

Campobello Town Council Meeting

August 2, 2021

Minutes

1. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on August 2, 2021 in the Campobello Fire Department training room located at 50 Broad Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Philip Wilds at 7:03 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Don Cohenour, Jason Shamis, Reitha Stevenson and Alician Sprouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
2. Introduction of the Council Members took place immediately following the invocation.
3. Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to accept the July 6, 2021 council meeting minutes, and the July 10, 2021 work session minutes which were seconded by Council Member Jason Shamis and carried unanimous.
4. Chief Chad McNeill reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 127 calls for the month of July. Council Member Cohenour jokingly asked if the chief had much time for anything else? Chief McNeill answered in the negative. Chief McNeill commented that he had done his own research and that most of the calls came from I-26, the gas stations on Hwy. 11 and the welcome center. Also, 10-15 calls were to assist other agencies. Mayor Wilds asked if the chief had any recommendation on what to do to lower the call volume. Chief McNeill said that some calls stem from people living in other towns who come to the gas station to file a complaint against an abusive significant other. Mayor Wilds asked if a fine could be associated with that, like a fine is imposed when a fire alarm constantly goes off at a residence? Chief McNeill said that he would look into that. Town Resident Robert Short asked if the SC Welcome Center was in the city limits? Chief McNeill answered in the affirmative and said that it was annexed in the early 2000s from the 2 mile marker down to the 6 mile marker on frontage road. Council Member Cohenour confirmed that the State asked the Town to take control of the Welcome Center in 2000. Fire Chief McNeill added that it helps the Town with obtaining grants since some of the interstate is in the city limits.
5. Fire Chief McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 19 calls for the month of July. He also gave an update that all access control points have been installed at all stations and now he has a better idea of who comes and goes. Council Member Cohenour asked about a house being hit by lightning during the most recent storm in the area. Chief McNeill confirmed and also added that lightning also struck at the fire department. Council Member Stevenson asked about an update on the LED lights. Chief McNeill had spoken with Duke and they say it's a bad driver and they are unsure of when it will get fixed. Mayor Wilds asked if anyone had any questions for the Fire Chief. None were asked.
6. **Old Business-**
 - None.

7. New Business-

- Clerk Hyder gave a summary of how Paws, Prayers & Promises helped the Campobello Police Department with its feral cat problem. Dana Mayer went out of her way to help get the cats spayed/neutered and found barn homes for 8 of them. Only two female cats remain at the PD and that is due to one having an eye removed and needing to stay in its familiar surroundings. Ms. Mayer made several trips to and from the police department to pick up trapped cats and take them to Landrum Vet or Animal Allies. Clerk Hyder asked the Mayor and Council to consider a donation to their organization as they did not ask for any monetary help during the process. Mayor Wilds asked that this be added to the agenda of their next Work Session.
- Mayor Wilds brought to everyone's attention that all business licenses were being standardized across the State. Therefore, the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) helped with the preparation and revision of the Town's current Business License ordinance so that it would reflect the language needed. A first reading of Ordinance 8.501 – Business License was done by Mayor Wilds. The Mayor asked if council had reviewed the ordinance and approved it. Motion was made by council member Don Cohenour to accept the first reading of the amendment, which was seconded by council member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous.
- A Title Only reading of the 2021-2022 budget for the Town, Police Department, Victim's Advocate and Fire Department was done. Council Member, Alician Sprouse, made a motion to accept and approve the Title Only reading of the 2021-2022 budgets, which was seconded by Council Member, Jason Shamis and carried unanimous.
- Mayor Wilds asked if a date for the next Work Session had been set. Council answered in the negative. It was decided that the next Work Session meeting would take place *Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.* and be held in the Fire Department's Training Room.
- Susan Tompkins was given the floor to reintroduce Operation Hope to our community. She is the executive director for Operation Hope and brought with her a summer intern who is attending Converse College. She began with some history about Operation Hope, sharing that it opened its doors in 1992 with the help of 12 Landrum area churches. In 1993, it moved its location to the Broome storefront in Landrum, SC. Due to Covid-19, Operation Hope had to close for a period of time in 2020, but it re-opened its doors in July 2021. However, during the shutdown, Operation Hope was able to continue helping families by providing over 200 bags of food to the community, with the help of IGA grocery store in Tryon, NC. Recently, through the help of a pastor named Luke, Operation Hope was able to open St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic in Spartanburg, SC. Poverty stricken individuals and families, who have no medical insurance, are able to come to the free clinic for medical attention they need. North Greenville University also pitched in and provided an on-site Physician's Assistant for the free clinic and provides 10 students who work on a 4-week rotation schedule. Ms. Tompkins told of the exciting news that Operation Hope would be expanding and opening in a new location at 211 W. Rutherford Street, between Dollar Tree and Burke's Outlet. They continue to need volunteers and appreciate any and all donations. They look to support the Blessing Boxes that Campobello will soon be putting into place. Also, while they are sad that the Landrum News Leader had to close, they received a donation of their office furniture and equipment, along

with getting to use the paper boxes that are in various locations across Landrum and Campobello for food boxes. Operation Hope is also accepting donations of wheelchair ramps for homes and plan to have at least 2 blood drives each year. They also assist with home repairs for those unable to do such work. Town resident John Owenby asked how they go about the home repairs. Ms. Tompkins said that usually they rely on men's groups in different churches to come out and volunteer their time to help with small home repairs.

- Mayor Wilds announced that he would have to leave the meeting so that he could get to work. He asked Council Member Jason Shamis to continue on with the meeting in his absence.
- Laura Terrell with the Spartanburg County Community Development spoke on awareness of rent and utility assistance for those who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Spartanburg County received an award of 9.6 million to help those struggling to pay their bills. A second award was given to them of 3 million. At this time, only 3-4 families in Campobello have reached out and applied for the assistance. Ms. Terrell's goal is to get the word out to each town so that more families in need can get help. This not only helps tenants, but landlords also benefit. Up to 18 months of assistance can be given. Eligibility includes, but is not limited to, unemployment, reduction in work hours and risk of homelessness or housing instability. Ms. Terrell asked if we could help get the word out in our community and council member Shamis responded that we would post the flyer to our Town's website and Facebook page. He also asked how long the process took once a family reached out for assistance. Ms. Terrell responded with as quickly as the organization can get to them as there are steps to take in order to avoid fraud.

8. Other Business-

- Council member Shamis gave an update as to the Planning & Zoning Committee, which will be meeting on Tuesday, August 10th at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Items to be discussed at this meeting will be land on Old Asheville Hwy being used for 10-15 mini farms and getting the bridge on Old Asheville Hwy repaired and reopened. Also, Campobello First Baptist has plans for a renovation project that will be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Committee. Council Member Shamis also said that he has a meeting planned with ACOG which will be to go over their recommendations as far as ordinances.
- Town resident Owenby asked what the update was on the white house at 203 N. Main Street and if Past Prime Partners had been able to obtain it. Council Member Shamis said that the house had been bought by an investor at the County tax sale, but that the owners also paid half of the taxes, so until the owners come up with the other half of the tax money, the investor is still on track to own it by the end of next summer. He contacted Past Prime Partners and told them this and suggested they get in touch with the owners in order to get the taxes paid and obtain the property for themselves. Mr. Owenby also asked if they were successful in getting the building registered as historic. Council Member Shamis responded that they had successfully made it through the first step in getting that accomplished.
- Town Resident R. Short asked why the power was always going out in Campobello and Fire Chief McNeill said that with Campobello having a substation for Duke so close that it seems the power outages have gotten worse instead of better like Duke had said. He was told that power comes into that substation and goes out four different ways.

9. Adjourned- August 2, 2021 at 8:15 p.m.

With no further business presented, Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Reitha Stevenson and carried unanimous.

Let it be known, there are times it may be necessary for the Council Members to enter an executive meeting.

Town of Campobello Council Meeting minutes recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 2nd day of August, 2021.

Town Council Meeting – Work Session
September 3, 2021
Minutes

1. A Work Session meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on September 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Campobello Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council Member Jason Shamis at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Council Members, Don Cohenour, Alican Sprouse and Jason Shamis.
2. Also in attendance was Police Chief, Chad McNeill.
3. **New Business-**
 - A review of the 2021-2022 budgets were done and revisions/additions were proposed in the area of the Town Clerk's hourly pay. Chief McNeill mentioned that the Clerk would benefit from being a salaried employee versus an hourly employee just like the rest of the Town's employees. He explained that she is always available to help when they have a question, even after hours and should be compensated for it. Motion was made by council member Alician Sprouse to increase the Town Clerk's pay to \$20.00 per hour and to change her position from an hourly employee to a salaried employee, which was seconded by council member Don Cohenour and carried unanimous. A review was also done of the Police Department's budgeted salaries and a discussion about whether or not a cap should be put on the salaries. It was discussed that no one was in agreement with the cap, but did agree with the 3% raise that has already been factored into the Police Department's 2021-2022 budget. Motion was made by council member Don Cohenour to accept the 3% raise already factored into the Police Department's 2021-2022 budget, which was seconded by council member Alician Sprouse and carried unanimous.
 - Discussion of donations to Paws, Prayers and Promises and the Barker Rescue Project for their help with the Town's feral cat problem came down to a proposal of \$500 to each non-profit organization. Motion was made by Don Cohenour to approve a \$500 donation to Paws, Prayers and Promises and the Barker Rescue Project, which was seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous.
4. **Adjourned September 3, 2021 at 7:21 p.m.**

With no further business presented, Council Member Don Cohenour made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Alician Sprouse and carried unanimous.

Let it be known, there are times it may be necessary for the Council Members to enter an executive meeting directly following adjournment of business meeting.

Town of Campobello Council Meeting minutes recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 3rd day of September, 2021.