

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OLANTA TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.
DR. JOHN M. THOMASON LIBRARY
404 EAST HAMPTON STREET
OLANTA, SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary M. Huggins, Mayor
Lossie J. Hyman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Daniel “Levi” Mims, Councilman
Mitchell L. Sims, Councilman

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 Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman to lead the invocation. Mayor Huggins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017 REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the agenda as presented for the February 7, 2017 regular town council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Mims seconded the motion. The agenda for the February 7, 2017 meeting was approved unanimously.

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

Mayor Huggins requested a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 regular meeting of the Olanta Town Council. Councilman Mims made a motion for Council to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 regular meeting of Town Council. Councilman Sims seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: YARD OF THE MONTH WINNER

Craig and Tamra Floyd, long-time residents of Olanta, received the award of “Yard of the Month” for the month of January. Mr. & Mrs. Floyd could not be in attendance to receive the

award, but Mayor Huggins congratulated the couple on the award and stated that Council Member Campbell would make sure the Floyds received their certificate of recognition.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- **OLD BUSINESS**
MAYOR MARY M. HUGGINS

There was no old business to report.

- **MAYOR’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

FUNDS AVAILABLE COMPARISON – JANUARY 1 – 31, 2017			
FUNDS AVAILABLE	DECEMBER 2016	JANUARY 2017	JANUARY 2016
OPERATING CAPITAL	\$24,056.86	\$25,857.01	\$45,869.21
TOWN RESERVE FUNDS	\$167,058.62	\$82,944.31	\$212,853.48
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$191,115.48	\$108,801.32	\$258,772.69

- **INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

	INCOME	EXPENSE
JANUARY 1 – 31, 2017	\$44,924.95	\$49,386.48

- **“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 1/31/2017, the Town has \$58,553.51 in the “I & I Fund”.

WATER & SEWER REPORT

COUNCILMAN DANIEL “LEVI” MIMS

Councilman Mims reported that the lift station at Lake City had gone down a few days earlier but has been fixed now.

Councilman Mims reported that the Town's well located at 120 Avondale Spur Road had gone down. The Town has called in A.C. Schultes of North Carolina to assess the issues with the well. Mayor Huggins added that A.C. Schultes will remove the pump from the well and perform other repair and maintenance tasks to the well in efforts to identify the problem. In the meantime, the Town will function on the Town's old well located on Main Street and Back Alley Street, pending the results of several water samples taken from the well and sent to SC DHEC. The Town will also have access to a pump on loan from A.C. Schultes to operate the well on Avondale Road. A.C. Schultes also removed the screens from the well on Avondale and cleaned them while they were removing the pump from the well. Thus far, the rehabilitation of the Avondale Road well totals \$26,450.00 which includes pulling the pump, cleaning the screens, and screening of the video taken of the pump. This cost does not include any repairs to the pump. Mayor Huggins has already reached out to our representatives at Florence County for monetary assistance with these repairs.

Mayor Huggins informed those in attendance of the Town's plans to do sewer line smoke testing on February 8, 2017. Phil Harris, SC Rural Water Association Water Circuit Rider, will be in town to assist Mr. James McGee (Water/ Sewer Operator for the town) and Mr. Terry Floyd (S & T Utilities) and their crews with administering the smoke testing. Sewer line smoke testing is a cost efficient way to look for areas of inflow and infiltration in sewer lines. Anyone with questions or concerns may contact the Town Hall.

Mayor Huggins reported that there were 36 households on the cut off list as of January 3, 2017. Five customers had their service suspended, and the total owed to the Town for this month is \$1,600.00.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Mayor Huggins gave a report on the Highway 341 Well & Water Treatment Plant project, the Hood Street water line project, and the miscellaneous water line project. The Town will open bids for the CDBG Water Treatment Plant and Hood Street Water Expansion projects on February 28, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the Town Hall on 365 North Magnolia Avenue in Olanta. After the bid opening, it will take approximately four weeks for the Department of Commerce to approve the bids. Once the bids are approved, it will take about three weeks for the contractors to receive all the bid documents to proceed. A very loose timeline would be as follows:

1. February 28 – Open bids for the CDBG Well & Water Treatment Plant project and the CDBG Hood Street Water Line Expansion project
2. April 24 – Award contracts to the contractors that won the bids
3. May 8 – Begin construction
4. August 6 – Construction complete.

Ideally, the engineers would like to see the water line expansion projects coincide for the sake of funding as a good portion of the matching funds for these projects. There are copies of the bid advertisements at the Olanta Town Hall for anyone interested.

PUBLIC SAFETY & RECREATION REPORT:
MAYOR PRO-TEM LOSSIE J. HYMAN

Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman reported that it was time for spring registration for the Olanta Recreation Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman welcomed Jason Floyd, President of the Olanta Recreation Dept., and Lindsay Godwin, Secretary of the Olanta Recreation Dept. Mr. Floyd gave a report for the recreation department and stated that the remaining balance of funds available for recreation was \$2,138.00. Mr. Floyd reported that they would be holding registration until March 1, 2017.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman reminded Council that each spring and fall in the past, the Town has sponsored a team for the Olanta Recreation Department. Mayor Huggins asked for a motion to sponsor a team for the spring season in the form of a \$350.00 donation to go towards uniforms. Councilman Mims made a motion to donate \$350.00 to the Olanta Recreation Dept. to purchase uniforms. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman seconded the motion, and there was no opposition to the vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman will pick up the check from the town clerk and deliver it to the Olanta Recreation Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman asked Chief Chamberlain to report on public safety for the month of January 2017. Chief Chamberlain reported that there had been quite a bit of criminal activity on the outskirts of Olanta, however the crime had been prevented from taking place in and entering our town. Chief Chamberlain thanked other local public safety departments for their help and assistance whenever needed. Chief Chamberlain stated that he and Lt. Coleman are always happy to assist other local departments if needed as well.

GRANTS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:
COUNCIL MEMBER RACHEL H. CAMPBELL

Council Member Campbell was not present to give a report. Mayor Huggins gave a brief economic development report in Mrs. Campbell's absence. The mayor reminded those in attendance of a recent survey the town had sent out in the water bills and asked that any completed surveys be returned to the Olanta Town Hall. Mayor Huggins thanked the citizens that had taken the time to complete the surveys.

Mayor Huggins reported on the vacant and dilapidated buildings on Main Street. The mayor stated that she knows these buildings are of great concern to the citizens and business owners of Olanta. Mayor Huggins has been working with Mr. Shawn Brashear of Florence County Planning and Zoning in an effort to rectify this situation. Mr. Brashear and other representatives at Florence County are going through the county's ordinances and intend on updating these ordinances to more strictly enforce building codes. Once these ordinances have been updated, the Town of Olanta may be able to use these ordinances as their own under Florence County. Mayor Huggins will be in contact with Mr. Brashear concerning these issues and will keep Council and the town informed of any progress.

EVENTS:

COUNCILMAN MITCHELL SIMS

Councilman Sims stated that the Olanta Women's League ("OWLS"), along with Councilman Sims and Mr. Stanley McKenzie, will hold a "Collard Cook-Off" on February 28, 2017. There will be an entrance fee of \$25.00 to participate in the cook-off. Those entering the competition will be expected to bring their pot or cooker and their own seasonings. Guests will purchase a sampling wristband for \$5.00 to get into the event, which will be held on the green on Main Street. Mr. Stanley McKenzie will be providing the collards, and Councilman Sims has been in contact with Palmetto Printing to design and print flyers for the event. Councilman Sims will also be cooking perlo and cornbread to be sold by the Olanta Women's League. Vendors of non-food items are welcome and may contact Councilman Sims or a member of the OWLS (Olanta Women's League) for more information.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no one signed up for public comment, however Mrs. Tonie Felder requested to address Council concerning the old gym in Olanta and the other dilapidated buildings. Mayor Huggins told Mrs. Felder that no progress had been made as far as the rehabilitation of the old gym. As stated previously, Mayor Huggins is working with Florence County on enforcement of ordinances for the dilapidated buildings in Town.

Mrs. Felder asked Council if they had any information on the new building being built in Town by the F & L Drug Store. Councilman Mims stated that Mr. Frank Sistrunk, owner of the drug store, was planning to open a deli and possibly an ice cream shop. Councilman Mims stated that the building will be like a small strip mall and will have enough space for a couple of businesses. Councilman Mims was unsure of what the other business in the new building may be.

ADJOURN:

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