
THE NEWS-JOURNAL

Olanta

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

AUGUST, 2014

OLANTA, SC

Town Council Undertakes Comprehensive Ordinance Review

In recent public meetings of the Town Council, it was decided that Mayor Huggins and council members would undertake a comprehensive review of all town ordinances and regulations presently in place in Olanta.

This review is now in progress under the direction of Councilman Tripp Welch and is meant to provide an opportunity for council members to obtain a thorough understanding of all active ordinances. Town leaders believe that this is vital for the overall betterment of the town and essential in our promotion of a safe, vibrant and clean community.

The review will enable council members to propose recommendations for any necessary changes to our existing regulations. Those recommended changes may include the following actions:

- dissolution of unnecessary ordinances;
- update or correction of outdated ordinances to reflect current conditions;
- addition of new ordinances to improve conditions.

The review will encompass all ordinances in effect. However, recent surveys and comments from residents reveal that a majority of our townspeople feel that the general appearance of the town is a high priority. Thus, our review of the ordinances will target, among other things, those that compel property owners to regularly maintain their properties, including those that are vacant.

Mayor Huggins and council members hope to complete their review and present recommendations to residents in the next few months.

Eventually, all ordinances will be digitized and posted on the town's website for citizens to review at their convenience. In addition, printed text of these regulations will be reformatted, indexed and made available for review at the town offices during regular hours. Residents are encouraged to become familiar with our ordinances to help us keep Olanta safe, clean and a community that we can all be proud to call our home.



Somewhere in Town

This cheerful welcome greeting can be seen in Olanta but we challenge you to tell us exactly where it is. We're not offering any clues so how well do *you* know Olanta?

We'll keep looking for mysteries to keep you guessing in future newsletters and we hope you explore Olanta to solve the puzzles!

Keeping You Informed

We are excited to present the first issue of the Olanta News-Journal, a newsletter focused on informing the citizens of Olanta of events and news in the Olanta community. This publication will be periodically produced by our town leaders and is intended to enhance the Olanta community by creating, collecting and distributing news and information to our citizens.

Our objective is to add to the identity and pride of the residents of Olanta by providing a chronicle of the ongoing history of the town and its people and to make a difference in the quality of life for the residents and merchants of Olanta. We believe that a strong community newsletter is essential to a strong community.

We plan to achieve our objective by promoting readership of the community's current events and issues, thereby fostering better citizenship. We will focus on those events occurring within Olanta and news will be factual, enlightening, challenging and useful. The newsletter will also give high priority to celebrating the achievements of its readers. We will encourage community service among Olanta citizens, recognizing that the more they are involved with the community, the better they will be able to understand and participate in its growth and prosperity.

We hope you will find our newsletter to be informative and entertaining and we look forward to providing you with a source to help you to be an active member of the community.

New Website Design for Olanta

The new town website is now up and operational. With an updated design and expanded functions, town personnel are working to make the site a valuable information source for both residents and visitors alike.

The site includes a community calendar of events, links to county and local resources and services, information on our elected officials, Town Council meeting minutes as well as local news features and photos.

Check us out at www.olantasc.com! New features and helpful resources will continually be added so keep checking the site for news and updates.

Economic Development Efforts in Full Swing

Olanta's Economic Development Committee, headed by Patsy McCutcheon, is in high gear and working hard to facilitate economic development in town. Meetings and planning sessions are under way with representatives from various organizations and institutions in order to determine the best strategy moving forward and to help guide Olanta in its move for economic renewal.

Volunteers have been recruited to target specific goals and new committees have been formed to address these areas. To date, Deborah Bodner has come forth to volunteer her time for development of marketing efforts to attract potential new business and commerce. Kaye Moore has taken on the responsibility of efforts to revitalize the appearance of our town spaces and overall "face" of Olanta. You can expect to hear - and see - a lot more from these committees in days to come.

Have Some News or an Idea for a Story?

We would like to hear from you! Do you have an idea for a story or a news item that you would like to see appear in a future newsletter? Know someone that deserves special recognition or want to publicize an upcoming event or fundraising effort? If you do, please send an email to olantanews@gmail.com or drop off a note addressed to "News Editor" at the town offices. Be sure to include your name and contact information in case we need to reach you for more details.

Town Awarded \$750,000 Grant for Water Services

Mayor Huggins and town officials have enthusiastically announced that Olanta has been awarded a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant from the South Carolina Department of Commerce for the construction of a new well and water treatment facility as well as 1,900 feet of new water lines.

The entire project is expected to cost approximately \$1 million and Olanta must match at least 10% of the grant funding. Olanta will utilize funding available through the penny sales tax to meet the match requirements.

The location of the new well is being finalized and the project is expected to begin soon thereafter. Anyone wishing to review the entire preliminary grant report may do so upon request at the Town Hall.

Olanta Considers Security Cameras

Officials in Olanta are considering the purchase of security cameras to be installed at locations in town. The proposed initial purchase would be for 2 cameras installed on the existing water tower providing a continual 360 degree live feed view of the area, which would be monitored by police personnel. The cost of the initial installation would be \$4,750.

Cameras would also be available for private purchase by local businesses for \$750 each. These cameras could be connected to a town system to allow for more complete police coverage.

Residents Encouraged to Take Part

Mayor Huggins and town leaders encourage all residents to attend the regular Town Council meetings. Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the John M. Thomason Library. Meetings are occasionally rescheduled due to outside factors so anyone interested in attending should contact the town offices to confirm the date and location of meetings.

Your ideas and comments are vital to the growth and prosperity of Olanta. We also urge you to bring any issues you might have to our attention. Please join us at the meetings, visit the Town Hall or submit your comments and ideas at www.olantasc.com.