



JOHNSONVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
117 E. BROADWAY STREET
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hanna

The invocation was given by Mayor Hanna

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag

Council present: Frankie Poston, Doolittle Stone, Dipen Khambhaita, April Collins and Julie Rogers

City Personnel present: Holly Swann, Marlene Rollins, Ron Douglas,

Guest Present: Mallory Feagin, Tammy E. Owens, Don Strickland, David Mace, Harold Perry, Judge Kirven, Mel Rogers

Julie Rogers was sworn in to sit on City Council by Judge John R. Kirven.

Motion was made by Council member Khambhaita and received a second by Council Member Stone to approve the agenda with the amendment to remove executive session. **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Stone to approve the minutes from the April 4th, 11th and 25th meetings. **Motion carried unanimously**

Harold Perry the General Manager at Wellman Golf Club, he stated the golf course will be opening soon, and at the last golf course committee meeting the perimeter for residential rates was extended out thirty miles, there has already been people visiting, the golf carts are being pulled out, we still have significant problems that we have to address that is part of his job. He stated he is originally from Hawaii, he and his wife moved here from Philadelphia in 9/11, he currently lives in Conway, they enjoy South Carolina, they have been here for 23 years and love it. He sees the golf course as a diamond in the rough, the golf market is closing down in Myrtle Beach when he first moved here there was 126 golf courses and there is now 70, you will have to go other places to play, we are perfectly situated. We have a marketing firm working with us, we have three companies from the beach helping promote golf, we are doing packaging promotions, we have the backing of Down to Earth which is a huge company. The operation is starting to pick up, we are starting to hire people, work with food and beverage, we will have a beverage cart, we are going to have promotions for senior events, junior events, we are looking to have national title tournaments to come. He stated he grew up in the best junior golf program in the world in Hawaii. He played in Japan, Erie PA. and played in the first world championship. The program had players such as Tiger Woods, Nick Price, and Ernie Ellis, so that's the type of atmosphere we are going to build at the Wellman club. We want it to be a club that's inclusive of everybody. We are going to build a junior golf program, we will be working with First Tee, what they do is the caption teams where we go to other golf courses, so your juniors are going to be playing and that is the future of this sport. I met coach Bryant the High school golf coach his players will be running the golf carts. There are rules because golf is a game of rules, a list will be placed on all golf carts on how to check in, what shoes, clothes to wear, how to address people, it talks about tips, how to conduct yourself. There will be two hours and 10 minutes of play time, two hours and forty minutes is not acceptable. These are rules of the golf course and you must abide by them. Everyone that comes to our course will be treated as a guest. To be a productive golf course you have to have rules set in place this is an integral part of how we are going to open the golf course so that they know these

are the expectations that we expect. That's how we get a productive and we hope a profitable golf course but if we break even, we are doing great. Do you have any other questions?

Mayor Hanna asked will this be opened and running by June 1st.

Mr. Perry responded if that is the deadline, yes sir.

Ms. Swann stated that is the deadline, we may have an issue with credit cards but other than that will work through it.

Mr. Perry stated first impressions are huge so we are going to open with credit cards, somehow, we will get it done. Ok cause cash is cash but credit cards is where the plastic bounces so we will be ready.

You have a great golf course here; you got a great town what I'm seeing is you guys are really friendly and that is what home towns is supposed to be about, that is what we are going to exude at the golf course, I know our food and beverage people are going to be awesome, the tee times will be up and running shortly, we have our phone systems. Things are moving forward we are putting in a lot of hours to get this done as quickly as we can, we have a lot of support from our home office and I know we will have a lot of support from you.

Don Strickland with PDRTA gave an update with the public transit in Johnsonville, he shared when they first came in this area that we are going to do everything we can to make sure that the routes themselves were productive, make sure we are using our assets and local tax payer dollars and everything else involved the way we should be making the best use out of them. The routes the way they were established, we recently did surveys on board again the bigger focus was connections to Florence, the connects were to Johnsonville Pamlico, Florence commuter bus, we are noticing more, there is a less of a need for that here in Johnsonville. The greater need here is in and around Johnsonville, and the services that we are providing are not really doing what it need to do in that regard. One thing we want to do is step back and look at this route structure. Come in do a study we are funding for a study, for rider ship right now if it doesn't increase with the Johnsonville service, we shouldn't be doing what we are doing. We need to figure if we need to modify the current route to do more in the city.

Motion was made by council member Khambhaita and received a second by council member Poston for second reading of ordinance to Amend an Ordinance, Agreement, and Supplement for Local Revenue Service Programs with the Municipal Association. **Motion carried unanimously**

Motion was made by Council Member Stone and received a second by council member Khambhaita for first reading of An Ordinance to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 annual operating budget. **Motion carried unanimously**

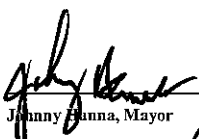
The city administrator reported (1) the public hearing will be held June 6 at 6:00pm right before the next council meeting, (2) we need volunteers for the Heritage Festival, which will be May 19 and 20 of May, if interested let Ms. Swann or Sierra Ard know. And (3) the golf course will open June 1st.

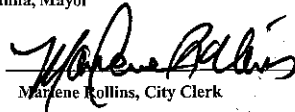
The mayor stated he likes the participation that he is seeing, things seem to be moving along very smoothly, we have hit some pumps but we seem to have over come those, if you have any questions about anything, all you got to do is ask somebody, that way we can stay on the same page and move forward.

Motion was made by Council member Poston and received a second by Council Member Collins to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**

ADJOURNED: 7:03pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council on this 6 day of June, 2023.


Johnny Hanna, Mayor

Attest: 
Margene Collins, City Clerk