

**TOWN OF RAVENEL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Ravenel was held Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at 5962 Highway 165, Ravenel, South Carolina. The following members of Council were present: LaJuanda Brown, Robert Cochran, Andrea Gail Fariior, Jim Rodgers, Jr., W. Buckey Waters (Mayor Pro Tem), Terry Wilkinson, and Mayor Stephen Tumbleston who presided. Also, in attendance were Town Administrator and Planner Mike Hemmer, Clerk-Treasurer Tammy Wood, and Town Attorney William B. Harvey, III. Town Code Inspector and Facilities Manager Jason Moffitt was absent.

The media and public were duly notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Tumbleston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present to conduct business.

2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Tumbleston.

3. MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

a. Introduction of Attorney

Mayor Tumbleston welcomed the new Town Attorney William B. Harvey, III.

b. Intersection Turn Signal

Mayor Tumbleston shared that after several years of traffic studies, automobile accidents, and concerns from residents, a turning signal traffic light has finally been installed at the intersection of Savannah Highway and Highway 165.

c. Veterans Luncheon

The Town will be honoring area Veterans and Active-duty military members on Friday, November 10 at noon at the Ravenel Train Depot where lunch will be served, along with a presentation by Guest Speaker, Retired United States Air Force Colonel Charles Tupper.

d. Thanksgiving Gift Cards

Councilmembers and Town Hall staff will soon begin distributing \$25 gift cards from a local grocery store in preparation for Thanksgiving.

e. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Town will be hosting its 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 2 at the Ravenel Train Depot from 5 to 7 p.m. All ages are encouraged to attend to enjoy holiday festivities including live music, food, hot cocoa, desserts, pictures with Santa, presents, raffles, and more.

f. Does anyone wish to speak during item #11 – Public Comments?

JohnQuetta Mungin and Tiffany Smalls indicated interest in speaking during Public Comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Recusals/Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. September 26, 2023 – Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Farris.

Councilmember Waters discussed the incorrect spelling of a name in Item #2 of the minutes, as well as his preference to begin including gender appropriate titles such as ‘Ms.’ and ‘Mr.’ before names moving forward.

Councilmember Waters made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodgers. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC STATEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS (5 MINUTES)

a. Statement forms submitted prior to meeting

None.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND OFFICERS

a. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Harvey introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Mayor, Town Council, staff, and citizens of Ravenel. He is working with the Town’s previous attorney on existing litigations and is working closely with Mr. Moffitt on pending enforcement cases.

b. Charleston County Sheriff’s Office Report

Sergeant Brandon Wade was absent but encouraged Town officials, staff, and residents to contact him with any questions or concerns.

c. Clerk-Treasurer Report

Ms. Wood included the September 2023 General and Sewer Fund Financial Reports in packets provided to the Council.

d. Town Administrator and Planner Report

Mr. Hemmer shared that the Town Zoning Code and Municipal Code are now available electronically through Municode. Mr. Hemmer communicated that Blu Tide Marine Construction has begun work at Ravenel Hall, however, this will have no effect on the upcoming election as work will temporarily stop. To date, a total of 103 Zoning Permits have been issued this year.

i. SCPRT Legislative Funding Plans

Mr. Hemmer reported that Mayor Tumbleston has been working with State Representative Matthew Leber to obtain a grant in the amount of \$500,000 for projects at Pump Station #1 and Force Main Extension, Ravenel Hall and its surrounding grounds, The Ravenel Train Depot, and the Old E.B. Ellington School Site. Mr. Hemmer is seeking guidance from the Council on how to apply this funding.

ii. Old E.B. Ellington School Site Survey

The Town recently hosted a community engagement event at the Old E.B. Ellington School Site located at 5600 Ellington School Road. The design team received valuable feedback from completed surveys, with a substantial interest in preserving the history of the school that was previously located there.

e. Town Code Inspector and Facilities Manager Report

Mr. Moffitt was absent but provided Council with a report that detailed pending enforcement cases throughout Town, information regarding repairs and upgrades at Town facilities, as well as the status of submitted work order requests to Charleston County and SCDOT.

8. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. Sewer Advisory Board

There will be an upcoming meeting with the Town of Hollywood, the Town of Meggett, and other local and State level officials regarding sewer matters.

b. Planning & Zoning Commission

i. Upcoming Meeting: November 2, 2023

Discussion of various sections of code.

ii. Upcoming Meeting: December 7, 2023

Site Plan Reviews with Councilmember Brown.

There are two seats (Chairman Jerry Jackson and Vice Chair Laurie Infinger) expiring at the end of the year. Mr. Jackson will not be seeking reappointment. Mr. Hemmer encouraged Council to notify him of any candidates who may be interested in serving.

c. Board of Zoning Appeals

No recent or scheduled meetings.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 16-23 Regarding P&Z and BZA Member Residency

An ordinance amending Section 6.6.2 of the Ravenel Zoning Code pertaining to the composition of the Planning Commission, and Section 6.7.2 pertaining to the composition of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Waters made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 16-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Farrior. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 2nd Reading of Ordinance 17-23 Regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

An ordinance to adopt the Annual General Fund Budget containing estimates of proposed revenues and expenditures for the Town of Ravenel, South Carolina beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 17-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

Tiffany Smalls of Chavis Mobile Home Movers, shared information regarding the successful relocation of several residents from a Mobile Home Park whose parcels were recently approved to change use.

JohnQuetta Mungin of 6160 Young Street, is the new President of St. Paul's District Education and Community Organization. Ms. Mungin stated that she would like a member of each municipality in the St. Paul's area to join their organization and bring forth ideas to create stronger communities. The organization is always seeking donations and volunteers for their community giveback efforts.

12. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Farrior shared that she will be retiring and expressed gratitude to her fellow colleagues and the community for allowing her to serve on Town Council for the past four years.

Mayor Tumbleston spoke about the recent E.B. Ellington School Site community engagement event and communicated the importance of memorializing the school and honoring its alumni. In addition, Mayor Tumbleston conveyed his appreciation to the Ravenel Depot Farmers Market managers Pat Day and Janell Nettles, as well as the vendors, sponsors, businesses, and volunteers who helped plan and execute the recent Ravenel Fall Festival which had a turnout of over 400 attendees.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

14. ACTION/S AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Waters made a motion to adjourn at 6:26 p.m.; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodgers. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.



Mayor Stephen Tumbleston

LaJuanda Brown

Robert Cochran

Andrea Gail Farrior

Jim Rodgers, Jr.

W. Buckey Waters

Terry Wilkinson

Minutes transcribed from tape and respectfully submitted by: Mikayla White, Clerk-Receptionist