

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.
DR. JOHN M. THOMASON LIBRARY
404 EAST HAMPTON STREET
OLANTA, SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENT:

Mary M. Huggins, Mayor
Mitchell L. Sims, Council Member
Rachel H. Campbell, Council Member

ABSENT:

Lossie J. Hyman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Levi Mims, 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.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Huggins called the meeting to order, and asked Mrs. Odell Brown, a local pastor, to lead the invocation. Mayor Huggins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017 REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The town clerk passed out revised copies of the agenda for January 3, 2017. Mayor Huggins pointed out a couple of revisions of dates that were made to the original agenda. Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for the January 3, 2017 regular town council meeting. Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Sims seconded the motion. The agenda for the January 3, 2017 meeting was approved unanimously.

Mayor Huggins thanked Council Member Hyman for leading the council meeting in December in her absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017 REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Council Member Campbell made a motion

requesting Council to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 regular meeting of Town Council. Council Member Sims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: YARD OF THE MONTH WINNER
COUNCIL MEMBER RACHEL H. CAMPBELL

Olanta citizens, Gregg Alexander & T.D. Rykard, received the award of “Yard of the Month” for the month of December. Mr. Alexander & Mr. Rykard could not be in attendance to receive the award, but Council Member Campbell presented a picture of their award-winning yard complete with the “Yard of the Month” sign.

OLD BUSINESS:
MAYOR MARY M. HUGGINS

There was no old business to report.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL:

**A. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ATTORNEY, VOTE FOR MAYOR PRO-TEM, &
DELEGATION OF COUNCIL MEMBER DUTIES:
MAYOR MARY M. HUGGINS**

Mayor Huggins reported that it was once again time to discuss delegation of duties for the town. At the beginning of each calendar year, Town Council votes on who will act as lawyer for the town. Town Council also votes for the delegation of duties of council, to include the position of Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Huggins informed Council that the town has used Mr. Jim Peterson of Clarke, Johnson, Peterson, & McLean Law Offices for many years. Mayor Huggins asked Council for a recommendation to use Mr. Peterson as the Town’s lawyer for the 2017 calendar year. Council Member Campbell made a motion to use Mr. Peterson as the lawyer for the Town of Olanta, and Council Member Sims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Huggins informed Council that Council Member Hyman has served as Mayor Pro-Tem for the past few years. The mayor asked if there was any discussion of re-electing Mr. Hyman as Mayor Pro-Tem or if there was another nomination for the duties of Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Campbell made a motion to elect Mr. Hyman as Mayor Pro-Tem for Olanta Town Council for the calendar year of 2017. Council Member Sims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Mayor Huggins stated that she had spoken with Mr. Hyman prior to the meeting, and he said he would accept the position of Mayor Pro-Tem should he be requested to serve in that position again.

Mayor Huggins informed those in attendance that the current duties of Council are delegated as follows: Water & Utilities – Council Member Mims, Public Safety & Recreation – Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman, Grants & Economic Development – Council Member Campbell, and Events – Council Member Sims.

Mayor Huggins asked if there was any discussion of changing the duties of each councilmember. There was no discussion. Council Member Campbell made a motion to leave the duties as assigned for the year of 2017. Council Member Sims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

MAYOR’S FINANCIAL REPORT:

A.

FUNDS AVAILABLE COMPARISON – DECEMBER 1 – 31, 2016			
FUNDS AVAILABLE	NOVEMBER 2016	DECEMBER 2016	DECEMBER 2015
OPERATING CAPITAL	\$24,212.33	\$24,056.86	\$25,673.50
TOWN RESERVE FUNDS	\$173,870.93	\$167,058.62	\$227,203.01
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$198,083.26	\$191,115.48	\$252,876.51

B. **“I & I FUND”:**

Mayor Huggins informed those in attendance that a slide had been added to the presentation to note the Town’s new “I & I Fund”. This fund was set up as part of the wastewater contract with the City of Lake City. The contract requires the Town to deposit all of its remaining sewer revenue once the wastewater bill to Lake City has been paid each month. The monies set aside in the “I & I Fund” are to be spent strictly on inflow and infiltration reduction per the contract. As of 12/31/2016, the Town has \$29,246.81 in the “I & I Fund”.

WATER & SEWER REPORT:

COUNCIL MEMBER DANIEL LEVI MIMS

Council Member Mims was not present to give a report. Mayor Huggins reported that there was a water leak on Bingham Ave. around the 20th of December, and it was fixed by Mr. McGee the following day. Mayor Huggins reported that the new pumps were working quite well, but there had been a few issues with the SCADA system (alert system) on the pumps. The engineers and electricians have checked this issue out, and it seems to be getting better. The Town will continue to keep an eye on this, and have the SCADA system checked out again if need be. Other than that, everything has been running smooth and there were no other problems.

Mayor Huggins reported that there were 29 households on the cut off list as of December 31, 2016. One paid in full, 28 paid half or more, and the total owed to the Town for this month is \$2,200.00.

PUBLIC SAFETY & RECREATION REPORT:

COUNCIL MEMBER LOSSIE J. HYMAN

Council Member Hyman was not present to give a report, and there was no report for recreation.

Mayor Huggins asked Chief Chamberlain to report on public safety for the month of December 2016. Chief Chamberlain reported that there had been heavier traffic during the holiday season which generally equals more collisions. However, the Town of Olanta remained relatively safe and incident free during the holiday season.

GRANTS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

COUNCIL MEMBER RACHEL H. CAMPBELL

Council Member Campbell reported that she had met with Randy Wilson of Lake City again to discuss a “reverse master plan” in light of the Town not receiving the MASC grant to revitalize the sign entrances into Town. Mrs. Campbell is working with Mr. Wilson in hopes that he will provide some pro bono assistance to the Town with landscaping.

Council Member Campbell reported that the Olanta Steering Committee had met again with Florence County Planning, and the two associations are planning to meet again on January 10, 2017 at the *Dr. John M. Thomason Library*.

Mayor Huggins informed all in attendance that she had met with the owner of the building to the right of the Town’s vacant lot (that was torn down) on Main Street on December 29, 2016. The owner donated this building to the Town, and the Town signed deed papers to the property.

Mayor Huggins began discussion of the parcel of land on Red Road that is owned by Joy Cottell. The parcel is connected to a plot of land owned by the Town. The landowner originally contacted Florence County in an effort to donate the land, but County declined the offer and redirected the landowner to the Town of Olanta. Council Members were given an aerial map of the parcel number up for discussion previous to the January meeting. Mayor Huggins stated that this piece of land is 0.46 acres. The taxes owed on this property will cost the Town \$117.40 approximately, and the lawyer’s fees for paperwork associated with this land purchase will be approximately \$300.00. The lot worth according to the Florence County tax notice is close to \$6,500.00. Mayor Huggins asked if Council had any feedback concerning the acceptance of this land as a donation. Council Member Campbell made a motion to accept the land as a donation to the Town. Council Member Sims seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

GRANT & PENNY SALES TAX PROJECT SUMMARIES:

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 Council Member Campbell:

PROJECT 14157: HWY. 341 WELL & 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 storm water 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.
- The engineers sent all bid paperwork to the Pee Dee Council of Governments on December 14, 2016 for review. The project will be advertised for bids as soon as approval is granted from the PDCOG.

PROJECT 15175: HOOD STREET WATER LINE EXPANSION PROJECT:

- 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 engineers sent all bid paperwork to the Pee Dee Council of Governments on December 13, 2016 for review. The project will be advertised for bids as soon as approval is granted from the PDCOG. The goal is to advertise the project for bids to secure a contractor at the same time bids are advertised for the Well and Water Treatment Plant so as the projects will coincide. As of 12/28/2016, there was no new update, but Mayor Huggins assured those in attendance that she would be in contact with PDCOG and the engineers to try to speed the process up.

EVENTS:

COUNCILMAN MITCHELL SIMS

Council Member Sims reported that the Christmas event sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary Group of Olanta held on December 19th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Main Street at the gazebo was a great success. Those in attendance enjoyed several activities including Christmas tree lighting, visiting with Mr. & Mrs. Clause, s'mores, hot chocolate, candy and songs by local citizens. Council Member Sims thanked the Women's Auxiliary along with Council Member Campbell and Mrs. Rebecca Yates for their help with the event.

Council Member Sims stated that the Women's Auxiliary Group of Olanta along with Council Member Sims and Mr. Stanley McKenzie will hold a "Collard Cook-Off" on February 28th, 2017. There will be an entrance fee to participate in the cook-off, and this fee will cover your collards to cook for the competition. Those entering the completion will be expected to bring their pot or cooker and their own seasonings. Guests will purchase a wristband to get into the event, which will be held on the gazebo on Main Street. Mr. Stanley McKenzie will be providing the collards, and Mr. Sims has been in contact with Mickey Fitch to print up some flyers for the event. Council Member Sims stated that he will have some young girls out there at the gazebo fixin up some cornbread. All details have not been ironed out for the event, but vendors will be welcome, and the Women's Auxiliary will be selling perlo plates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Tonie Felder requested to address Council. Mrs. Felder wanted to know inquire about what to do if the Town is hit by another storm or natural disaster and citizens are without water. Mrs. Felder was concerned about citizens living on the outskirts of Town having access to water. Mayor Huggins told Mrs. Felder the Town needs to be notified in the event of a need, and the Town will respond quickly and try to assist those in need.

Mr. Dick Kirby requested to address Council. Mr. Kirby inquired about getting a grant to assist with building an evacuation and community center for the Town. Council Member Campbell stated that she had found that small business loans were easier to come by than grants. Mrs. Campbell told Mr. Kirby that he would need to have a business plan to present in conjunction with the loan or grant applications. Council Member Campbell stated that she would be happy to assist Mr. Kirby if needed.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Campbell made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Sims seconded the motion. There was no opposition to the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.