

Town of Pine Ridge

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNOR MCMASTER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-50, ON SOCIAL DISTANCING, THERE WILL ONLY BE TEN CITIZENS ALLOWED IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO EMAIL WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CLERK AT

skyzer@townofpineridgesc.com

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Town Council Work Session

6:45 P.M. – 6:47 P.M. Review of Administrative Department Report

6:47 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Informational Council Discussion:

- a) Security Light update at Camp Moore/Styx
- b) P&RC: Blessing Box/possible Library Box update

7:00 P.M. - Town Council Meeting

Call to Order & Invocation

Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Approval of Minutes

1. October 13, 2020 Regular Scheduled Council Meeting

Old Business

1. Estates at Indigo Bond Estimate to repair infrastructure
2. Indigo Place Bond Estimate to repair infrastructure
3. Vehicle Maintenance issues update
4. Consideration of IT quotes
5. Consideration of New Auditor
6. Consideration of Lexington County Stormwater Utility Fee & Pine Ridge survey results
7. Town Christmas tree lighting & parade for 2020

New Business

1. Cheryl Patrick of Sandy Creek Court: Request of Mayor Wells regarding PRPD
2. RFP19-04 Cleaning of Municipal Complex for 2021 – option to renew for additional year
3. RFP18-06 HVAC Maintenance & Repairs for 2021 – option to renew for additional year
4. RFP18-04 Public Defender Services for 2021 – option to renew for additional year
5. Consideration of payroll services
6. Finance Committee update: Decoration of Town signs
7. Employee Service Recognition
8. 2021 Meeting and Holiday Schedule
9. Council Committee discussion
10. Adjourn to Executive Session
 - a) Discussion of negotiation of possible contract for obtaining candidates for employment for police chief.
30-4-70 (a)(1) & 30-4-70 (a)(2)
11. Reconvene to Regular Session
12. Possible Actions by Council in follow up to Executive Session

Citizen's Comment Time – (email to skyzer@townofpineridgesc.com)

ADJOURN

TOWN OF PINE RIDGE
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Council Present: Mayor Wells, Mayor Pro-Tem Davis, Councilman Simms, Councilman Dinkins and Councilwoman Sturkie.

Staff Present: Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Kyzer, Interim Chief Silano and Officer Neeley

6:45 P.M. – 6:46 P.M. Review of Administrative Department Reports

Mayor Wells advised Council that some reports were missing, as the Town Administrator, Mrs. Miller had been out on medical leave.

Mayor Wells asked Council if there were any questions or comments for Mrs. Kyzer. There were none.

6:46 P.M. – 6:50 P.M. – Review of Police Department Administrative Reports

Interim Chief Silano gave the following report of activities for September:

- Vehicle Break In's - 2
- Investigations – LCSD investigating several cases that their deputies worked while PRPD had no officers on duty.
- K9 Program – This program was suspended on 9/22/20
- 41 Calls for Service
- 6 Incident reports
- 30 Traffic stops
- 15 Citations
- 13 Warnings

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Interim Chief Silano stated that he had something outside of the monthly Administrative report that he wanted to discuss with Council, which was not on the Agenda.

Mayor Wells stated that if the item was not on the Agenda, it would have to wait until the next Council Meeting, as the Town is required to give notice to the general public of what is going to be presented at the meeting. Mayor Wells asked Council to confirm whether that was the correct protocol.

Mayor Pro-Tem Davis confirmed that if an item is not on the agenda, Council would not be able to hear the item until it is on the Agenda.

Interim Chief Silano stated that he will submit his resignation letter tonight to Council, effective November 1, 2020, to allow the other two Officers time to find other employment. Interim Chief Silano stated that the Mayor has created a toxic work environment by micromanaging and constant impediment.

Councilwoman Sturkie asked Interim Chief Silano if there was anything that can be done to change his mind, which was met with the answer of no.

6:50 P.M. – 6:52 P.M. Informational Council Discussion

- Mayor Wells read aloud a letter from Pine Ridge Middle School thanking the Town of Pine Ridge for their \$150.00 donation for the PRMS G.O.L.D. Rush Program.
- Councilwoman Sturkie stated that there would be a fund raiser in South Congaree at the Arena on Saturday the 17th of November from 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. to benefit a Lexington County Deputy that was injured in the line of duty.
- Councilwoman Sturkie also informed Council that Midland Girls' Softball, Midland Baseball and Midland Football would be hosting a Halloween Drive-Thru on October 30th at Midland's Softball field.

At this time, with nothing further to discuss, Mayor Wells closed the Work Session.

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6:52 P.M. – Town Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wells called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:52 P.M. with Mayor Pro-Tem Davis, Councilman Simms, Councilman Dinkins and Councilwoman Sturkie present.

Staff Present: Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Kyzer, Interim Chief Silano and Officer Neeley

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Davis led those assembled in prayer.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMPLIANCE

Mayor Wells stated that public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 8, 2020 Regular Scheduled Council Meeting

Mayor Wells asked Council to review the minutes and if there were any questions or comments that the Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Kyzer was available.

Councilman Simms made a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes, as submitted. Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Estates at Indigo Bond Estimate to repair infrastructure

Mayor Wells stated that he had spoken to County Councilman Todd Cullum, who stated that the Oakhill Road paving would be finished at the end of October. The County has already done the cut across the roads where the pipes were stopped up with sand, its already been pulled out and replaced. The County will make the other repairs while they are paving.

2. Indigo Place Bond Estimate to repair infrastructure

This item was discussed under Item 1.

3. Vehicle Maintenance issues update

Mayor Wells referred Council to the listing of known issues since March with the vehicles. The vehicle that was destroyed by arson, was removed off the list.

Vehicle	Issue
Slick Top Impala	1. Camera Mount is broken
Marked Tahoe	1. Tire sensor gauge is shorted 2. Dash Cam SD slot will not open as of 3/4/2020
Chief Tahoe	1. In car camera display will not turn on screen, but it records; as of 3/4/2020. 2. Cage was removed & re-installed by Silano & Neeley. 3. Driver/passenger side window tint
K9 Tahoe	No issues to report as of 3/4/2020
Pickup Truck	Unknown

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4. Body Camera issues update

Mayor Wells referred Council to the listing of existing body cameras and stated that the new body cameras have come in.

Serial #	Manufacturer	Officer Assigned	Purchase	Status
VHC2-008870	WatchGuard	Unassigned	9/6/2016	working
VHC2-003862	WatchGuard	Silano	9/6/2016	working
VHC2-009288	WatchGuard	Neeley	9/6/2016	working
VHC2-008874	WatchGuard	Hale	9/6/2016	working
VHC2-007837	WatchGuard	Not working	9/6/2016	not working
VHC2-008795	WatchGuard	Not working	9/6/2016	not working
VHC2-008883	WatchGuard	Not working	9/6/2016	not working
VHC2-009017	WatchGuard	Not working	9/6/2016	not working
VHC2-007892	WatchGuard	Not Located	9/6/2016	unknown
Unknown	Digital Ally	Outdated per Silano	4/6/2015	working
Unknown	Digital Ally	Outdated per Silano	4/6/2015	working
VHC2-041056	WatchGuard	Unassigned	9/15/2020	working
VHC2-041081	WatchGuard	Unassigned	9/15/2020	working
VHC2-041094	WatchGuard	Unassigned	9/15/2020	working

5. Ordinance 2020-29: Adopting by Reference the Lexington County Animal Control Ordinance 20-13 *Second Reading

Mayor Wells read aloud the title to Ordinance 2020-29.

Mayor Pro-Tem Davis made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2020-29, as submitted. Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of IT quotes

Mayor Wells stated that the Town Administrator has submitted three IT quotes. The current IT company works on an as needed basis in which their response times are terrible. The quotes range from \$21k to \$32k from Companies who are certified to handle the FBI/SLED requirements and work for surrounding Municipalities.

After Council discussion, it was decided to obtain additional quotes that will be presented at the November Town Council meeting.

2. Consideration of New Auditor

Mayor Wells stated that he contacted our previous Auditors, who recommended Rish & Enzastiga out of Lexington. Rish & Enzastiga submitted a proposal to Council, in which Auditors qualify as an exception in the town procurement policy. Mayor Wells added that he would like Council to consider obtaining a quote for payroll services.

Councilman Simms made a motion to turn the consideration of the new Auditor over to the Finance Committee.

Not hearing a second, Mayor Wells stated that he would second the motion as the Town is required by law to obtain an Audit firm to perform the annual audit.

Mayor Wells called for a vote, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Davis stated that the Finance Committee would contact Rish and Enzastiga to submit two proposals, one for just the Audit job and the other with the Audit job and Payroll. He stated that the Finance Committee would get back with Council and share the information. In the proposal it stated that the Auditors would like to start in October 2020.

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3. Consideration of Lexington County Stormwater Utility Fee & Pine Ridge survey results.

Mayor Wells stated that the County has been talking about imposing a Stormwater Utility Fee for over ten years. The County has submitted a fact sheet showing what they are planning to do and how the fee will be charged:

The stormwater fee is going to be charged to single-family residential (SFR) properties in three tiers and non-single family residential (NSFR) properties on the basis of the “typical” residential property.

- The typical residential property in Lexington County has about 2,800 square feet of impervious area (SFIA). This is termed the “equivalent residential unit” or ERU. Each NSFR property will be charged a fee based on its total impervious area (IA) divided by 2,800 square feet.
- Single family residential (SFR) properties will be charged on the basis of which of three tiers they fall into. The charges will be: less than 2,000 SFIA -> 0.5 ERU; 2,000 to 6,000 SFIR -> 1.0 ERU, and greater than 6,000 SFIA -> 2.0 ERUs.
- Credits will be offered for those NSFR properties that have well-maintained detention ponds and water quality structures, as well as offered to educational institutions, organizations and businesses for providing qualifying stormwater education.
- It is estimated that the monthly stormwater utility fee will be billed annually on the tax bill beginning in October 2021 for the 2021 year and will be in the range of \$4 - \$8 per month per ERU.

Councilman Dinkins stated that the County requested project ideas from all the Municipalities. A survey was sent out to Residents, in which three responded. The Pine Ridge survey results have been turned over to Lexington County. He added that there was a webinar this Thursday that he would attend on behalf of the Town for the Stormwater Fee and he will bring the information back to the Council.

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Councilman Simms made a motion to approve the Pine Ridge survey results. Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Consideration of Volunteer Appreciation Acknowledgement (Donation).

Mayor Wells stated that this item is to confirm the Volunteer Appreciation Acknowledgement that Council has been doing since 2011. This item is already allocated under the donation budget in the amount of \$400.00.

Councilman Dinkins made a motion to send this item to the Finance Committee. Councilman Simms seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

5. Consideration of Christmas tree lighting & parade for 2020.

Mayor Wells updated Council as to cancellations throughout the State due to the Corona Virus.

Councilwoman Sturkie made a motion to have the Christmas parade and Christmas tree lighting on December 5, 2020.

Councilman Dinkins stated that he would like to discuss this item.

Council discussed the following:

- Doing something similar to the School District, with tying in Covid case levels
- Spending money, only to cancel both events
- Public participation
- Legal responsibility
- Social distancing during the parade versus the tree lighting

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Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion made by Councilwoman Sturkie.

Mayor Wells called for a vote. All members of Council approved the motion, with exception to Mayor Pro-tem Davis.

6. Consideration of Annual Pine Ridge Senior Center Luncheon (Donation)

Mayor Wells stated that the new Director of the Pine Ridge/South Congaree Senior Center has notified the Town that the Senior Center would be closed through the end of 2020, which means the Town would not have the ability to do the Annual Senior Center Luncheon.

7. Adjourn to Executive Session

- a) Personnel matters: Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.
30-4-70 (a)(1)

Mayor Wells called for a motion to adjourn to executive session.

Councilman Simms made a motion that Council go into executive session to discuss personnel matters as allowed by SC Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a)(1), which includes discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.

Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wells asked those in attendance to leave the building as Council needed to remain in the Council Chambers for Executive Session as the meeting room is filled things that used to be in Council Chambers before social distancing was mandated.

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8. Reconvene to Regular Session

Councilman Dinkins made a motion to resume the Regular Council Meeting. Councilman Simms seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wells stated that no votes were taken during Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the Regular Council Meeting.

9. Possible Actions by Council in follow up to Executive Session.

There were no actions taken by Council.

CITIZENS COMMENT TIME

Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Kyzer stated that there were no comments or emails that had been received.

Although this was Citizen Comment time, Officer Neeley came forward to speak to Council, as an employee. Officer Neeley stated that he grew up in Pine Ridge and his family still lives in town. Officer Neeley expressed great disappointment and concern about the status of the Police Department, employment process, and his admiration for Interim-Chief Silano. Officer Neeley stated that Interim-Chief Silano will be resigning and that he will be checking in the Town's equipment. Officer Neeley added that he would be resigning by the end of the week.

Councilman Simms stated that he has been presented with the various job descriptions, that contain what is expected from the Town. The Police Department represents the Town and if the job requirements are not upheld, then there is no reason to be further employed. Councilman Simms added that anyone who has a job is held to the same standard. Based on what has been presented to him, there were valid reasons for the actions that were taken. The Town deserves better.

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Councilwoman Sturkie stated her concern was that all Members of Council do not get to hear from both sides.

Councilman Simms stated while that may be true, there were actionable incidents, which need no interpretation and require disciplinary action. Council has sought legal advice and it was never something that was done arbitrarily or capriciously.

Mayor Wells stated that each Member of Council has one vote, in which one vote alone cannot carry a motion. Nothing has been done without the approval of Council, which is documented in the minutes. All Members of Council received information during the Executive Sessions, and Council made the final decisions. Former Mayor Busby, appointed himself as the Police Commissioner the entire time he served as Mayor. Mayor Wells stated that everything had been run through the Attorneys or at times through SLED. The Town has limited funds which limit the salaries available to offer potential employees. The Municipal Association post openings for Police Department positions within the same budgetary numbers or the larger Cities post salaries that we cannot compete with. Mayor Wells stated that all Police Departments are having issues with filling open positions, which includes the Sheriff's Department, Cayce and West Columbia.

Councilwoman Sturkie stated that she was not in agreement with the Public Safety Committee and will never vote for anything to be turned over to the Public Safety Committee. All Police Department matters should be discussed in Executive Session, which includes inviting the Officer into the meeting.

Mayor Wells reminded everyone in attendance that it was citizens comment time and asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak, they should come forward and state their name and their address.

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Ms. Jesse Sease of Coolbrook Drive stated that she was there to support all the Officers but especially, Interim Chief Silano who greatly impressed her a few months ago when her house and vehicle had been broke into. Ms. Sease added that she was in agreement with Councilwoman Sturkie and does not feel safe since it takes so long for the County to respond to calls.

Mayor Wells thanked Ms. Sease and asked if there was anybody else who wished to speak.

Mr. Michael Brown of Coolbreeze Drive stated that he didn't want to know the details but believes that everyone has issues but was very disappointed in Council that the Town no longer has a Police Department.

Mayor Wells thanked Mr. Brown and seeing that there were no other Citizens who wished to speak, stated that the floor was open for a motion to adjourn.

At this time, Interim Chief Silano came back into the room and handed Councilman Dinkins his resignation letter and stated it would be effective immediately.

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ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Simms moved to adjourn, with a second by Councilman Dinkins. With Council's unanimous approval, Mayor Wells adjourned the meeting at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Kyzer, Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

Robert M. Wells, Jr., Mayor

Date: _____