

**Town Council Meeting Minutes  
North Town Hall  
December 09, 2019**

Mayor Jones called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Williams and Washington.

- Mayor Jones led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mayor Jones declared a quorum and welcomed visitors, thanking all for coming to the meeting.
- Mayor Jones stated first on the agenda is the approval of the November 11, 2019 meeting minutes, and would like to entertain a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Councilmember Washington motions to accept the meeting minutes, Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT:**

- Each Councilmember was presented with a copy of the North Police Department (NPD) report for November, 2019.
- Chief Shirer presented NPD had 100 cases in North Municipal Court during the month of November. There were 33 incident reports, responded to 45 calls, officers worked two vehicle accidents, and arrested 11 defendants.
- NPD will be conducting checkpoints in the Town of North during the next 30 days.
- Chief Shirer mentioned the Dollar General armed robbery that occurred last month is still ongoing.
- Chief Shirer announced that since Thanksgiving, the County has had 7 fatalities, 3 fatalities have been within a few miles of the Town of North. Chief Shirer would like for everyone to be careful from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup>, and the New Year's Sober or Slammer campaign will be ongoing during this time.
- Councilmember Washington mentioned an incident that occurred when a man was getting ready to go to work, cranked his vehicle up, and when he went back to his vehicle, it was gone. Chief Shirer acknowledged this incident along with some additional details surrounding the incident and mentioned that if you leave your vehicle unattended, people will get into them. About a month ago, there were 8 car break-ins and a burglary in one night. An arrest of two juveniles was made.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Jones mentioned the applications for the special election of two Council seats, on the North Town Council, is scheduled for February 4, 2019. Applications can be picked up from the Town Hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned by 12:00 Noon, December 17, 2019.
- Mayor Jones advises that a microphone/speaker will be installed at the Clerk's area where you come in to pay your water bill. This will allow the customer and the clerk to communicate effectively without being perceived that anyone is being yelled at. Hopefully this will be installed by the first of the year. This is thanks to our Orangeburg Representative, Heyward Livingston.
- Mayor Jones advised that we are giving the citizens with water/sewer, the option to receive paper water bills or electronic bills. We are working to have this in effect by January, 2020. We are asking citizens come by the Town Hall and update address and telephone number on your water account for emergency purposes such as notification for boil water advisories, or if the water may have to be shut down for a while.
- Mayor Jones mentioned the success of the North Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. A special thank you to the Planning Committee. Mayor Jones is continuing to receive calls from individuals who want to be in the parade for next year. Mayor Jones expressed this is excellent.
- This concludes the items for the Mayor's report.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mayor Jones mentions to Council that they have account statements for the month of November, 2019, and if there are any questions from the October to November 2019 Financial Statements?  
Councilmembers have no questions, and Mayor Jones mentions this information will be posted online.
- Mayor Jones announced the presentation of the Town Audit conducted by McGregor and Company, Ms. Lori Salley, for the year ending 6/30/2019. Ms. Salley presented the audit report explaining to Mayor and Councilmembers items notable for discussion. All Councilmembers have a copy of the audit booklet. Ms. Salley explained the audit, findings, and additional information she has provided for Councilmembers. Ms. Salley expressed her appreciation to all for their assistance and support.
- Mayor Jones confirms with Ms. Salley that the Town has a “clean audit”, and thanks Ms. Salley.

## **2018 COUNCIL PROJECTS:**

- Mayor Jones asked for updates on Council’s Projects.
- Councilmember Williams does not have any updates to provide on her project, but informs Mayor Jones that she has just handed him a proposal, which Mayor Jones hasn’t had a chance to look at yet, so next month Councilmember Williams and Mayor Jones will discuss.
- Councilmember Washington spoke to an individual in Atlanta, Gloria Herbert, and will be receiving some information on some grants. She told Councilmember Washington that there are a lot of grants that we can get for North. She is sending Councilmember Washington a lot of information to check into. She also mentioned to Councilmember Washington that whoever the person is that writes it, will need to make sure they know what they are doing. It was indicated that there is a lot of stuff that can be obtained for North. Councilmember Washington will be working on this.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS** per sign-in sheet (3 minutes)

- There were 2 requests, but one is not present.
- Mayor Jones proceeds with the introduction of Mr. Joe Turley from the US Census Bureau.
- Mr. Joe Turley from the US Census Bureau speaks to make citizens aware of the purpose of the Census and the need for local assistance in conducting the 2020 Census. The need is for 1400 citizens for Orangeburg County. Jobs are temporary and part time, but the money is good. \$14.50 per hour and \$.58 per mile if you’re required to use your vehicle. Information can be found at [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs) to complete an application.
- Councilmember Williams said a lot of people don’t know about this, and how do they find out about it if they don’t know your website? She is aware of the information at the Library and wants to know if there’s some additional information that can be passed out. Mr. Turley informs here that there are handouts that are available, and Councilmember Williams states that she will take some.
- Mayor Jones mentions the western side of Orangeburg County that’s not counted often, where people are a little leery about having folks come into their house, or coming around and asking questions. Mayor Jones hopes we can recruit some local folks to help with this. Mr. Turley mentioned a story he heard west of here where someone said good luck with trying to recruit people, if you come near our place, we will send you off with a gun. There was laughter in the group and Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Turley for his presentation.
- Mayor Jones introduced Mr. Al Jenkins, Regional Director from Tim Scott’s office in Charleston. Thanks given by Mr. Jenkins to be able to come before us and be addressed. Congratulations on the new election and council and lets us know he is here to work with us. As discussions on the grants were previously mentioned, he is here to help us. Mr. Jenkins inquires if we participated in the “needs assessment” with the Lower Savannah Council for Government in the County of Orangeburg, which is conducted every year? Councilmember Washington asks Chief Shirer if this was what they did down in Savannah? Chief Shirer stated that our grant came from elsewhere. Mr. Jenkins presents to the Councilmembers what is available to them and the Town. Mr. Jenkins mentions you bring your needs, researchers can search grants, and if they happen to be Federal, then they contact Mr. Jenkins. If a letter of support is needed from the Senator on any grant, Federal, they can support you to try and encourage you to get those grants. Mr. Jenkins encourages using your Council of Governments, without spending any money because money has already been spent in fees that have been paid to them. Mr. Jenkins mentioned that he saw on the program about “Opportunity Zone”. The Department of Commerce has

hired a new Director, and any question we have on opportunity zones (what it is, how to take advantage of it), she is there to answer all questions. No question is a "dumb" question. There is no question that she will not entertain because it's a new program and it's not Federal funds, it's private funds. Her name is Peggy McLean, 803-737-0486.

- Councilmember Williams mentioned when she was inquiring on the opportunity zone, they told her that the Orangeburg area, that is "this" particular area, didn't have any at that particular time. That was about 4 months ago and Councilmember Williams called Economic, talked to the Mayor about some funds within the accounting. Councilmember Williams says that was a road block for her, but she is very glad to hear this information. Mr. Jenkins stated that since she's already inquired, he can say there are two opportunity zone locations and they have already been established. One is in the Holly Hill and the other is 321 and I-26, all the way into downtown Orangeburg.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- Mayor Jones asks if there is no more business, a request to entertain a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Washington motions to adjourn, Mayor Jones asks if all are in favor, Councilmember Williams seconds the motion, Mayor Jones states the meeting is adjourned and thanks everyone.

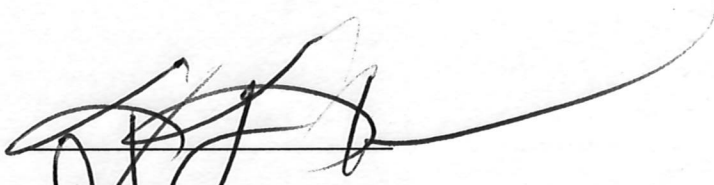
The next Council meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13, 2020.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Beverly McCormick*

Beverly McCormick  
Town Clerk

Mayor Julius Jones:



Council Members:

Jeff Washington:



Jennifer Williams:

