

**TOWN OF PINE RIDGE
Town Council Minutes
Regular Scheduled Work Session
June 13, 2023**

Council members present: Mayor Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem Simms, Councilman Dinkins & Councilwoman Sturkie

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Lewie

Staff present: Town Administrator, Mrs. Miller and Lieutenant Robinson

6:34 P.M. – 6:40 P.M. Public Hearing: Ordinance 2023-06: Adoption of 2023/2024 fiscal budget

<u>Current Fiscal Year Revenues</u>	<u>Projected Revenue FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>Percentage Change in Revenue</u>	<u>Current Fiscal Year Millage</u>
\$1,078,321	\$1,134,134	4.92%	0
<u>Current Fiscal Year Expenses</u>	<u>Projected Expenses FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>Percentage Change in Expenses</u>	<u>Estimated Millage for 2023-2024</u>
\$1,077,154	\$1,133,266	4.95%	0**

** Estimated millage rate for 2023 equals \$0.00 per \$1,000 in Assessed Property Value

Mayor Davis stated he wanted to mention several items prior to opening up the floor for public comment. He spoke about the following items:

Sale of capital assets due to receiving new Police Department vehicles.

- Business Licensing slight increase.
- American Rescue Plan Act balance of funds.
- Victim Assistance funds used to offset expenses now that we have a Victims Advocate.
- SRO Grant Income submission to be notified in June or July.
- Interest income due to the economy.
- Postage increased due the current cost of stamps going up.
- Donations increased for local charities.
- Meals and Meeting for Council increased due to Lexington County Municipal Association dinner fees since meetings have resumed after Covid.

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- Police department supplies increased.
- Police department equipment increased to replace computers over three years old.
- Community relations increased to properly engage with the public to create a positive image.
- Victims Advocate expenses are offset by the victim's fund and no money is spent out of the general fund.

Mayor Davis opened the floor for anyone in opposition to the 2023-2024 budget, none were heard. He then called for anyone in support of the 2023-2024 budget, none were heard. Mayor Davis asked the Town Administrator if anything was received electronically. Mrs. Miller stated no comments were received.

Mayor Davis closed the public hearing for Ordinance 2023-06.

6:40 P.M. – 6:41 P.M. Review of Administrative Department Reports

Mayor Davis asked Council if there were any questions. There were none.

Mayor Davis stated as a matter of record that the town is approaching the of the fiscal year budget. The Administrative staff and Police Department has done a fairly good job, with an expectation to end the year on a positive note.

6:41 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Review of Police Department Administrative Report

Mayor Davis asked Lieutenant Robinson to proceed with the report to Council. Lieutenant Robinson stated that the Chief was out of town and did not provide the stats for May. Mayor Davis stated that this will be provided at the next meeting.

6:42 P.M. – 6:43 P.M. Council Standing Committee Reports:

- a) Finance Committee - Member Dinkins stated he had nothing to report.
- b) Property & Recreation Committee - Chairwoman Sturkie stated she had nothing to report.
- c) Employee Grievance Committee – Chairman Dinkins stated he had nothing to report.

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6:43 P.M. – 6:46 P.M. Informational Council Discussion:

Mayor Davis stated he received an email from Councilwoman Lewie stating that she was under the weather.

- a) Spring clean-up review: Councilwoman Lewie
Mayor Davis stated that he thought the event went very well and we had more people participate in the trash pick-up. It showed the degree to which Citizen's care about how the community looks. Mayor Davis stated two food vendors and several first responder vehicles attended and thanked them for their participation. Council is hopeful to do something similar going forward.

- b) June 20, 2023: Special Called Meeting for Second Reading Ordinance 2023-06: 2023/2024 fiscal budget
Mayor Davis stated the town is required to have two readings of the 2023-2024 fiscal budget, prior to the current fiscal year-end.

- c) August 8, 2023: Public Hearing & First Reading Ordinance 2023-10: Adoption of Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Davis stated he was hopeful that residents had an opportunity to look at the Comprehensive plan posted on the website or attend the drop-in held on May 23, 2023. The drop-in was well attended and believes Benchmark Planning did a very good job showing what the final product will look like.

Mayor Davis asked if any member of Council had anything to add. Hearing none, Mayor Davis closed the work session.

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1. **Call to order**: Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 6:46 P.M. with Mayor Pro-Tem Simms, Councilman Dinkins and Councilwoman Sturkie present.

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Lewie

Staff present: Town Administrator, Mrs. Miller and Lieutenant Robinson.

2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**: Mayor Davis stated for the record, that a quorum has been established.
3. **Invocation**: Councilman Dinkins led those in attendance in prayer.
4. **Pledge of Allegiance**: Mayor Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Freedom of Information Act Compliance**: Mayor Davis stated that for the record, the town had met all of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act Compliance.

Approval of Minutes

1. May 9, 2023 Regular Scheduled Council Meeting

Councilman Dinkins made the motion to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes, as submitted. Councilwoman Sturkie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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Old Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Ordinance 2023-06: Adoption of 2023/2024 fiscal budget
*first reading

Mayor Davis stated that the public hearing was held during the work session, in which no one spoke in opposition or support to the proposed budget. Mayor Davis reviewed the revenue and expense projections.

Councilman Dinkins made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-06, as submitted. Mayor Pro-Tem Simms seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

2. Consideration of Police Department new vehicle purchase request

Lieutenant Robinson stated that Chief Neeley is requesting that the Town use covid relief funds to purchase a 2023 Dodge Ram 1500 Police Utility Truck. Several months ago, Chief Neeley submitted a quote for new in-car and body worn camera upgrades. The total amount of the request was approximately \$44,000.00 with a plan to use the covid funds to pay for the equipment upgrade. The Police Department has submitted a South Carolina Department of Public Safety grant to pay for both the in-car and body-worn cameras. Chief Neeley request's that the funds that were to be used for camera upgrades be used to purchased another new patrol vehicle. If Council would approve the purchase, the department would have five brand new vehicles with no service issues for up to three years due to warranties. The exception would be the 2018 Ford Taurus, which would be used as a spare vehicle. The Town could sell four vehicles with the estimate value below:

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2015 Chevy Impala	\$13,425.00	Will need transmission work
2013 Chevy Tahoe(K9)	\$11,650.00	Mileage 148,347
2008 Chevy Tahoe	\$ 8,500.00	Mileage 156,400
<u>2005 Ford F-150</u>	<u>\$ 4,115.00</u>	<u>Mileage 194,401</u>
Total estimation	\$37,690.00*	

*This value does not include police equipment already installed.

Transmission work on the Impala would cost anywhere from \$1,700.00 to \$3,700.00. The Dodge Ram would be issued to the Chief of Police as an unmarked police service vehicle (not pursuit rated).

Mayor Davis stated that to his recollection, this will be the first time that the town has owned a fleet of new vehicles, which is quite an achievement.

Mayor Davis asked Council for any questions for Lieutenant Robinson.

Councilman Dinkins asked Lieutenant Robinson if the equipment will be pulled out of the vehicles, since it is not included in the value.

Lieutenant Robinson said it depends if the vehicles go to a law enforcement auction, where only law enforcement agencies could purchase the vehicles, they would leave the equipment in the vehicles. If not, the equipment would be removed and sold separately.

Councilwoman Sturkie made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the new vehicle for the police department using covid funds. Councilman Dinkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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3. Consideration of Resolution 2023-07: To renew a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Lexington on the Urban Entitlement Program

Mayor Davis stated that the town had received a letter from Lexington County determining our interest in continuing to participate in this program. The County is better able to assist small municipalities with things such as animal control, which we certainly do not have the means to do. This would be an intergovernmental agreement with the county.

Councilman Simms made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-07, as submitted. Councilwoman Sturkie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

4. Consideration of Resolution 2023-08: SRO Agreement & Memorandum of Understanding 2023/2024

Mayor Davis stated that the town is approaching our third year of providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the elementary school. For the record, the town applied for a grant for each school year, which was approved. This means that any expenses associated with the SRO do not come out of the town's general fund. We are anticipating approval for the 2023-2024 school year. One of the requirements of the grant is that the town has a memorandum of understanding with Lexington County School District Two. We have followed protocol by providing the required documentation, which has kept us in compliance with the grant.

Councilman Dinkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-08, as submitted. Mayor Pro-Tem Simms seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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5. Consideration of donation: Midland All Stars – Ozone league

Mayor Davis stated that Midlands is hosting a district tournament the next week and is amazed that every year we have at least one team that advances deep into the play-offs and winning tournaments. The Town typically supports the all-star teams with a donation.

Councilman Dinkins made a motion to make a donation to Midland All-Stars, Ozone league, in the amount of \$500.00. Councilwoman Sturkie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6. Consideration of donation: JT's Kool Treats

Mayor Davis stated that this is in reference to the shred event and town clean-up. Years ago, the town held a festival and incurred the cost for each year. The last year was well attended, with no entry fee for the rides. The Town moved away from the festival due to the extreme cost. When the idea came up to do a shred and community event, which initially started as just picking up trash on the side of the road that our sidewalk areas were clean. It ballooned into a community event and shred event. The decision was made to expand that to try and create a nice community atmosphere that was family oriented. The Mayor state the food truck, Main EatZ, was fantastic. We had a magician and the other food vendor was JT's Kool Treats, who provided something like an icee. Mayor Davis added that he wasn't sure that the town would be able to sponsor events and make money and he was okay with that since it gives families an opportunity to come out and participate at no cost. JT's Kool Treats came out and the town neglected to offer them some incentive, and would like to compensate them two hundred dollars for their time. He is hopeful this will encourage other vendors to come out and participate.

