

TOWN OF McBEE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
June 30, 2015 (July Meeting)

Present: Mayor John Campolong, Shilon Green, Marilyn Fields, A.C. McLeod Jr., Charlie Sutton, Richard McLawhorn - Town Attorney, and Terri King (Administrator)

Absent:

Note to Minutes: Terri King, Administrator, typed minutes.

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor John Campolong called meeting to order.

Motion to Enter Into Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss

- Bid Review – Recreation Complex

Made by Mayor John Campolong and seconded by Councilman Charlie Sutton. All were in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session:

Motion to verify that only the items stated for the Executive Session were discussed during the Executive Session made by Councilman Shilon Green and seconded by Marilyn Fields. All were in favor.

Invocation: Councilwoman Marilyn Fields

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Approve Minutes: Motion to approve minutes, as written, from the May 26, 2015, Regular Council Meeting (for June) and the minutes from the Emergency Council Meeting held on June 15, 2015 made by Mayor John Campolong and seconded by Councilman Shilon Green. All were in favor.

Recognition of McBee High School 2015

- **Valedictorian – Hailey Lovelace**
- **Salutatorian – Blair Horton**

Mayor John Campolong recognized the 2015 McBee High School Valedictorian, Hailey Lovelace and the Salutatorian, Blair Horton with a letter of congratulations.

Reports:

Mayor John Campolong

Mayor Campolong recognized the receipt of a donation of \$10,000 from the Sonoco Foundation last week. We are very proud to receive this and have notified them of our appreciation for their donation. This makes \$30,000 we have received from the Sonoco Foundation towards our Recreation Complex.

We have received two bids on the installation of the fencing for the two ball fields at the Recreation Complex. In reviewing the bids, there are some things we are aware of that are not in the bids and some other items that we need to incorporate into the bids.

Motion to reject bids received for the installation of the fencing for the ball fields:

Motion made to reject the two bids after reviewing them, made by Mayor John Campolong and seconded by Councilman Charlie Sutton. All were in favor.

Administrator: Terri King

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Last month Councilman Kemp McLeod requested that CSX be contacted about the issue of the signal arms remaining down for a period of time on Memorial Day. CSX Community Coordinator Sandra Sea was contacted about the situation. She has responded with a letter that states that the train crews have been notified that the trains should only be stopped at certain points along the track in order to prevent the signal arms from coming down. She will be in McBee the week of July 6 and will meet with Officer Tim Kemp to show him the points along the track.

Discussion: Councilman A C McLeod questioned our authority to approach the crew if the train is not stopped at the designated points. This has been tried in the past and the train engineer laughed at our attempt to address the issue.

We are not being given the authority by CSX to make them move, but to alert our office to where the stopping points are located. Ms. Sea did state that we can contact her with any problems. The area is scheduled for a “signal” upgrade in 2016 and this will hopefully eliminate our current problems with the signal arms coming down when the train is stopped along the track.

We did send Pee Dee Coalition the \$3,000 as our annual contribution from our Victims Advocate Fund.

The equipment is being delivered to Well No. 1 for the installation of the GAC Units.

The County’s mayor Association Meeting will be held on July 23, 2015 in Patrick. If you would like to attend, please let me know by July 20.

The Zero Turn Lawnmower was put in the shop for repairs and a diagnostic test was performed and determined that there is about 300 hours or less left on the mower. We have received quotes from Pinkstons – 2 models and Sparrow and Kennedy – 4 models.

Discussion:

Mayor Campolong: What price range were the quotes?

From \$8,000 to \$10,000

Councilman A C McLeod: What about Hartsville Outdoor?

We requested a quote from them, but did not receive one.

Councilman A C McLeod: I recommend Hartsville Outdoor due to their service work, they do a good job.

The Recreation Complex parking lot and access road work will begin Friday, July 3rd or Monday, July 6th. I spoke with the contractor to verify their schedule and was told that they were scheduled to begin this week.

The office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, for the holiday.

Councilman Shilon Green: I want to announce that Football registration will begin on July 15, 2015 and close on August 28, 2015. I will be coordinating the season with the help of others on the committee.

Mayor John Campolong:

I have a few things I would like to bring to the attention of the Council as well as the people here tonight.

I would like to update everyone on some of the things that have been going on in the town over the last six months to a year.

We have experienced some positive achievements in our services to the Town over the past six years, in regards to the Town Hall renovation, the Recreation Complex, our police protection, the new vehicles and equipment the Police Department has received, and most of all, the transparency of the office that we have been able to put into place, so that everyone can know and see what is going on. We have accomplished this with a lot of obstacles in our way that we don't feel should have been put in our way.

I want to address a couple of current situations:

Nestle: First I want to stress that this Town and this Council has never rejected the idea of Nestle coming to McBee. We do have some issues that we are disappointed with:

- We were never brought into the loop from the beginning and we have reported this to the County Council. The County Council was not aware that the Town was not part of the negotiations, but everything had already been finalized between Alligator Rural Water and Nestle. Publicity indicated that "McBee is getting a Nestle Plant", but the Town is getting zero. Nestle is running a water line through the Town of McBee and the Town has requested that the line revert to the ownership of the Town in the event the Nestle plant closes or if Alligator Rural Water is no longer providing water through the line. This continues to be in negotiation with Nestle. This is a choice we have made to pursue for the benefit of the Town. We do not know what the future holds, but we are

responsible to the citizens of McBee to insure that we are focused on the best interests of the Town. The main thing we are asking Nestle for is to monitor the aquifers. There are three aquifers involved in providing water to Nestle. We have gone to the state Department of Natural Resources, and they have agreed to monitor the water of the aquifers. Nestle would be responsible for putting the wells down, but we have not come to an agreement on this issue.

- The next issue is A O Smith. They are intending to purchase their water directly from Alligator Rural Water. This will be harmful to the Town for a lot of reasons. We have served A O Smith for 32 years with water and have never defaulted on providing the water to them. A few years back, they decided to no longer be responsible for their fire protection pumps and they called on the Town to provide this service. Our engineers and their engineers reviewed the Town's capability and submitted the information to the insurance company for A O Smith. The insurance company approved the proposal that the Town could provide the needed protection for the plant. The Town's ability to provide A O Smith with water continues to be sufficient to meet their needs. We have guaranteed A O Smith that we will also be able to meet any future water needs that they may need. A O Smith is the largest water customer of the Town of McBee. The Town has obligations that must be met with the Town's USDA debt obligation. The Town has never forfeited on this obligation and we have provided them with the required annual financial reports and budgets. The Town cannot compete with another company, due to the USDA regulations that mandate our water rates. If we lose the A O Smith account, the rates for each individual account will suffer an increase of approximately three times the current rate.

We continue to move forward in providing the best service to the Town we have accomplished much over the past years and will continue to do so.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Shilon Green and seconded by Councilwoman Marilyn Fields. All were in favor.