

TOWN OF McBEE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 28, 2016

Present: Mayor John Campolong, Marilyn Fields, Charlie Sutton, A. C. McLeod, Jr., Marion Stephens, Martin Driggers (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.

Invocation: Councilwoman Marilyn Fields

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Approve Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on June 7, 2016 made by Mayor John Campolong, and seconded by Councilwoman Marilyn Fields. All were in favor.

William Edwards (Citizen) spoke before Council:

Each of you has received a certified letter from me in reference to my name being mentioned in The Link newspaper about a lawsuit the town has with Alligator. The information in the newspaper is not correct and I have taken documents to Robert Monnie giving him proof of everything that was in the paper was not correct.

- I would like to know when that lawsuit was voted on,
- How the Council members voted, and,
- A copy of the minutes, if I may.

Mayor Campolong: This being a legal matter, I would like to turn this over to Martin Driggers.

Martin Driggers:

The minutes are available online or you can get a copy from the office.

I have not seen your letter and do not know the contents of it, but as far as the Council being able to comment on this, it is under litigation and cannot be discussed. We can certainly get you the minutes.

James Linton (Citizen) spoke before Council:

My concerns address the Recreation Department. In November the Council approved Shilon Green as the Director of the McBee Recreation Department and you said that it was an unpaid position; don't know if you read The Link about it, but that was what was printed in the paper. Now the paper states that the Recreation Director is being paid \$31,500. This is directly in contrast to what was printed before

- My concern is that the Town's business is not being done in the proper way.
- Was that job posted, or does it have to be posted, or can you just appoint someone to that position?
- I thought all jobs had to be posted, people had to be interviewed, and the people had a right to know what you are doing.
- The revenue from the Hospitality Tax is being expended to pay for that position, was that something that needed to be voted on?
- My main concern is "Why don't the citizens know what is going on?"

If the job is open, then it should be posted so that other people have the opportunity to apply for that job and just be appointed by Council. In previous years this has been an unpaid position, I would like to know why it is now a paid position and how that came about.

Amanda Morrell (Parent) spoke before Council:

I would like to take this time this afternoon to speak on Shilon's behalf. Being a parent with children on the Rec. Department, I feel that Shilon is doing a great job. We hear how other towns have "serious" Rec. Departments and I feel that is where Shilon is taking our Rec. Department. Both my boys play football and baseball. This year we had a family day for baseball, and I never remember having a family day in the past. This was a huge event and I had never seen something like this in McBee before. So, that spoke volumes for the work that Shilon is doing. He even incorporated the Drew into our activities and by doing so; he let that family know that their child had not been forgotten. This speaks volumes for McBee. Shilon has done a great job.

And if we do interview people for this position,

- What will be the criteria for the applicant?

Shilon has done a great job and I ask that we give him a chance.

Thank you

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Administrator: Terri King

Just a couple of items for the month:

- The 2016 Municipal Election will be held in September and we will be using voting machines in accordance with SC state law.
- The 2015-2016 Fiscal Year audit will begin on August 15, 2016
- We have mailed 55 Business License for this renewal period.

Councilman Marion Stephens

I have three things that I would like to get clarification on:

1. It was brought to my attention that Shilon Green still has keys to the Town Hall and is still signing checks for the employees and he is no longer a Town Council member. I just want clarification on this as to why this is still going on.

Mayor Campolong:

Shilon is a town employee and town employees do have keys to the Town Hall.

Councilman Stephens:

What about him signing checks? Is he bonded?

Mayor Campolong:

He is bonded, as are all Town employees. There is not a requirement that a Councilman has to sign the checks.

Martin Driggers:

It will be in accordance to what the Town Ordinance states.

2. Will Edwards mentioned a lawsuit and I saw in our press release that there were some lawsuits being filed against Glenn Odom, personally, and Will Edwards, while they were employees of the Town. Unless I missed that Council meeting, I don't recall us voting to sue anybody.

Martin Driggers:

I have the minutes pulled up and the litigation was discussed on two separate occasions. One discussion was held last year and another discussion earlier this year when we had to make new filings. Both times it was brought up and voted on by Council.

Councilman Stephens:

Does the minutes tell you who was at the Council meeting?

Martin Driggers:

The one lawsuit you are probably speaking of was initially instituted in June of last year (2015).

Councilman Stephens:

I wasn't sworn in at that time and wouldn't have any recollection of that.

3. Not sure if anyone else is aware of what AO Smith has on their bulletin board, but here is a copy of what has been posted. (attached)
In the third paragraph it reads: “The Town of McBee’s lawsuit included a number of false claims that damage the reputation of our company. We were shocked and outraged to read these allegations, and we intend to vigorously defend ourselves and our reputation. Last week we sent a letter to Mayor Campolong and the Town’s lawyers demanding they retract these false and slanderous allegations but have not yet received a reply.”

I was wondering why we have not replied to this, or have we replied?

Martin Driggers:

A reply has been made.

Mayor Campolong:

Martin, in reference to the lawsuit mentioned by Will Edwards, am I not correct in saying that Alligator first brought litigation against the Town? And we are in the process of defending the Town.

Councilman A.C. McLeod, Jr.

My comment is that seems to be some confusion as to who is suing who for what and I suggest that we go into Executive Session with the lawyer to make sure everything is clear on what is being done and how it being done.

Councilman Charlie Sutton

Spoke to the citizens about his concerns that he sees that is causing division within the community. He stressed the importance that this is a small community and that all should be working together and not against each other.

Mayor John Campolong

I want to try to answer a couple things that came up tonight.

1. We have worked to be as transparent as possible. Information is available to every citizen and the minutes are posted on our website for your convenience.
2. The Recreation is the next area I would like to address. This Council has worked to build the Recreation Complex for our youth and it is not something that can be managed by a group of volunteers. The Recreation committee became aware of this and felt it was time to resign. We knew all along that this was going to develop into something major and would have to be handled professionally, and that is the way we have started it.

3. Going to the question about Shilon: When the Recreation Committee resigned we had to cancel the recreation program that year. Shilon volunteered to take on the program to see if he could restore it in some degree. And he did.

Knowing that we were going to have this need, the Town instituted a Hospitality Tax, which exists for the benefit of tourism and any activities that brings in tourists. Recreation brings in tourists and therefore, the hospitality tax can be used to fund the Recreation Complex.

Also, know that this Town and this Complex operates in the black. We have a 1.5 million dollar complex that is completely debt free.

We decided to make Shilon, after he left the Council, the temporary director. Yes, we did interview others for the position.

Here is a copy of job description for the Recreation Director, which is very detailed. This is what Shilon has to abide to and he does this for a very low fee, especially based on what other directors are making around the county.

We have listened to each of you tonight and will take everything under advisement. Know that we will work to correct any mistakes we have made and make them right. We are transparent and you can get any information you need.

I am proud of what the people of this town have achieved and what is yet to be achieved.

Mayor John Campolong

The Town Hall will be closed for July 4th.

Councilman AC McLeod, Jr.

Are we going into Executive Session?

Mayor John Campolong

We don't have an Executive Session on the agenda for tonight.

Councilman AC McLeod, Jr.

I request that we have an Executive Session at our next meeting.

Motion to request Martin Driggers to work on answers for us, at a later date, in response to the accusations that have been made tonight made by Councilman AC McLeod, seconded by Councilman Marion Stephens. All were in favor.

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