

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.
DR. JOHN M. THOMASON LIBRARY
404 EAST HAMPTON STREET,
OLANTA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT:

Mary M. Huggins, Mayor
Lossie J. Hyman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Levi Mims, Council Member
Mitchell L. Sims, Council Member

ABSENT:

Rachel Campbell, Council Member

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a notice of the regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council was posted on the door of the Olanta Town Hall. A notice of the regular meeting was also provided to members of the public requesting copies. An ad representative from the *Lake City News & Post* was also notified of the regular town council meeting.

Mayor Huggins called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman provided the invocation, and Mayor Huggins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mayor Huggins welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for the December 6, 2016 regular town council meeting. Council Member Mims made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016 REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Sims made a motion Council approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 regular meeting of Town Council. Councilman Mims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MAYOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

FUNDS AVAILABLE COMPARISION - OCTOBER 2016			
OCTOBER 2016	9/31/2016	10/31/2016	10/31/2015
OPERATING CAPITAL	\$38,698.59	\$38,558.46	\$22,563.67
TOWN RESERVE FUNDS	\$255,477.53	\$256,520.24	\$194,319.25
TOTALS	\$294,176.12	\$295,078.07	\$216,882.92

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT:

INCOME for OCTOBER 1 - 31, 2016	\$71,113.37
EXPENSES for OCTOBER 1 - 31, 2016	\$55,946.80

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT:

COUNCILMAN DANIEL LEVI MIMS

Councilman Mims reported that there was one water leak and it was fixed. Mr. McGee had to replace two meters. The sewer pumps kicked out twice over the past month. Mr. McGee was thinking that it was a power surge. He got them started right away. Other than that, everything has been running smooth and there was no other problems.

Mayor Huggins reported that there were 27 households on the cut off list this month. 2 paid in full, 21 paid half or more, and there were 6 that had to have their meter cut off. The total owed for this month is \$5700.00. This was a little higher than normal, but was thinking it may be caused by the hurricane.

PUBLIC SAFETY & RECREATION REPORT:

MAYOR PRO-TEM LOSSIE J. HYMAN

Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman reported that the Rec department football season is over and they are now practicing for All Stars. He also reported that the Rec department participated in the Gator Festival Parade on Saturday.

Chief Chamberlain reported that there had been no incidences during the Gator Festival. The Florence County Sheriff's office came out and helped Friday and Saturday during the festival. State constables also came out and helped. This is a free service. He also reported that everything had been quiet in town.

GRANTS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

COUNCILMEMBER RACHEL H. CAMPBELL was not present at the meeting. Mayor Huggins gave the report for councilmember Campbell.

Mayor Huggins reported that the Town did not receive the \$25,000 grant from the Municipal Association of South Carolina. There were 76 municipalities that applied with only 8 getting the grant.

GRANTS: MAYOR MARY M. HUGGINS

Mayor Huggins gave report on all current projects in the Town, noting that not much had changed with any of the grant projects (other than the SCRIA grant for new sewer pumps), as the Town was still waiting on clearance of permits by the SC Department of Commerce. Following are the project summaries as provided by Hanna Engineering and reported by Mayor Huggins:

Project 14157: Highway 341 Well and Water Treatment Plant:

- Received a CDBG grant for \$750,000 and a two Penny Tax grants for \$750,000 and \$65,000 respectively.
- This project will include a new well and water treatment facility as well as a new water line along Hwy 341 from Alice Myers Drive to the Fire Station.
- The Department of Commerce completed the environmental review process on July 12, 2016 and approved the site. The land acquisition/purchase process can now begin. The Town is currently working with Shannon Munoz at Pee Dee COG in order to complete the process. Assuming the land purchase can be completed by end of September 2016, the project can be advertised for bids to secure a contractor in October 2016.
- Permit packages were completed and submitted to DHEC and DOT in April 2016. Approvals have been received for the DHEC groundwater permit and the DHEC stormwater permit. Awaiting approvals on the DOT encroachment permit. Both agencies are requiring proof of land ownership before they will issue the permits. Closing on the property was on October 19, 2016. As soon as the paperwork is sent in to DOT, bids can go out for contractors.

Project 14158: Miscellaneous Water Lines:

- Received two Penny Tax grants for \$440,000 and \$500,000 respectively.
- This project will include new water lines along Central Road, McKenzie Road and Butler Scurry Road along with a connection to Barrineau's water system on Central Road.
- We have received all permit approvals.
- The current goal would be to advertise the project for bids to secure a contractor in November 2016 to coincide with the new well and wtp bidding. The Town will need to submit a final customer sign-up list along the water line routes as soon as possible so that they can be included on the plans.

**Project 14163: Avondale Drive and Powell Road Pump Stations:
This project has been completed**

Project 15175: Hood Street Water Line:

- Received a CDBG grant for \$401,940.00.
- This project consists of a new water line along Hood Street.
- We have received all permit approvals.
- The current goal would be to advertise the project for bids to secure a contractor in November 2016 to coincide with the new well and wtp bidding.

Project 16193: Future 200,000 Gallon Water Tank:

- An SRF application in the amount of \$1,324,000.00 was submitted on March 31, 2015 for a new 200,000 gallon elevated water tank to be located on the same property being purchased for the well and water treatment plant. Olanta has been approved for \$926,000 in principal forgiveness funds (meaning it does not have to be paid back) and up to \$398,000 in a low interest loan if needed for the new tank.
- In order to eliminate the need for the \$398,000 loan, we will plan to submit for a RIA grant in September 2016 to use in conjunction with the \$926,000 in SRF principal forgiveness funds.
- A preliminary engineering report was submitted to DHEC SRF staff for review on January 30, 2016.
- On April 26, 2016, we received approval from DHEC SRF staff on the preliminary engineering report and also received an environmental categorical exclusion on the project. This basically means that the Town is free to proceed with design/permitting and eventually construction.
- Soil borings have been completed on-site to determine tank foundation design.
- We submitted a final construction permit package to DHEC SRF staff for review on June 3, 2016. Approval was received on July 8, 2016.
- The town is still waiting to hear from the RIA grant.

EVENTS:

COUNCILMAN MITCHELL SIMS

Councilman Sims reported that the Olanta Gator Festival was a big plus for the Town. Before the festival a small community clean-up was put together to help James McGee and his helpers clean up Main St. Several people helped with this effort. Councilman Sims spoke to Jason Floyd with the REC department about getting some of the ballplayers to begin volunteering to help some of the elderly shut-ins get their yards cleaned. He is trying to put something together with this effort.

The Trunk or Treat at the Gator Festival turned out good. Also, the one at the school was a success with Mayor Huggins and Council member Campbell participating, along with Councilman Mims and his family.

The festival had its first bake-off. It was a big success with 22 entries. It was put together and run by Shannon Sims and Rebecca Yates.

There is a meeting planned next week to try to put together an events committee. After the committee is in place, they will start to look for volunteers to help with events throughout the year. The next event will be at Christmas. Several activities are planned which will include Christmas tree lighting, Christmas tree contest, s'mores and hot chocolate, candy and hopefully songs by the Lake City Ensemble.

Another event planned for January is a perlo cook-off. A date will be given at a later time and letters will be put in the water bills to let everyone know.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

The mayor gave special recognition to Faye Langley for being names winner of the Yard of the Month for October, 2016.

The mayor also recognized and thanked Councilman Sims and his wife, Shannon, for all their hard work after Hurricane Matthew. They went above and beyond for not only feeding the linemen, but reaching out to the community to provide hot meals. Many were thankful for all they did.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shannon Sims made a suggestion to have people from each neighborhood to check on their neighbors, especially shut-ins, in the event that we have another power outage. It would also be good to have someone designated to take food to people who can't get out.

The mayor also thanked the Town staff for working so hard during this time.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman made a motion to adjourn. Council member Mims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.