

**Town Council Meeting – Work Session**  
**Location – 50 Broad Street, Campobello, SC 29322**  
**January 3, 2023**  
**Minutes**

- 1.** The Work Session of the Campobello Town Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Ash on January 3, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present were Joe McDowell and Alician Sprouse. Also in attendance was Police Chief Chad McNeill and Fire Chief Brandon McNeill.
- 2.** No items were discussed and no action taken.
- 3.** The Work Session ended at 6:59 p.m. Minutes were recorded by Town Clerk, Kim Hyder on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2023.

# Campobello Town Council Meeting

## January 3, 2023

### Minutes

4. The meeting of the Campobello Town Council was held on January 3, 2023 in the Campobello Fire Department training room located at 50 Broad Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem, Aaron Ash at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present were Alician Sprouse and Joe McDowell. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Brandon McNeill and Police Chief Chad McNeill. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
5. Introduction of the Mayor and Council was done.
6. Council Member Ash asked if council had reviewed the December 5, 2022 work session minutes and December 5, 2022 council meeting minutes prior to the meeting and asked for a Motion to accept them. Council Member Sprouse made a motion to accept the December 5, 2022 minutes as written, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimous.
7. Council Member Ash made mention that he was filling in for Mayor Shamis in his absence and wished everyone a happy new year and that we had an interesting 2022 and looks forward to working with everyone in 2023. He reminded everyone that if anyone had any concerns or comments that they need to be directed to Town Hall, which gives Council time to review and report back with an accurate response.
8. Police Chief Chad McNeill and reported that the Campobello Police Department had a total of 71 calls for the month of December. It was another busy month, especially with backing up other agencies and the County. Of the 72 calls, 34 were traffic stops resulting in 20 citations. The SROs had 18 home visits. Council Member Sprouse asked where the breaking and entering happened. Chief McNeill said in Landrum. She also asked if any of the 20 citations were drug related. Chief McNeill responded that only 5 were drug related dealing with meth. Town resident Owenby asked council to speak regarding the police department and spoke about the value of our police chief, Chad McNeill. He went on to say that if Chief McNeill were to fall from a ladder and received a serious injury, that this town would be in trouble. He has a full-time job and he doesn't think the chief's job description includes his climbing up a pole to repair something. That is no place for a person of such value. The town should consider putting some money out of petty cash or whatever account to hire a flunky to be on call to do such dangerous work. Council Member Ash asked if council had any further questions for the Police Department. No further questions were asked.
9. Fire Chief Brandon McNeill did mention that the fire department was on standby to aid Police Chief McNeill should something happen. Fire Chief McNeill went on to report that the Campobello Fire Department had a total of 29 calls for the month of December. Of those calls, 14 were in the fire service area, 4 outside of our jurisdiction and 7 within the city limits. The air craft emergency came from a person driving down the interstate and saw a plane go down with a large plume of smoke. The Sheriff's Office even put their helicopter in the area, but there was no plane, but rather an illegal burn in the area. Council Member Ash asked if council had any further questions for the Fire Department. No further questions were asked.
10. **Old Business-**

- Council Member Ash said that he reached out to our mayor's intern who is working on a PARDS grant, beautification grant, hometown economic grant, cyber security grant, healthy living grant and basic lay out of architectural grant. She has been asked to prepare a spreadsheet for the next meeting with should show us the dollar amount of these grants and when we might see some of this money.
- Police Chief McNeill updated everyone on the structures around town that have violations. Officer Godfrey is working with the new owner of the brick building across the street to get it under compliance. Most of the violations have been taken care of or we have received updates as to their progress. Smith Street is a prime example of his work. The block building has been renovated and made into a nice home which is on the market for at least \$175,000.
- Police Chief McNeill has not heard from any of the Gramling family regarding the land for the sign, but he is working on possibly obtaining a different piece of land for the town sign.
- Discussion was had as to when a public hearing could be set regarding the Town's fee schedule. Town Clerk said that any time after February 12<sup>th</sup> would work. Council Member Ash asked for a motion to approve a public hearing on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6p. Motion was made by Council Member McDowell to approve a public hearing regarding the Town's fee schedule on February 13, 2023 at 6p, which was seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous.
- Council Member Ash said that he hopes to meet with Council and the Mayor to get a schedule together to show everyone what the park renovations will be, a timeframe of when that will happen and how much they will cost.
- A second reading of zoning ordinance Article V Zoning Use Regulations – Section X Flexible Review District in title only was done by Council Member Ash. Council Member Sprouse made a motion to accept the second reading of zoning ordinance Article V Zoning Use Regulations – Section X Flexible Review District, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimous.
- Council Member Ash had no update on the litigation between the Town and City of Landrum.
- Police Chief McNeill gave an update on fuel usage. We are way under budget with the amount used and we are close to where we were last year, but over the quarter the amount has decreased.

## **11. New Business-**

- Council Member Ash tabled the mayor's intern position until the next meeting since full council was not present. Council agreed.
- Clerk Hyder spoke on the need for a CPA since our auditor cannot perform those duties as it is a conflict for them. She reached out to several CPA firms and did not receive a response, except for Greene, Finney & Cauley, LLP. Mr. Finney was quick to set up a zoom meeting with her and the mayor. They have a B.O.S.S. program which would fit what we need, as she said there may be months where she would not need any help and then in one month, she may have several items that need an accountant's expertise. They quoted a monthly retainer of \$250 a month. This would

keep us within our budgeted amount. Council Member Ash asked if this was something Clerk Hyder needed and she responded in the affirmative as she has had questions that even Quickbooks cannot answer and they refer her our town accountant. There are reports that are due to the State and County that she would like to be reviewed by an accountant prior to submitting them. Council Member Ash then asked for a Motion to hire this firm as the town's accountant. Council Member McDowell made a motion to hire Greene, Finney & Cauley, LLP as the town's accountant, which was seconded by Council Member Sprouse and carried unanimous.

- Mr. Owenby submitted a request to speak regarding a beautification project. Council Member Ash did mention to him that Emily Jolley would be in town over the coming weeks. Mr. Owenby said that he welcomes meeting with her. He went on to say that he took pictures of all the embarrassing spots in our town and took pictures of nice spots in Inman and Landrum. He said that we have a beautiful river that runs through our town. It needs to be improved. It flows through town and says the area close to there could be developed even the swamp areas using boardwalks. He made mention of Reedy River in Greenville and what that has brought to Greenville. There is no reason why Campobello can't do something with our river and we don't have to wait on the Rail To Trails project to happen. He suggested the town write a grant to SC Dept of Resources or SC Parks and Recreation and Tourism. They have lots of money to give to small towns and municipalities. All you have to do is get a plan together and submit it and you will get the money. Mr. Owenby would like to see something happen soon. He challenged council to each take a project and work on it this year as your resolution. Mr. Owenby gave over 100 hours on the sewer project and said his work in on file at Town Hall. Let's move this town ahead instead of dragging our feet.

## **12. Other Business-**

- Dennis Iskra gave an update for the Planning and Zoning Committee. Last month they had a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan and approved sending it on to council for discussion and vote. They have a work session scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1p to go over various building zones with ACOG.
- Police Chief McNeill asked for approval to spend about \$500 to get gravel for a few spots in town that have been mudholes, one being Emma Drive. Council Member Ash asked for a motion to spend \$500 on gravel for maintenance on town roads. Motion was made by Council Member Sprouse to approve the spending of \$500 on gravel, which was seconded by Council Member McDowell and carried unanimous.

## **13. Adjourned- January 3, 2023 at 7:25 p.m.**

With no further business presented, Council Member Sprouse made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member McDowell 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 3rd day of January, 2023.