

## Minutes

McClellanville Town Council

August 1, 2011 – 7:00 PM

McClellanville Town Council met on the above-noted date; notice of the meeting had been published in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Mayor Rutledge Leland presided at the meeting, and all Town Council members were present: Aaron Baldwin, Bob Gannon, Gussie Humes, and Jim Scott. Others present included Clerk Mary Duke, Zoning Administrator Kathryn Basha, representatives from Roper-St. Francis Hospital, Sherry Browne and Cheves Leland.

Mayor Leland first asked Council to review the minutes from the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Gussie Humes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bob Gannon and carried unanimously.

The mayor then recognized representatives from Roper-St. Francis Hospital: Dr. Patrick Kelly, Steven Bottcher, Wanda Brockmeyer, and Danya Jordan. Mr. Bottcher told Council that Roper-St. Francis was seeking to make the community aware of the need for a new helipad for the hospital and to raise funds for its construction. He said that the helipad, planned for location on the south tower of the Roper-St. Francis Hospital in downtown Charleston, could reduce transportation time for patients needing emergency care by approximately 20 minutes. The new helipad would be used, in most cases, for transport of cardiac and stroke emergency patients to Roper-St. Francis. Mr. Bottcher said that the current helipad in Charleston is shared with MUSC, where most trauma patients are received, and that the current helipad is located several blocks from both Roper-St. Francis and MUSC. Dr. Kelly spoke to Council about the vital importance of treating cardiac and stroke emergency patients as quickly as possible and how quicker transportation could benefit rural areas such as McClellanville. After the presentation, Mayor Leland asked that the minutes record that the McClellanville Town Council has resolved to support the effort to construct a new helipad at Roper-St. Francis Hospital. Council agreed by unanimous consent to this resolution. Council also agreed that a notice of the fundraising effort for the helipad could be placed in an upcoming Town newsletter.

The third item on the agenda was an address to Council by Harry Crissy from the Clemson University Institute for Economic and Community Development. As Mr. Crissy was not present, however, Mayor Leland next brought Council's attention to the fourth agenda item, an explanation from Zoning Administrator Kathryn Basha of the "priority standards" identified by the McClellanville Planning Commission from the Sewee Summit's Francis Marion Standards.

Ms. Basha provided background on the formation of the Sewee Summit and their mission to explore the needs of the environment and the people in the East Cooper/northern Charleston County area. She said that the first phase of the Summit's study had been an assessment of the area's natural resources and the needs to be met for management and preservation of the resources. Out of that study, the Francis Marion Standards were drafted, for preservation of the Francis Marion National Forest and the Cape Romain

National Wildlife Refuge and control of development in and around those resources. Ms. Basha told Council that the planning commissions in the area were asked to identify the goals within the Francis Marion Standards which would be of highest priority for their particular community. She added that the Sewee Summit leaders hoped to have by October of this year input from the various participating communities on the standards that would work best and have most support in their area. She pointed out that McClellanville was “ahead of the curve” with many of the goals, having already included them in our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Councilman Gannon asked whether the priority standards would conflict with any existing Town ordinances or regulations, and Ms. Basha said that this would not be the case. Council then agreed by unanimous consent to go on record with their support of the “priority standards” as identified by the McClellanville Planning Commission. A list of the priority standards will be attached to these minutes as “Exhibit A.”

Mayor Leland then skipped to the 9<sup>th</sup> agenda item, discussion of closing procedures for the Greenbelt Bank-funded purchase by the Town of property on Old Cemetery Road. Mayor Leland said that the lawyer handling the closing had requested that a representative with authority to sign the legal documents on behalf of the town attend the closing on August 11, 2011. The mayor said that, with Councilman Jim Scott’s agreement, the town attorney had drafted a resolution to give Councilman Scott authority to sign on behalf of the Town. Council agreed that Councilman Scott could serve in this capacity for the Town, and the mayor and council members signed the resolution to indicate their agreement. Zoning Administrator Basha said that, upon finalizing the purchase of the property, she and staff members at the COG would complete and submit an application for a SCDOT Rural Enhancement grant to assist with funding construction of the planned boardwalk between the Cemetery Road property and the adjacent town green space on Pinckney Street.

Mayor Leland next recognized Sherry Browne and Cheves Leland. Ms. Leland said that she and Ms. Browne were heading up an effort to hold the annual “Creek Sweep,” to be based at the municipal boat landing on October 1. She said that they usually needed to reserve one or two parking spaces at the boat landing for the kayaks that would be provided for participants. Council approved by unanimous consent this request for use of the landing area, including two parking spaces, for the Creek Sweep on October 1.

Councilman Scott then told Council that Archibald Rutledge Academy had scheduled its annual Creek Tournament for October 15. Council also approved this proposed use, and Clerk Mary Duke said that the usual lease agreement for use of the municipal area would be provided.

Clerk Duke next spoke to Council regarding draft revisions that had been made to the budget for the Boat Landing Fund for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. She reminded Council that Mayor Leland had expressed concern at the June meeting about whether to include anticipated revenue, such as the loan to be sought for dock construction and anticipated dock construction costs before these transactions had been finalized. The minutes from

the June meeting state that Council “directed the clerk to seek advice from the Town’s accountants on the best way to account for these upcoming costs in the budget.”

Ms. Duke gave Council copies of a message from the town’s accountant indicating his feeling that anticipated monies from the loan and the expenses expected to be paid out for design and construction in the coming fiscal year should be included in the budget. She presented copies of a revised version of the Boat Landing Fund budget, showing inclusion of the anticipated \$75,000 loan and \$107,000 in anticipated expenses for the dock design and construction. She had also added to the revenue section a transfer of \$18,602.36 from existing fund balance in the boat landing fund, which could be made if needed for meeting construction costs. Councilman Gannon asked whether an amendment to the budget would be required to adopt the revisions. Ms. Duke said that she did not believe an amendment would be necessary, since the Boat Landing Fund Budget had only been approved conditionally in June; the condition being that the budget be reviewed by the accountant and revised according to his advice. Council then agreed by unanimous consent to accept the revised version of the Boat Landing Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

Mayor Leland told Council that he and Ms. Duke recently met with representatives from Ameris Bank to discuss the Town’s application for a dock construction loan. He said that the bank officials had been quite encouraging and seemed to anticipate no problems in providing the loan. Mayor Leland said that proposals for terms of the loan should be available for review at the September Council meeting.

Ms. Duke then reviewed with Council the summary of revisions and updates to the 2011/2012 Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as the Town of McClellanville is a participating entity in the Plan. She also gave Council copies of the Town’s Action Plan Status Report on current measures the Town takes for hazard mitigation, as well as the Action Plan for the upcoming year. Ms. Duke said that participation in the Regional Hazard Mitigation effort improved both hazard preparedness and response plans for the Town. Also, continuing participation in the effort earns Community Rating Systems points for the Town, which has resulted thus far in a 20% discount on flood insurance rates here.

Councilman Scott said that he had heard some complaints that residents have witnessed several instances of non-permitted boaters using the Town boat landing at night. He asked whether the Town could inquire into the possibility of local officers from the SC Dept. of Natural Resources being authorized to write tickets for violation of the Town’s Launch Permit Ordinance. Council agreed that this suggestion could be investigated.

With regard to the November Municipal General Election, Councilman Gannon said that he planned to run for re-election, though he may soon be putting his house on the market and could be moving from town if and when the house sells. He said that he would be willing to help the Town pay for a special election, should that be necessary due to his moving from town before the 2013 election. The Mayor and Council agreed that it would not be necessary for Mr. Gannon to contribute to any election costs.

There being no further business, Councilman Humes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mary S. Duke  
Town Clerk