

Town of Estill
Council Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024

The Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor K. Wiley at 6:02 pm.

Invocation

Mayor K. Wiley requested, "A Moment of Silence."

Present

Mayor K. Wiley, Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon, Councilman J. Hadwin, Councilwoman D. Bolden, Councilman A. Green, Town Administrator Tiffany Cooks, Clerk Treasurer Edna O'Banner and Attorney K. Davis.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Council stands and recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve February 14, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve February 14, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Approve March 13, 2024, Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve March 13, 2024, Council Meeting Agenda. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Councilwoman D. Bolden. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

A. Town of Estill 2024 South Carolina Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government's Honor Roll - Ms. Ashley Kellahan.

Ms. Kellahan stated she was pleased to be here to present to the Mayor and Council the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government's Honor Roll. She thanked the Mayor and Council for continuing their education and getting training on legislative changes and financial changes. Ms. Kellahan stated Mayor and Council were only 1 of 10 to receive the award out of 271 municipalities.

B. Budget Revision 2024

Dr. Cooks stated there are specific line items which revisions needed to be taken out or added in for approval. Dr. Cooks is asking the Council to approve the revised Budget. Mayor K. Wiley asked when does the budget revision go into effect. Dr. Cooks stated it

goes into effect this year. Councilman J. Hadwin asked Dr. Cooks are the revisions referencing the grants we have received to make sure they are being included in the budget? And the funds for this year thus far reflected in the ARP? Dr. Cooks stated that is correct. Mayor K. Wiley asked were the matches to the grants included in the revision. Maia came in on a conference call and stated the grant matches were not included because the grants were not approved yet. Councilman A. Green asked how many grants do we have? Dr. Cooks stated we have a lot, mostly pertaining to wastewater grants that we have received that we have not started the job yet. The water grant that we will be starting construction on in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Cooks stated we have the ballistic vests and a number of other grants that came after the budget was approved. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve Budget Revision 2024 1st Reading. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The council voted 3-2 in favor of the motion. Mayor K. Wiley and Councilwoman D. Bolden voted nay.

C. Local Government Investment Pool (Approval Need). Local Government Investment Pool (LCIP) - SC Office of State Treasurer.

Councilman D. Bolden asked can you take funds from different accounts and invest together or does it have to be separated. Dr. Cooks stated she is unsure of if the Treasurer would keep track of how it is placed or rather it goes in separate accounts. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to give the Town Administrator approval to move forward with Local Government Investment Pool (LCIP) - SC Office of State Treasurer. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman J. Hadwin. The motion was offered by Councilman J. Hadwin; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. 1st Reading - Ordinance 2024 - 01 Use of Bull Durham by town employees, council, and elected officials.

Dr. Cooks stated this Ordinance will be to authorize Council members to rent the Bull Durham for one event per calendar year at no charge and Town Employees at one-half of the cost of the building per calendar year. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve 1st Reading - Ordinance 2024 – 01, Use of Bull Durham by town employee council and elected officials. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman J. Hadwin. The motion was offered by Councilman J. Hadwin; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

B. 1st Reading Ordinance 2024 – 02 Travel and Training

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to table 1st Reading Ordinance 2024 - Travel and Training. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilwoman D. Bolden. The motion was offered

by Councilwoman D. Bolden; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

C. 1st Reading to Amend the Business License Ordinance

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to table 1st Reading to Amend the Business License Ordinance. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman D. Bolden. The motion was offered by Councilwoman D. Bolden; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

D. Department Reports

Police Report- Chief Solomon- Taken as info only. Chief Solomon stated the Groundbreaking ceremony for the new police station will be March 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. Chief Solomon commended Officer Mitchell for being a hero and making sure the residents of the apartment building that burned down were able to make it out safely. Councilwoman D. Bolden thanked the Police department for their hard work. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked about the hummer. Chief Solomon stated the hummer needs work done and it is not drivable at this time. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked what is the issue with the vehicle? Chief Solomon stated the brakes are bad and just from sitting throughout the years it needs work done. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked about an update on the vehicle that was vandalized. Chief Solomon stated they have gotten a final adjustment and received more funds, and the vehicle should be done at any moment. Mayor K. Wiley thanked the Police Department for doing a great job.

Safety and Recreation Report- Documents Only - Read by Mrs. O'Banner - Taken as info only.

Fire Department Report- Chief Toone- Taken as info only.

Public Works, Water & Wastewater Report- Mr. Hamilton- Taken as info only. Mr. Hamilton stated two transponders have been installed for the new electronic meters. One is located on hwy. 321 at the water tower and the other is located on Martin Ave at the water tower and they are online. Mr. Hamilton stated about 60% of meters have been installed and the transponders are already picking up readings from the ones that have already been installed. Mr. Hamilton stated the leaf and limb truck is down and being worked on currently. Mayor K. Wiley asked how long the truck has been down. Mr. Hamilton said about a week. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked when the projected date for the project being completed. Dr. Cooks stated, around the month of May. Councilwoman D. Bolden thanked Mr. Hamilton for the poles they had installed. Councilwoman D. Bolden stated in the front office we can put a sheet up front that lists the steps that citizens need to take when applying for a business license and permits. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked Mr. Hamilton has anyone spoke with anybody in reference to the flooding near Rooster Ridge Road. Mr. Hamilton stated he spoke with someone from DOT about needing the pipes cleaned out. Mr. Hamilton said, further

down Nixville Road there have been beavers building dams in the area which could have been some of the issues as well. Councilman J. Hadwin asked is the sewer line between Ms. Jennifer shop the old clay pipe or the new PVC. Mr. Hamilton stated it did have the old clay pipe, so she was tapped into the new pipe.

Administration Report & Safety and Recreation- Ms. Cooks- Taken as info only.

- **Police Bldg. (Dental Office) Mrs. Marsha Robinson**

Dr. Cooks stated she sent the building inspector out to see what could be done to get it up to code. Going from a business to a recreational occupancy shall require a design professional to include a life safety plan and a current accessibility code for the entire inside of the building. They observed some electrical issues, and constructional issues. The building inspector stated it is not a full inspection, but a design professional will have to do a complete inspection. Ms. Marsha Robinson stated she is looking for somewhere to help the kids. She is a 42-year retired educator and most of her time has been spent in Estill. Ms. Robinson stated the children who got caught in Covid have really been struggling. There are some children in third grade who are reading at kindergarten and first grade level. Last week the state passed a mandate that every county and district have to incorporate something to address the issues. Ms. Marsha Robinson stated the children are suffering and she is trying to make a difference in the education of our kids. Ms. Marsha Robinson stated she has everyone on hold and waiting to proceed. Ms. Marsha Robinson is asking for permission to look at the building to see if it is a possibility. Councilwoman D. Bolden asked is it possible for her to use one of the rooms at the Bull Durham. Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon asked what time would be good. Ms. Robinson stated after school would be a good time. Councilman A. Green stated he will do everything within his power to make sure he can help her do everything to get things done in a timely manner. Ms. Marsha Robinson thanked Dr. Cooks and the Mayor and Council. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to give Dr. Cooks permission to move forward with the usage agreement for Ms. Robinson in reference to the computer room. Mayor Wiley recognized Councilwoman D. Bolden. The motion was offered by Councilwoman D. Bolden; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

- **Parks and Recreation Line Dance Exercise and Fitness**

Mayor and Council agreed for Ms. Youmans to sponsor the Event since the Town of Estill is hosting.

- **Fund Raising Event for the victims of the Apartment Fire**

Dr. Cooks stated she would like the approval to move forward with a "Boot Drive" where all funds will go towards the victims and their families. The funds will be split between each household. The date will be March 22, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. She would like all employees

to get involved. Councilman A. Green added he would like to sponsor a benefit program as well.

- **Need to discuss a request by a citizen to bring in temporary RV (068-07-04-004) Appleby Road**

Dr. Cooks stated the citizen would like to know if that is something that he can do. She stated there are a few citizens in the area and they did not have an issue with it. Attorney Davis stated if it is not against the code to put it there for a day or two then it is fine, but if the citizen tries to leave it there for a week or a month then it may be a code violation.

- **Need to discuss car lot to open at 3rd and MLK Blvd.**

Dr. Cooks stated there is a citizen who wants to open a new business on Third Street and MLK Blvd. He would like to utilize Mr. Gary Moles' building (the old sheriff substation) as his office space, but he would like to set it up as a car lot. Councilman J. Hadwin stated the area tends to become congested and it is a safety issue. Councilwoman D. Bolden agreed.

- **Employee and Elected Official Retirement Honors/Tenure Honors**

Dr. Cooks stated she would like to have permission to follow through with Retirement Honors/Tenure Honors. Councilman J. Hadwin stated he is in agreement to be creative with how you can retain employees. Dr. Cooks stated she will bring back an official ordinance at the next meeting.

- **Retirement Honor**

- ❖ Retiree- 10-15 Years (Engraved Plaque) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ Retirees- 15-20 Years (Engraved Clock) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ Retirees- 21 years and more (Engraved Watch) Presented to them at council meeting.

- **Tenure Honor**

- ❖ 1 Year Anniversary (Challenge Coin or Pin) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ 5 Year Anniversary (Challenge Coin or Pin) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ 10 Year Anniversary (Challenge Coin or Pin) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ 15 Year Anniversary (Bronze Plaque) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ 20 Year Anniversary (Silver Plaque) Presented to them at council meeting.
- ❖ 25 Year Anniversary (Gold Plaque and Gift Gard) Presented to them at council meeting.

- ❖ 30-35 Year Anniversary (Gold Plaque, Gift Card, Reception)
Presented to them at council meeting and reception to follow.

➤ **Mayor/Councilmember**

- ❖ Plaque to celebrate their years of public service- (To be given after their service tenure).
- ❖ Challenge Coin- Awarded after each (4 Year Term of Office)

E. February 2024 Income Statement

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve February 2024 Income Statement as Information Only. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Councilwoman D. Bolden. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

F. Public Comment

Charles Savino - Mr. Savino directed his comments toward the council. Mr. Savino stated last month he came to speak with Council about flooding. Mr. Savino stated he wanted to point out the frequency of rain events. We had 4.5 inches which is a five-year rain event and a 2-year rains event we had 3.5 inches in Estill. In 30 days, we have had these historic rain events. Mr. Savino stated the water drains away from Morrison Ave onto private property. He stated, to make the problem worse DOT installed a pipe over two feet higher than what it is supposed to be. Mr. Savino stated he talked with DOT himself and he paid a surveyor \$1000 out of his own pocket to check it and they found the pipe is two feet higher. Mr. Savino is here to ask the Mayor and Council's support. Mr. Savino stated DOT has a project along Morrison Ave where they are going to resurface it from one end of the Town all the way to the other. There are drainage pipes that do not work and can be addressed. Mr. Savino stated the SC constitution prohibits private property from being taken without just compensation. (Meaning paying for an easement or right away). Section 5-31-450 of the law tells people water must stay in the right of way. The law that applies to the town is 57-5-830 and 57-5-88. 830 which allow the town the ability to approve plans. With 588 if there are utilities that need to be relocated, if there are manholes that need to be lifted, and if there are water valves that need to be moved, that is all paid for within the project. Mr. Savino asked how many times DOT has paved over manholes etc. If the town is not asked to review or approve these plans the town is being cut short. Mr. Savino asked the Town to contact DOT to help approve this project. Dr. Cooks stated herself, Mr. Savino, and DOT are having a meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the court room on March 21, 2024, along with two others from the district.

Teresa Grimes - Ms. Teresa Grimes directed her comments toward the council. Ms. Grimes wants to revisit the investment of the money to the SC funds. There is a way to get 5% back from one million just at South State Bank. If you do individual accounts, you

still will obtain \$5000 back per month for free. Ms. Grimes stated she can make an explanation for citizens on how to do the process with CC&I. Ms. Grimes stated Dominion Energy does not have the ability to link a tax map parcel number to an address. If you have an address that has been updated over the years you would think that Dominion is able to just look up the parcel ID or the tax number. She stated they cannot right now, but the President of Dominion is going to change that. Ms. Grimes stated she is here representing Dan & Christy out of Hilton Head; SC. Dan is a premier luxury home builder who has a passion for helping children. He has been coming to Estill for decades with his family. He has a farm in Estill located next to the Solar Farm project. Ms. Grimes stated their paths crossed a month ago and he asked about an idea he had, to do a non-profit to help kids with school programs, and recreational focus. Doing things like taking kids fishing, taking them out in sports curriculum environments and so forth. Ms. Grimes stated Mr. Dan was a captain for a 200-ton yacht so he has tons of experience. Ms. Grimes stated that business will be starting in Estill in 30 days. It is a non-profit focused on children and helping kids solely in Estill. Ms. Grimes stated she can also help Ms. Marsha Robinson in some way. Ms. Grimes stated the business is located at 489 Keene Ave and it is solely a salvage warehouse. Architectural items, doors, windows, truckloads of appliances, antiques, and other miscellaneous things. All items are non-profit going towards helping the after-school children. They are from the Lowcountry area, and they are really excited to kick the program off in the city of Estill. Ms. Grimes stated the inventory is being loaded in currently and they are looking for part-time help. Councilman J. Hadwin asked what would be the business hours? Ms. Grimes stated Thursday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Margaret Bowers - Margaret Bowers directed her comments towards the council. She spoke about the water issues on Morrison Ave. She lives at the corner of Wyman and Morrison Ave. She stated somehow the road is much lower in that area, so water does not run into it, and it floods the whole street.

Bill McDede – Bill McDede directed his comments towards the council. He stated he experienced the flood next to Mr. Savino. He stated he lost thousands of dollars' worth of stuff and had to move into an outbuilding that borders where the ditch is outside of their home. He stated there was water coming from the front into their laundry room from the water off the street and over into his driveway. There is an issue, and he dreads the next time they get a hurricane. He stated all of the water is coming down from the roads and drainage ditches.

Mayor Exited Regular Session and Entered Executive Session at 7:45 pm

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to exit regular session and enter into executive session for a discussion related to i. Personnel: None. ii. Contract: None. iii. Legal: EA Services. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilwoman. D. Bolden. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor Exited Executive Session and Entered Regular Session at 7:57 pm

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to exit the regular session and enter into executive session from a discussion related to i. Personnel: None. ii. Contract: None. iii. Legal: EA Services - Canceled. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilwoman D. Bolden. The motion was offered by Councilwoman D. Bolden; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjourn

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilwoman D. Bolden. The motion was offered by Councilwoman D. Bolden; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The Council Voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor K. Wiley adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

ADOPTED this 13th Day of March

Kim Wiley, Mayor

Tammy Solomon, Mayor Pro Tem

Dwanda Bolden, Councilwoman

Alfonia "Al" Green, Councilman

Joe Hadwin Jr., Councilman

ATTEST:

Edna O'Banner, Clerk Treasurer