



# TOWN OF CAMPOBELLO

## Council Meeting – Work Session Minutes

### November 4, 2024

1. The Work Session meeting of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Ash on November 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. located at 50 Broad St., Campobello, SC. Council Members present were Reitha Stevenson, Alician Sprouse and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill, Fire Chief Brandon McNeill and Town Admin Trey Eubanks. Mayor Shamis was absent.
2. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Discussion was had on investing the Town's money in hopes of accruing interest. After a phone conference with First Citizens and the SC Local Government Fund, it was determined that the rates are better with the SC Local Government Fund and the funds can be accessed easily when needed. Town Admin Eubanks, said that he has spoken with other towns and everyone seemed pleased with the SC Local Government Fund. He mentioned that if Council wants to go forward, that Council authorize the Town Clerk to sign to get things started. Also, it is in the Town's best interest to switch all First Citizens accounts from Commercial Advantage type accounts to Digital Banking which will save the Town \$100 each month in bank fees.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Ash said that quotes for tree trimming throughout town are being worked on and will take time to gather more information before it can be put to a vote.
  - A Rails to Trails Committee will likely be needed as we will have a lot of things coming quickly once construction gets started. Town resident, Mr. Lopshire spoke that he is not in favor of the Trail, but to direct everyone's attention to the ones who are in charge of this project as he feels the cost will fall on the State and/or taxpayers.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - Fire Chief McNeill said that while we don't necessarily need a 10-year plan of treatment for termites, he does feel that something needs to be done at Town Hall. Most exterminating companies use preventative solutions after the initial treatment. Mayor Pro Tem Ash asked that Ladybug submit a quote since they are a business in the Town limits. Also, water was running under Town Hall but the gutters have been extended which seems to have eliminated that problem.
4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
  - Police Chief McNeill spoke about the bids for work at the park. Certa pro was the lowest price on painting the fence. Handy Andy was the lowest on repairing/replacing all of the vinyl at the Park at \$5,100.00. Straight Line Fencing was the lowest on replacing the broken fence in the outfield of \$8,130.00. He is still waiting for a quote on handrailing. We will need to replace the fence near the tree that Storm Helene took down. The fencing will be a little different near the front of the park to allow for four more parking spaces. Fire Chief McNeill said that they will be doing the grading work. Police Chief McNeill said that the basketball court is being used a lot by high school students.

- Town Admin Eubanks and Fire Chief McNeill had a discussion with someone with the SC Emergency Management Division and they confirmed that Campobello is registered on their portal. They were good at answering questions about how we get reimbursed and what can be submitted. We are now waiting to hear from FEMA. We need to be strategic with what equipment we need. They responded that we could ask for certain items and FEMA can either approve or deny it. Police Chief McNeill spoke with someone in Senator Corbin's office regarding using the Community Center funds to lease certain equipment, like a bucket truck, and get reimbursed by FEMA. As of right now, we borrow the City of Inman's truck when they are not using it. However, they are using it more and more, so it is inconvenient for both, as we are using one more. We have looked and can spend \$10k - \$20k for a good used one. Council member Sprouse asked why property owners would not be responsible for trimming their own trees. Chief McNeill said that some would be, but not if it's a right of way. Also, we have inherited the County roads because the County no longer wants to trim the trees on those. This was not by our choosing. The State will continue to maintain their roads.

**5. ADJOURNED on November 4, 2024 at 7:02 p.m.**

With no further business presented, Council Member Sprouse made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimously.

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

Town of Campobello Council Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder, on this 4th day of November, 2024.



# TOWN OF CAMPOBELLO

## Council Meeting – Regular Meeting Minutes

### November 4, 2024

1. The Council meeting of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Ash on November 4, 2024, at 7:02 p.m. located at 50 Broad St., Campobello, SC. Council Members present were Reitha Stevenson, Alician Sprouse and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill, Fire Chief Brandon McNeill and Town Administrator, Trey Eubanks. Mayor Shamis was absent.
2. Council was introduced.
3. Mayor Pro Tem Ash asked if Council had reviewed the September 3, 2024 work session minutes, September 3, 2024 council meeting minutes, September 12, 2024 special meeting minutes and
4. October 2, 2024 Work Session minutes. Motion was made by Council Member Stevenson to accept the September 3, 2024 work session minutes, September 3, 2024 council meeting minutes, September 12, 2024 special meeting minutes and October 2, 2024 Work Session minutes as written, which was seconded by McDowell and unanimously approved.
5. Mayor Pro Tem Ash commented both the Police and Fire Departments for their hard work during and in the aftermath Storm Helene. He also thanked anyone who came out and volunteered their time to help. Our Town is truly special. Council Member McDowell also gave a special thanks to police and fire. The way the community came together showed how strong we are. He also thanked the Mayor for getting the town the resources the Town needed. Council Member Stevenson was told by several residents in and out of the Town that we did an outstanding job on communications and in keeping our Facebook page posted with the most up-to-date information as it was received.
6. Interim Town Administrator, Trey Eubanks, began with how great of an example that the Campobello community really is by how people supported each other in response to the hurricane. He is working to confirm the Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> mayors' summit and will notify everyone once he knows. Norfolk Southern did call Town Hall to say they would be removing rail at some point. The storm may have delayed that. McMillan Pazden & Smith presented us what the process would look like in getting a master plan for municipal facilities. The initial draft of the audit had some line items that were lumped in with similar expenses, so Alexis revised the audit to add more line-item details.
7. Police Chief Chad McNeill reported the Police Department had a total of 123 calls for the month of October. Of those 5 were drug related with the drug being marijuana. Chief McNeill mentioned that it was good to see all the families that came out to help. The Public Safety Grant came in and both Tahoes are in. However, they will need lights. We will be selling the oldest car. Also, Officer Tony Raines will be retiring in March 2025, but due to numerous annual leave hours and sick leave he will not return, but still get paid through March. Council Member Stevenson asked about the sign on Lanford Street for speeders. Chief McNeill said that the sign was placed there, but there were really no speeders. Council Member Stevenson asked if there were any jury trials. Chief McNeill said there were 3 to be scheduled, as he was unsure what month, but possibly in February. Council Member Sprouse would like the Chief to help in finding funds to help addicts during the holidays. Chief McNeill said that he and the Victim's Advocate are looking into some grant and fundraiser for that. Mayor Pro Tem Ash asked if Council had any further questions for the Police Department. No further questions were asked.

Fire Chief McNeill reported that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 27 calls up until the storm, for the month of September. One call was for a fire at the school, which could have been very bad had the staff at the school not took quick action. There were 326 documented calls ran from 9/27/24 a until 10/4/24 midnight during the storm. They ranged from trees down, cars in water, extraction from homes with trees on them. The Fire Department had volunteers and employees that worked 1806 hours during those 11 days. Fire Chief McNeill gave thanks to Pam & Sam Huffling, Papa Troy Wilson, Campobello Town Council, men and women of the Campobello Fire and Police Department, all linemen from different states, Dog House, Pinkers Snack Shack, Dollar General Market, Kangaroo gas station, Kathy Pierce, Little Pigs BBQ, Keith Taylor, Erin McNeill, Melanie Miller and many others that dropped off food. The ICWD workers who helped with the water main break. Pack's Quality Fuel for providing fuel. Derek Finch with ESS for wiring up a generator just to pump fuel. Scott Miller with the Boiling Springs Fire Department. Mark Stevenson and family. Pastor Gary Rogers and members of Campobello First Baptist for providing the gym for an emergency shelter and running it. Jason McCraw, Craig Allison and Dr. Smith from Spartanburg School District One. Inman Lawn & Garden, Boiling Springs Small Engine, Keith Burris Lawn and Lynn's Mower. Briar Patch and Inman Fast Stop. Humberto from Campobello Trading Co. and all small business owners who helped cut up trees. There were 250 trees down by lunchtime on the Friday after the storm. Thank you to all the Campobello residents and anyone who stopped to help. It did not go unnoticed. The Fire Department also responded to 31 calls in October, one of which was a commercial structure fire at a different school than the one previously mentioned. This one was just a laptop that overheated and smoked up the room. He also confirmed that the equipment ordered by way of the Public Safety grant should be here by the end of the month. Council Member Stevenson said she read where the Campobello Fire Department helped on a fire at the landfill. Fire Chief McNeill confirmed that and said the fire started due to all of the debris brought in, but the fire is under control. Mayor Pro Tem asked about the possibility of the lack of Christmas lights this year. Chief McNeill first off thanked whoever came up with the idea of gathering toys for children in need this year. He mentioned that Storm Helene damaged the line that goes from the traffic light to the Church, so we are unsure we are going to be able to hang the decorations from the poles this year. We may speak with several people in Town to see if they would allow a drop cord to be ran from their business/home. Duke is not responsible for this line. Mayor Pro tem Ash asked if the council had any further questions for the Fire Department. No further questions were asked.

## **8. Old Business-**

- Council Member McDowell said a good meeting was had and Mr. Owenby was present. Another meeting was planned for mid-October, but was moved due to storm Helene. He has reached out to Erik Horton last week and he is wrapping up the feasibility study and they will meet Wednesday morning to discuss his findings and the next steps. Also, a the route should be finalized at that time.
- Police Chief McNeill reported that the Mayor, Council Member Ash and town Admin met with Mr. Mock, owner of the two story brick building at the corner of Hwy 357 & 176, and hope to see movement on the building in 90 days.
- Police Chief McNeill reported on the park and said that Straight Line Fencing won the bid for new fencing in the outfield. Handy Andy won the siding bid and will be replacing all siding at the park. Certa pro will paint the remaining fences. As soon as this is complete, we will look at the railing, portal bathrooms and seating. Council Member Stevenson asked if we need a checklist for park to

keep it clean. Chief McNeill said both the police and fire departments are trying to do the best they can with keeping it clean. Chief McNeill said he is open to sit down and discuss a schedule.

- Grant Updates: Police Chief McNeill reported that the two Tahoes for SROs are in and just need lights. The Public Safety grant funds came in today.
- Mayor Pro Tem Ash continues to reach out to the County regarding the inspection of the Old Asheville hwy bridge. Johnny Ravan is his contact with the County and he did put him in contact with the State inspector, Russell Atkins. Also, the bridge on Hwy 176 near Mr. Juan's restaurant is a big concern. He has requested all inspections on the bridges.
- Before Council votes on termite treatment for Town Hall, Ladybug Pest Solutions will be contacted to submit a quote.
- Council discussed the Town's participation in the SC Local Government pool. Motion was made by Council Member Spouse for the Town to participate in the SC Local Government pool, which was seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimous. Motion was also made by Council Member Stevenson to approve the bank fees to be reduced, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimously.

## **9. New Business-**

- Marcy Loucks, CPA with McKinley Cooper, spoke on the Town's FYE23 Audit. The Town assets and deferred outflows that totaled \$1.8 million, inflows of about \$980,000., which left us with a positive net position of \$853,000. That also includes the pension liability. Our revenue was up by 25% from the previous year. Total expenses were up 35% from the previous year. The Town had enough saved up to cover 37% of our expenses without any revenues.

## **10. Other Business**

- Katherine Williamson, Member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, spoke on Emma drive and not being able to issue permits until items are fixed. Peggy Burt is recommended to fill the open position on the Committee due to the passing of Rick Sweeney. Motion was made by Council Member Sprouse to approve Peggy Burt to serve on the Planning and Zoning Committee to fill Mr. Sweeney's term through the end of 2024, which was seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimously. It was discussed that the Committee needs more structure, so Jeff Guibault with ACOG has been asked to get involved with that. Right now, Council needs to address formulizing how many members need to be a town resident versus a non-resident.
- The New Town Hall Committee has nothing new to report.
- Police Chief McNeill wanted to mention that Lt. Miller was able to get a donation of gravel and asphalt millings to be placed at the empty lot at 208 N Main St.

## **12. Adjourned- November 4, 2024 at 8:03 p.m.**

With no further business presented, Council Member McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Stevenson and carried unanimously.

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

Town of Campobello Council Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder, on this 4th day of November, 2024.