



COUNCIL MEETING
117 E. BROADWAY STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hanna

The invocation was given by Council Member Poston

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag

Council present: Frankie Poston, Gary Arthurs, Doolittle Stone, Dipen Khambhaita and Mayor Hanna, April Collins

City personnel present: Nickolas Ammons, Marlene Rollins, Ron Douglas, Kem Poston, Denny Feagin, and Troy Gaskins

Guest Present: Jared McDonald, Tamala Owens, Sammy Jones, Barbara Black, Sammie Black, Mallory Feagin, Sierra Fisher, Timothy Baxley, Constance McCall-Baxley, Jody Hardee, Kenneth Collins, Matthew Filyaw, Jackie Stasney, Shannon Tippett

Motion was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Council Member Poston received a second by Council Member Arthurs to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022 Council Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Judge Kirven swore in April Collins as the newly elected Council Member. Council member Collins took her seat on council and the meeting resumed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tammy Owens, I am here to address the elephant in the room, the elephant that has been in the room for the last several council meetings, there is a reason that the attorney was here at the last months meeting, there was a reason that council went into executive session at the beginning of the meeting instead last as they usually do and then come out with a no action taken comment. There was a reason over 80 people showed up last month it was all about the citizens support of our police chief as all of you know Johnsonville is a small city, one of our past times is talking to our neighbors and friends we love to talk. Lately there has been nasty rumors going around that some people in authority would like to get rid of our chief of police. *Would like to take this opportunity to declare my personal support for both the chief Douglas and the Johnsonville Police Department. Now, I don't have a personal relationship with chief Douglas but it is obvious to me that his efforts over the last few years have led to the fact that Johnsonville has lower crime rates than several jurisdictions in the area including Hemingway, Pamplico, Lake City, Coward, and Kingtree I looked it up. It's also worth noting that according to the data release of the FBI in September of 2021 Johnsonville crime rates are 68% lower than the national average that*

something to be proud of. The city of Johnsonville is very fortunate to have a Police Dept. comprised of a dedicated and compassionate individual. I have seen post on social media from citizens who have needed help from our police department and those officers have responded without hesitation, I have seen everything from issues like criminal activity to unlocking a neighbor's car, to snakes in a home to surprising special needs children with t-shirts. The police department has been there for our community from time to time again, if you doubt the support our police department gets from the citizens of Johnsonville let me remind you that their 2021 fund raiser netted over \$37,000 in donations, this money was used to purchase the most advanced equipment available and the equipment was purchased without any funding from the city budget. Chief Douglas lives in the city full time and he is fully invested in making sure our city is safe which begs the question can the city administrator, the mayor, and all of the council members make this same claim. Chief Douglas has also publicly stated that he has an open-door policy for complaint on concerns and he is available 24/7 to meet with anyone who wants to discuss matters concerning our police department. As far as any administrative issues and other disputes should be handled by responsible adults who respects each other's points of view but always keep the safety and welfare of Johnsonville Citizens as the primary goal. So, I am asking you to let chief Douglas and his officers continue to do their jobs without the micromangement nick picking and pettiness that we all have heard about. We are watching you and we expect you to do whatever is in the best interest of Johnsonville and that interest does not include getting rid of our police chief. Remember you will be held accountable at election time and your actions. I am sure that our police dept. along with continue support of the Johnsonville citizens will continue to keep our little community a safe place to live. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Hanna responded: We appreciate that Tammy, we know there are a lot of concerns, we don't normally respond to public form but everything that Miss Tammy said is true except for one particular statement in that I don't know where its coming rom but I can guarantee you it's not coming from myself or my council, there are rumors on the street, there are all kinds of stuff up and down the street and there was on out pouring of support for the chief who didn't need any support at that meeting. Yes, we went into executive session to address some matters that we needed some legal advice on the farthest thing from our minds was asking for a resignation or trying to fire our chief, now that is the absolute truth and there just what it is, why would we consider firing one of the best chiefs in the state, my comment there was why would we do that. We have not done that but its all up and down the street and its coming from somewhere but we don't know, its no body on this council or mayor that said we want the chiefs resignation or we want to fire the chief that is I want somebody to show me, where myself or council members who made that comment it's not there yal, we support Ron in everything he does he's the best police chief that I know of our police department is above reprove I just wanted to get that part our something my come up at a later date I just wanted to get the record straight that this council and this mayor is behind our chief we are not trying to fire the chief and I don't know where this came from I would love to know I just wanted to make that one thing. Tammy, I appreciate all your concerns.

Mr. Sammy Jones, 263 E Marion Street, asked what solution has council come up with for his drainage issue. Mayor responded, Sammy you know the price, we are asking for help from the county. We got to have the money to do the job.

Jackie Stasney, 245 Stone Ave., June 9 years ago I came to council to ask to use the old library to start the Artisan Outpost, we have done projects with the children, art contest with high school students, pumpkin patches, Santa Claus, we knew at some point the building would be used for something else, but though we would be told. As you know I lost my husband and someone else was taking over for me. It was a \$700.00 light bill at the outpost when we are there one day a month, instead of calling Duke Energy to check meter they accused us of being up there 24/7 which is totally ridiculous and went and

changed the locks on the doors didn't tell us, we went to set up for show and no one could get in. We always open with conjunction with the festival and sent people both ways, we were told this past month that council had given the building to the festival to use for the cookers, we brought people into Johnsonville, our vendors pay sales tax get license, we brought people in that eat and get gas and tried to see something going on in this small community, there is nothing going on unless you count sports. The outpost is cleaned out, it's been swept out the trash is at the street and here are the keys. We're done.

Sierra Ard a committee member for the Heritage Festival gave council an update on the festival, the Lions Club will present the award to the art contest winner, the chicken cook off is schedule, we are hearing that the cook off is not happening but it is, sheriff TJ Joye will have three police officers on duty, there will be a petting zoo, camel rides, we would like to have a Mayor tent and the mayor help sell the chicken from the cookers, we invite everyone out and have a good time as a community. This event is for the community and we all to enjoy it.

Jody Hardee presented council with a request to consider when planning the budget for the 2022-2023 year, asking the city to donate \$15,000 to the Johnsonville Rescue Squad. We will appreciate any support the city will give. Council responded they will take it into consideration during the budget workshop. Council Member Collins recused herself from this part of the meeting.

Motion was made by Council Member Arthurs and a second by Council Member Stone to approve A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF JOHNSONVILLE TO THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Council Member Stone and a second by Council Member Khambhaita to approve A RESOLUTION ELECTING THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE FOR LOST REVENUES UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion was made by Council Member Poston and a second by Council Member Arthurs to approve Compliance Plan regulations 504/ADA, **Motion carried unanimously**

Administrator Ammons stated the Hampton Park PARD grant funds have been submitted for approval, we hope to hear back from the agency in a few weeks and then we can get started on the upgrades.

Motion was made by Council member Arthurs and received a second by Council member Stone to enter into executive session to discuss Contractual matter, negotiations for feasibility study for the proposed hotel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Council member Poston and received a second by Council member Khambhaita to enter back into open session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

No Action taken from executive session

Administrators Report:

Water Department

- 3 new water taps this month

Wastewater

- Switch Gear update
 - Total job completion is at approx. 60% including buildings and electrical.
 - Completion Date – Start running with new equipment - 5/06/22
- 1 vacancy currently

Streets & Sanitation

- Weekly trash routes have improved as the new employees are now much more oriented; I would assume this progress will only continue to improve
- Division has been progressively obtaining litter and trash around town; there were an estimated 600 gallons of trash total picked up in the last 30 days
- Rock and Stone has been placed alongside the ramp at the landing to aid in the erosion control measures
- We have also made several repairs to damaged signage at the landing park, as well as remove a large tree that fell onto the dock.

Police

- Officers issued 57 traffic citations for violations
- There were no major incidents during the month

Other/Administration

- 3rd Quarter Financial Report
- Mayor Hanna was able to successfully deliver the termination letter to Hanna Engineering and we have a received receipt for that.

Mayors Report:


Committee Reports:

Finance: Council member Stone commented he would like to be part of the budget process with the department heads when the process starts.

Motion was made by Council Member Arthurs and received a second by Council Member Stone to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

Adjournment: 8:07pm

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved by City Council on this 5 day of May, 2022.



Johnny Hanna, Mayor

Attest: 
Marlene Rollins, City Clerk