

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
*John M. Thomason Library*

- I. **PRESENT:** Mayor Mary M. Huggins, Mayor Pro-Tem Lossie J. Hyman, Council Member Tripp Welch and Council Member Levi Mims were present.
- II. **PRESS PRESENT:** Donna Tracy of the *Lake City News & Post* was present.
- III. **PRIOR NOTICE:** *Lake City News & Post* was notified of the meeting, and a Notice of Meeting/Agenda was placed on the Town Hall door.
- IV. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Huggins called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mayor Huggins requested that anyone in attendance with questions or comments please sign up for public comment. Prayer was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman, and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The Mayor reported that there was a change made to the agenda that was passed out prior to the meeting and passed out a new agenda for council. The change made to the agenda was that Councilman Coker requested that his name be removed from the Water & Utilities Update. Mayor Huggins requested a motion to accept the new agenda as presented. Councilman Welch made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Mims made the second motion. There were no objections to the vote.
- VI. **APPROVAL of MINUTES for 12/4/2014:** The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 12/4/2014. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman made the first motion to approve the minutes from the 12/4/2014 regular town council meeting. Councilman Mims made the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve the minutes. There were no objections to the vote. (Minutes approved at 6:32 p.m.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Clerk's Initials)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor's Initials)
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. The Mayor gave a report on the progress of the new town hall project. Mayor Huggins reported that she met with the architect, Scott Collins, and the new town hall project is moving in the right direction. They expect to begin requesting bids in February. Once bids are received and opened, a contractor will be chosen, and the demolition and reconstruction of the new town hall will begin. The architect has stated that this should be a relatively quick project. The Mayor hopes to be in the new town hall by May.
  - B. Mayor Huggins gave a report on the OES gym situation. The Town has received bids for the asbestos survey that needs to be completed on the gym. There were

three bids received, and the lowest bidder was awarded the job. The survey will begin this week, and the Town will proceed with the project from there.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Mayor's Financial Report**

<i>TIME PERIOD</i>	<b>11/30/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2014</b>	<b>12/31/2013</b>
<i>OPERATING CAPITAL</i>	<b>\$32,015.12</b>	<b>\$27,899.48</b>	<b>\$35,313.77</b>
<i>TOWN RESERVE FUND</i>	<b>\$250,863.59</b>	<b>\$236,245.40</b>	<b>\$208,136.84</b>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<b>\$282,878.71</b>	<b>\$264,144.88</b>	<b>\$243,450.61</b>

<b>INCOME FOR DEC. 2014</b>	<b>EXPENSES FOR DEC. 2014</b>
<b>\$69,282.51</b>	<b>\$72,546.20</b>

**B. Water & Utilities Update:**

1. Councilman Mims gave a report on water and sewer issues that have taken place over the month of December. Councilman Mims reported that there had been no major problems throughout the month. The Town has switched out the old sewer pump with the new sewer pump on Avondale Drive. There have also been two new hoses connected to the new pump: a composite hose and a suction hose. The old pump has been moved back under the shed and will remain there unless needed.

**C. Public Safety & Recreation Update:**

1. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman reported that he had called the county recreation department concerning the lighting of the ball field for evening walking. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman spoke with Ronnie Pridgen who said there would not be money in this fiscal year's budget for the lighting. Mr. Pridgen requested that the issue be brought up again when the budget for the coming fiscal year is accessed. The council of Olanta will be responsible for bringing this issue up when the new budget is accessed, and Florence County Recreation Department will be glad to consider funding the lighting.
2. Mayor Huggins stated that she received a phone call from Jackie Hardy regarding the use of one of the old rooms in the old library to store school

supplies for the local school supply drive. Mayor Pro-Tem Hyman requested a motion to approve Mr. Hardy's group using the closet at the old library to store school supplies. Councilman Welch made a motion to approve the use of the old library to store school supplies. Councilman Hyman made a second motion of approval, and there was no opposition.

3. Chief Chamberlain reported that the Florence County Sheriff's Department recognized the Town of Olanta with the apprehension of two burglars on East Main Street. This resolves the cases of nearly 30 burglaries all over the county. The break-in that was reported was just out of the town limits, but the Olanta Police Department responded and caught the suspects in the act. There was a high speed chase that ensued, and the burglars were apprehended.

#### **D. Grants, Events & Economic Development:**

1. Mayor Huggins informed those in attendance that the Town did not receive the Palmetto Pride Grant this year due to lack of funding. The Mayor stated that the Town would still like to have a town clean-up when it warms up. Mayor Huggins stated that the Town will apply again next year for the Palmetto Pride Grant.
2. Mayor Huggins reported that the Town did not have a successful Christmas parade this year due to inclement weather.
3. Mayor Huggins reported that the Lions Club and Genesis Healthcare's 5K Roar & Run went well. There was a good bit of activity, and there were 38 runners.
4. Mayor Huggins reported that the Town did receive the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority grant to replace the pump stations on Avondale Drive and Powell Road. Mayor Huggins met with the engineer and the senior program manager, and bids for the grant will go out in February.

#### **E. Ordinances & Technology Update:**

1. Councilman Welch reported that there had been some complaints concerning burning debris in the Town. At this time, the Town and the Police Department are going to try to internally monitor and control the issue. Chief Chamberlain and staff will be keeping an eye open for burning, and if the issue remains a problem, the council will look at different ways of controlling the burning. Councilman Welch recommended implementing a designated time period or burning. Donna Tracy of the Lake City News & Post pointed out that there are other towns that have designated burning times. Mayor Huggins gave examples of the designated burn times for other towns. The Mayor stated that there were other towns that provided debris pick-up and

others that required burn permits for burning in town. Mayor Huggins pointed out that there were only a few streets that were affected by burning in town. The police staff and council will monitor the burning over the next month and make a decision at a later time.

#### **F. Public Comment**

1. Joseph Kennedy, Library Branch Manager, signed up for public comment. Mr. Kennedy introduced the library's new employee, Melissa Schusler. Melissa is from Maine and has served in the US Army and was stationed in Bosnia. Mayor Huggins and council welcome Melissa to the town.
2. Joseph Kennedy those in attendance of the upcoming programs at the library:
  - a. Beginner Computer Classes – There are four classes in all ranging from basics in mouse and computer operation to using the Internet and using Microsoft programs.
  - b. Penguin Craft (All Ages) – Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
  - c. Trivia Night (Ages 8 – 17) – Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - d. Family Movie Event (“Maleficent”) – Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – free drinks and snacks will be provided by Friends of the Olanta Library

**G. Adjourn:** Mayor Huggins requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Welch made a motion to adjourn followed by a second motion by Councilman Hyman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.