

Summerville Town Council Meeting

December 14, 2017;

Observer: Vicki Westberg

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM

Councilmembers Walter Bailey and Bob Jackson were absent.

“Employee Length of Service Awards” (congratulatory certificate and bonus checks) were presented to employees with 10 – 35 years experience.

There were 8 citizen comments:

1. Complaint from 2 citizens that the council “should concentrate on solving real problems instead of going against the will of the voters by demoralizing and stripping the mayor of the ability to do the things they voted him to do”.
2. The Museum has been waiting 2 years for a window that needs to be replaced.
3. Three employees of a local health clinic complained about lack of lighting and safe crosswalk access at Beverly & Old Trolley Road.
4. Complaint about dangerous sink hole at W 2nd South & Laurel that has not been addressed. Also, council should “stop fighting with each other” and work together to get things done.
5. Compliment on downtown holiday lights and music. Suggested everyone should look carefully at the new plan for Hutchinson Square as it contains changes that may be considered undesirable. Also said the new development adjacent to White Gables should be reviewed to make sure it doesn’t worsen traffic and safety issues.

All submitted re-zone and annexation petitions and ordinances were passed including the 166 acre PUD rezone located along Tupperway Drive, Orangeburg Road, White Fence Lane and O’Malley Drive. Christine Czarnik and Mayor Johnson dissented saying that it should be sent back for more review to ensure that the developer meets storm water and Green Space requirements. Mayor Johnson said this plan would not be approved under county guidelines.

Also passed ordinance changing how many council members should sit on each standing committee and how they should be selected. Mayor Johnson and Christine Czarnik voted against.

The 2018 budget was passed after much discussion about the longterm wisdom of using the fund balance to balance the budget. Majority opinion was that it would be fine since it has “always been done that way” and has actually been used only once in the past.

Council approved five of the needed seven members for the Local Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Committee.

Bob Jackson was elected Mayor Pro-Tem.

Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:25 PM.

Five of the six agenda items for Executive Session received no decision. Sixth item passed clearing the way for right of way acquisitions for the Bear Island Road project.