



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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-tem Altman

The invocation was given by Council Member Stone  
The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag

**Council present:** Gary Arthurs, Doolittle Stone, Frankie Poston, Dipen Khambhaita  
Jamie Altman, and April Collins

**City personnel present:** Marlene Rollins, Jim Smith, Ron Douglas, Joey Miles,

**Guest Present:** Tamala Owens, Mallory Feagin, Phillip Johnson, Holly Swann, Joan Lentz, Sammy Jones,  
and Wayne Douglas

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

**Motion** was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Stone to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2022 Council Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPEARANCES BEFORE COUNCIL**

Phillip Johnson a resident of 605 Deborah Court, Johnsonville appeared before council stating he just moved to Johnsonville from Philadelphia, PA and noticed there are no basketball courts and the reason is that no one is keeping the proper maintenance, keeping the trash and things of that nature. He stated that he would like to take that responsibility and the nets be restored to the court so the children in our neighborhood would have a positive activity to do after school instead of having travel to other counties to play basketball. He stated he is retired Army veteran, and has the time to monitor the basketball courts, and town watch as well.

Mayor Pro-tem Altman thank Mr. Johnson for his service.

Councilman Stone asked if he heard correctly, that Mr. Johnson would be checking on the courts and keeping them clean.

Councilman Poston stated that he is over the parks and recreation and is all for the kids to have an opportunity to play basketball, and is glad that Mr. Johnson is stepping up for them, and thanked Mr. Johnson for his service to our country, and stated the trash was not the only problem at the courts there was other problems, a sword was found, Chief Douglas could tell you a little more, there were I wouldn't say gangs, but groups of people with activity we wouldn't want around younger children, if you are willing to step up and take control of that to make sure that don't happen that would be great help.

Mayor-Pro-tem asked City Administrator Jim Smith if there would be any liability on anything that would be involved, and that council will take it under advisement and have a discussion.

Mr. Smith stated he thinks there will be some liability, he will need to look into as far as the particulars, but he thinks this is a good starting point, and he will ask council from this point on to do a roll call vote on all votes taken so we know where everyone stands and there is no misunderstanding as to the vote itself. He will be willing to meet with Mr. Johnson to work out the details if this is something he is interested in doing.

Mayor Pro-tem Altman: council in agreement we table this, Mr. Johnson will give his name and phone number to Mr. Smith, we will get back with him and you can set up a time to discuss. We appreciate your interest, it's a sham that the courts aren't being used, but hopefully someone like you stepping forward will help with that.

Mr. Lawrence Eaddy was to appear before council to discuss applying for grants that would help fund restoring Historical markings and signs around Johnsonville, he could not be here due to having COVID. He will be here at next month meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

City Administrator Jim Smith tells council several months back he and council received a proposal from Drew Gaster in conjunction with Lee Poston to do some drainage work. Mr. Jones has come to council and talked about this several times, the proposal was around \$12,000.00, I was fine with the proposal I talked with Drew Gaster, then he sent me an email last week saying that he was withdrawing his proposal, he didn't give me a real reason why. I wanted to bring this before council because my plan was to move forward and recommend the work be done. My question to council is where do we want to go from here, I thought we had a relatively low cost that would solve the problem, a long-standing problem as I mentioned to you a few weeks ago I thought it was a city problem caused by the city way back when: what I'm looking for tonight is a little direction and some discussion where we go from here:

Councilman Arthurs asked was there a scope with the bid on how the work was to be done and if he was comfortable with it. Mr. Smith replied yes, he spoke with Drew when he got the proposal and was comfortable with the work that was going to be done, now was it a 20, 30 40-year solution, I'm not sure, but I think it would have given Mr. Jones some relief over there, but unfortunately, he withdrew the proposal.

Councilman Poston asked if there were any other proposals, Mr. Smith replied no.

Mr. Smith stated he will talk with Drew Gaster to see if he is ok with the city using his proposal as a guide to get other proposals and will bring back to council.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Collins and received a second by Council Member Arthurs to have City Administrator to request bids to do repair work on Marion Street drainage. **Motion carried unanimously**

Mr. Smith stated we had the old library on 151 E Marion Street appraised by Craig Floyd. The appraisal is about 42 pages long, the appraised value is around \$64,000 for building, my question is how do I proceed from here as far as advertising or moving forward with this, his cost for the appraisal was \$800.00, in the past we used govdeals. Councilman Khambhaita stated he has a couple of people

interested they just want to know the price, are we selling it for the appraisal price. Councilman Arthurs stated we should round up higher and be able to negotiate. Councilman Stone stated since this was costly and an extensive work does that include .34 acre less than half an acre and will we use a realtor or sell ourselves. Councilman Arthurs stated Dipen has people who want to look at it, we could avoid paying a realtor fee, we would have to involve our lawyers, I don't know if there would be a bidding war it wouldn't hurt to advertise it. Councilman Stone state you have to since its city property, Mr. Smith states it up to council, it's an asset that for sale you can set the price and sell it to whoever you want to. Councilman Altman stated we would have to at least post it. Mr. Smith there could be some legalities we have to go through to make sure everyone has fair opportunity to bid on it if that is what you want to do. Mr. Smith stated he will get with the attorney to see what the next step is in the process to move forward.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita To place 151 E Marion St on govdeals at \$75,000.00. **Motion carried unanimously**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

City Administrator Jim Smith advised council of a new grant called the SCIPP (South Carolina Improvement Program) it is a grant that is administered by the state in our case PEE DEE COG it is for water and sewer infrastructure basically it could be used for sanitation as well. The grant goes from \$3.5 to \$10 million. The application process is now open and closed September 12<sup>th</sup>. An example of the lowest grant at \$3.5 the match would be \$500,000 with an RIA grant the city match would be \$25,000. Bottom line on \$3.5 million city match would be \$25,000. I talked with our engineers and we have several projects that need to be done within the next 2 to 3 years.

**Motion** was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita to apply for the SCIPP grant. **Motion carried unanimously**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and received a second by Council Member Stone to enter into executive session: South Carolina Code § 30-4-70(a)(1) for the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline or release of an employee; South Carolina Code § 30-4-70 (a)(2) discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

#### **ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Arthurs and received a second by Council Member Stone to take \$70,000.00 from the general fund to cover additional cost due to a change order in contract with Southeastern golf. Council member Arthurs explained that mother nature was not nice to us, and sod needs to be planted to get the course up and running. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion** was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita to extent a three-year contract to Holly Swann for the position of City Administrator. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

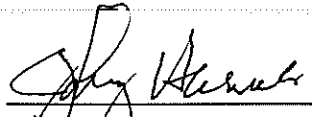
Mr. Smith gave council a copy of the quarterly report ending June 30, due to time he asked council to look over the report and if any questions he will answer at next meeting.

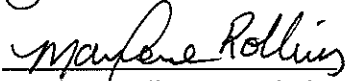
The second thing I wanted to talk to about is something I received from Duke Energy, concerning utilities, they are going through the Public Service Commission of South Carolina and they are looking for a 14.7% rate increase from the residential customers and an 8% from their commercial customers over the next 2 years. Just wanted to make everyone aware of this.

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

**Adjourned: 8:39pm**

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes approved by City Council on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

  
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Johnny Hanna, Mayor

Attest:   
Marlene Rollins, City Clerk