

The Smithfield Town Council reconvened its May 6, 2021 meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall, Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn presided until Mayor Moore arrived at 7:06 pm.

Councilmen Present:

John Dunn, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Marlon Lee, District 1 (Arrive at 7:03 PM)  
David Stevens, District 2  
Travis Scott, District 3  
Dr. David Barbour, District 4  
Stephen Rabil, At-Large  
Roger Wood, At-Large

Councilmen Absent

Administrative Staff Present

Michael Scott, Town Manager  
John Blanton, Fire Chief  
Ted Credle, Public Utilities Director  
Lawrence Davis, Public Works Director  
Gary Johnson, Parks & Rec Director  
Tim Kerigan, Human Resources/PIO  
R. Keith Powell, Chief of Police  
Greg Siler, Finance Director  
Stephen Wensman, Planning Director

Administrative Staff Absent

Shannan Parrish, Town Clerk

**Reconvene: May 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn reconvened the meeting at 6:35 pm

**Special Events**

The Town Manager requested the Council consider approving permits for two special events. The first was a change in schedule for the Piano Festival at the Amphitheater. The reschedule date is June 25th using the same times. The change was requested because of a conflict with the DSDC Third Streatery event scheduled for the same night.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to approve the schedule change. Unanimously approved.

The Town Manager explained the second event was a wedding event at 1418 Buffalo Road on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 pm to 10:00 pm with amplified sound/DJ.

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wood, to approve the event. Unanimously approved.

**Budget Discussion**

**Fee Schedule**

Budget discussions began with a review of the Fee Schedule recommendations. Sanitation fees were discussed. Councilman Barbour suggested the backyard collection fees for non-elderly/handicapped be raised to \$22.24/month. Consensus of the Council approved the change.

Councilman Scott questioned the residential Time of Use rates, specifically the Basic and Demand Charges. Utility Director Ted Credle was asked to review the rates with UFS to be certain they reflect the UFS recommendations.

Councilman Scott also suggested a special electric rate for churches be discussed. He acknowledged this may need to occur post July 1, but he asked UFS evaluate the possibility.

Councilman Scott and Mayor Pro Tem Dunn questioned the removal of the LG1 Electric Rate in the Fee Schedule. Ted Credle stated there was not a business using the rate, so he requested it be removed. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to leave the rate and narrative unchanged in case a new user moved into Smithfield that would require the rate.

**Load Management Program**

Councilman Scott discussed the \$50,000 in Electric Department Capital Outlay for Battery Analysis. He voiced concern over the Town not doing more to encourage residential load management. He asked the Council to move the \$50,000 from Electric Capital Outlay into the Electric Capital project Fund for Load Management. A consensus of the Council agreed.

**Meter Reading Contract**

Councilman Scott discussed the Meter Reading Contract and how the installation of AMI Meters would impact this. Ted Credle advised the electric AMI Meters should be able to be read at Town Hall by calendar year end, therefore eliminating these meters from being read manually. Councilman Scot asked the Manager to provide a monthly update to the Council regarding the progress of digital electric meter reads, as well as progress made toward an increase in load management initiatives for the Town's customers.

**Occupancy Tax Funds**

Donna Bailey Tailor (DBT) for Johnston County Tourism attended the meeting and provided a brief overview of funds available for the Town's use and permissible uses for the money. DBT estimated that \$392,000 were

currently available for the Town to use. She also explained how this money is generated using 2% of occupancy tax proceeds from Smithfield hotels and motels. Council asked questions as to permissible uses. DBT explained the following uses were most likely permissible:

- Drone Program at Johnson Park
- Additional fencing at Johnson Park
- Riverbank Refurbishment along Greenway
- Create Civic Center
- Create Soccer Complex at Highway 210 site

Additional discussion took place regarding adding amenities or upgrading current facilities. Council elected to wait until new master plan is created in FY 2022 to make these determinations.

Gary Johnson from Parks and Recreation explained how the new splashpad in East Smithfield could be increased in size.

Gary Johnson also discussed some additional ideas for fall and winter basketball camps, both for youth and adults.

Once plans are completed, Gary Johnson will provide a report to the Manager.

Gary Johnson stated that he is getting with Bill Dreizler regarding the drainage ditch behind Smith Collins Park and will provide a report in the next couple of weeks.

Councilman Wood requested an additional \$1,000 to SSS High School in the Non-Departmental Budget. Consensus of the Council agreed. Additional funds for the DSDC request were discussed. Council elected not to increase the current budgeted amount.

#### Recess

Councilman Barbour made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens, to recess the meeting to Tuesday May 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The meeting recessed at approximately 8:50 pm.

ATTEST:

  
Shannan L. Parrish, Town Clerk



  
M. Andy Moore, Mayor