

**TOWN OF RAVENEL
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Ravenel was held Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at 5962 Highway 165, Ravenel, South Carolina. The following members of Council were present: LaJuanda Brown, Robert Cochran, Jim Rodgers, Jr., Terry Wilkinson, and Mayor Stephen Tumbleston who presided. Andrea Gail Fariior and W. Buckey Waters (Mayor Pro Tem) were absent. Also, in attendance were Town Administrator and Planner Mike Hemmer, Clerk-Treasurer Tammy Wood, and Code Inspector and Facilities Manager Jason Moffitt. Town Attorney William B. Harvey, III 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. Elections and Staff

Mayor Tumbleston congratulated the individuals who succeeded in the recent Municipal Election, including himself, incumbent Councilmembers Jim Rodgers, Jr. and W. Buckey Waters, and newly elected Councilmember Cora Lee Singleton.

b. Thanksgiving Gift Cards

Councilmembers and Town Hall staff distributed over 100 gift cards to the community for Thanksgiving.

c. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Town will host 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.

d. December Meeting Date

The last Council Meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 5:45 p.m.

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

Derald McMillan indicated interest in speaking during Public Comments.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Recusals/Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Postponed.

6. PUBLIC STATEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS (5 MINUTES)

a. Senator Sandy Senn

South Carolina Senate member Sandy Senn introduced herself and shared that she will soon be redistricting to help serve the St. Paul's Parish community in addition to other surrounding areas. She expressed her willingness to help the Town with any issues and needs moving forward.

b. Nicole Burnham

Nicole Burnham with Charleston County Community Development and Revitalization conducted a presentation regarding upcoming grants soon being made available. Ms. Burnham detailed Treasury, ARPA Grant Funds, and HUD Urban Entitlement Funds that the County receives each year. She explained that the funds are intended to serve low to moderate income households and provides Towns with a wide range of community development resources toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, improved community facilities, infrastructure, and public services. The release date for the Request for Applications (RFA) is November 30, 2023. Applications are available on the Charleston County website. Optional pre-application workshops will be held Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and Thursday, December 7, 2023, for training and a Q&A segment on the application process. Applications will no longer be accepted after January 5, 2024, at 12:00pm.

c. Statement forms submitted prior to meeting

None.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND OFFICERS

a. Town Attorney

None.

b. Charleston County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Brandon Wade reported offenses that occurred in Town over the last month that resulted in citations, arrests, and/or ongoing investigations.

c. Clerk-Treasurer

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

The Swearing-In Ceremony for new and reelected Town officials will take place on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

d. Town Administrator and Planner

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. Plans are to allocate \$300,000 for the Ravenel Hall and Ballfield Improvements and \$200,000 to the previous E.B. Ellington School demolition and future amenities within the project's restoration.

Councilmember Wilkinson made a motion to approve allocation plans for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism grant; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Cochran. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Town Code Inspector and Facilities Manager

Mr. Moffitt discussed pending enforcement cases, information regarding repairs and upgrades at Town facilities, and the status of work order requests submitted to Charleston County and SCDOT.

8. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

a. Sewer Advisory Board

Mayor Tumbleston shared that himself, Mayor Pro Tem Buckey Waters, and Town Administrator Mike Hemmer recently met with Hollywood, Meggett, Charleston Water System and other local and State level officials regarding the currently shared sewer system and its future improvements and viability.

b. Planning & Zoning Commission

i. Recent Meeting: November 2, 2023

Discussion of various sections of code.

ii. Upcoming Meeting: December 7, 2023

Rezoning requests and Site Plan Reviews; Councilmember Brown will be in attendance representing the Town Council.

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 the Council to notify him of any candidates who may be interested in serving.

c. Board of Zoning Appeals

i. Upcoming Meeting: December 12, 2023

Special Exception Use for an electrical contractor in a General Business zoned district.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduction of Ordinance 18-23 (Business License Classes for 2024)

Amending the Business License Ordinance of the Town of Ravenel to update the Class Schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020.

Councilmember Cochran made a motion to approve the Introduction of Ordinance 18-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Introduction of Ordinance 19-23 (2nd Amendment to Golden Grove Development Agreement)
An ordinance approving the second amendment to the Golden Grove Development Agreement.

Councilmember Rodgers made a motion to approve the Introduction of Ordinance 19-23; this motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilkinson. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

Derald McMillan of 6308 Old Jacksonboro Road, asked what items would be on the agenda for the upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting.

12. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Cochran asked for an update on pending road repairs within Town limits.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

14. ACTION/S AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Brown made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 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