City of Landrum owned their sewer, they obtained grants. Inman Campobello Water District keeps raising its fees because they can't cover the cost of sewer. His worry with that is that residence would have taxation without representation. Those in a sewer district would have no guarantee of getting hooked on to sewer, but could be taxed anyway just for living in a sewer district. Mr. Walker stated that he will not vote for something that would raise taxes. Mayor Wilds urged council to think before taking on sewer because the citizens of Campobello cannot afford any higher taxes. We are already pay the highest taxes in Spartanburg County. Bob Walker suggested that everyone come to the public hearing being held in Spartanburg in a few weeks. Town Resident Mr. Owenby asked if there were other ways to get money other than through taxes. Aren't there grants that can be written to get money. Bob Walker said he is concerned that when the Federal Government starts giving us money like they have been, that someone is going to have to pay for it in the end and he tries to make sure that we can do what we need to do and stay within budget. Property tax is one of the most lucrative taxes.

You never own your home and that shouldn't be. How many of you when you visit Tennessee look at the sales tax you pay? It's 12%. Sales tax is the best tax you can pass. When they added the penny tax to build the Spartanburg Courthouse, we estimated that we would get around \$37 million, when actually we have received over \$40 million. After the Courthouse is complete, I want to go and put money full-time on our roads using sales tax. Of course, the people have to vote for it by referendum.

- Mayor Wilds gave Spartanburg Council Member Bob Walker the floor to speak regarding the road fee situation. Mr. Walker began with stating that the road fee is gone and that when things are done unconstitutionally, there are repercussions. He noted that Greenville County has been sued over the road fee money. If Spartanburg was sued, it would simply not have the funds to reimburse. The road fee should have never been called a fee when it was a tax. Council Member Shamis ask about Campobello's portion of the road fee money and when we would get to have that for the repairing of our roads. We have written proof that \$40,500 is owed to Campobello and our roads are bad. Request for repairs to the bridge and road on Old Asheville Hwy were denied twice, for the reason being that the DOT said it was not in bad enough shape. Also, we were told we would have to match the funds 50/50. Bob Walker stated that no we do not have to match funds to get roads repaired. Council Member Shamis went on to say that if we do not use our funds does Spartanburg County keep them? Bob Walker said yes. Council Member Shamis said it is crazy that Spartanburg County holds money that is rightfully ours and won't fix our roads. Bob Walker said the funds are to be used for County Roads and not state or city roads. You also have to make sure that the road meets a certain standard. Spartanburg County is afraid if they are sued that they will have to raise taxes due to not having the money to pay the road fee back. York and Rock Hill both have beautiful roads, but added a penny tax which equaled them getting \$40 million a year for road repair. This tax would be voted on by the residents in a referendum.
- Council Member Stevenson asked if the Christmas Parade was still on. Chief McNeill confirmed that the parade would be Sunday, December 5th at 3p. This year there will be pictures with Santa since we did not do anything last year due to COVID precautions.
- Council Member Shamis spoke about the good news regarding Cane Creek and that is that no one is speeding through the neighborhood, as evidenced by the speed monitor set up by the Police Department. The highest speed was 25 mph.
- Town resident Owenby said that several meetings ago it was said that the growth underneath the town signs on Hwy 11 and Hwy 176 would be taken care of and it has not. This item does not appear under old business on the agenda and he believes that it should. Mayor Wilds said that what was voted on was letting the Fire Department handle taking care of the signs. The Fire Department will get to it when they can. Chief McNeill said that the Fire Chief did go down there right after the vote, but unfortunately, got stung multiple times by yellow jackets. That's when it was determined that they'd wait until the weather turned cooler. Also, they have had an increase in their call volume. Town Resident Mr. Peeler asked why there wasn't a 'Welcome to Campobello' sign on Asheville Hwy coming from Landrum. Mayor Wilds said that was a long story. Mr. Peeler jokingly said if he were to put one up tonight would it be right beside that road at Ingleside Church. Chief McNeill answered in the affirmative.

9. Adjourned- November 1, 2021 at 8:02 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Reitha Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Jason Shamis 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 1st day of November, 2021.