

**Allendale Town Council**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**Present:**

**Mayor:** The Honorable Ronnie Jackson

**Council Members:** Councilman James L. Cohen  
Councilman James H. Grant  
Councilman Dawan Smith  
Council Lady Lee Harley-Fitts  
Council Lady Lottie Lewis

**Administration:** Henry B. Youmans Jr., Town Administrator  
Belinda R. Owens, Town Clerk

**Attorney:** Kenneth Davis, Esquire

**Department Heads:** Chief Robert Sullivan, Police Department  
Alan Stanley, Water & Sewer Superintendent  
Lonzo Badger, Street Superintendent

**Absent:**

**Council Members:** Council Lady Vernie Harney

**Department Heads:** None

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jackson at 5:45 pm. Mayor Jackson asked for a motion to convene into Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and receiving legal advice regarding a pending contract. Councilman Grant made a motion to convene into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Council approved.

Councilman Grant made a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Council approved. Mayor Jackson stated No Actions in Executive Sessions Information Only. Council approved.

**Action on Executive Session Items, if Any.**

Council Lady Fitts made a motion for Mr. Youmans to go ahead and pay the \$ in order to pursue the grantee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Council approved.

Mayor Jackson advised that the Council will be receiving Councilman Cohen's resignation as a Council Member. This matter was information only and no actions were to be taken.

**ROLL CALL**

Belinda R. Owens, Town Clerk did roll call of Mayor and all Council Members. Council Lady Harney was absent.

## **PRAYER**

Everyone stood while a prayer was offered by Councilman Smith and remained standing to salute the flag and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance."

## **APPROVAL OF TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

Council Lady Fitts made a motion to approve tonight's agenda as outlined with the corrections if any. The motion was seconded by Council Lady Lewis. Council approved.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Lady Fitts made a motion to approve the minutes of **August 11, 2020** regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Lady Lewis Council approved.

Council Lady Fitts made the motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting for Contracts/Lease Agreements on **August 13, 2020**. The motion was seconded by Council Lady Lewis. Council approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Contracts/Personnel**

Councilman Smith made a motion that Council Lady Harney, Attorney Davis and himself to sit and negotiate an agreement with Town Administrator, Henry Youmans, Jr. The motion was seconded by Council Lady Fitts. Council approved.

### **B. Acceptance of Resignation (Councilman Cohen) per Ordinance**

Per Attorney Davis – this matter is information only. Mayor Jackson made an announcement about it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Audit Report**

The Auditor Forester Mckinney advised that the Town of Allendale's Audit for June 30, 2019 was just completed. Stated that Town has done so much better in the 2019 year and that the Town is on the right track. Councilman Cohen made a motion to approve the Audit of 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Grant. Council approved.

### **B. Grant Update**

Mr. Youmans gave an overview of all Grants that the Town of Allendale has at this time:

Googe Street Project

Raysor Road Demolition

Waste Water Treatment Plant

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** - Councilman Smith stated that he gave a big thank you to Mr. Youmans along with the personal in the office for the great audit that was just completed. Councilman Smith stated that even through the pandemic we were able to pass a budget that will allow us to hire 2 additional police officers and also 2 more police vehicles.

Per Mr. Youmans, as of the end of August we have utilized 17% of the budget. We have open enrollment coming up, we are looking to cut the Town's insurance cost. Mr. Youmans would like to thank the council for their foresight, we were able to establish a General Fund Reserve account.

**Police Departments** – Captain Ford gave the report stated that they have an officer that is in their 6<sup>th</sup> week at the SCJA and once she passes this week, she will have only 2 more weeks to complete. They are looking to hire 2 more officers at this time, they are in the process of reviewing the resumes and schedule testing. This the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of Court, things are moving slowly. General Session Court has started back and cases are looking good. Early part of September there was a shooting and SLED has been brought in on the investigation.

**Personnel/Mechanics** – Mr. Youmans gave the report stating that applications for the police department are being looked over.

Mechanics – Per Mr. Youmans stated at this point in our current budget we do not have the funds to hire anyone for this position. But will be at the first of the year, the town will revisit this.

**Water and Sewer Department** - Alan Stanley, Water & Sewer Superintendent, stated that they were given 60 days to complete all leaks and so far have fixed and repaired 31 leaks. We have 3 leaks left that are from the original list and have 8 or 9 new leaks that are on the list. The department is still working on reading of the meters.

**Sanitation** – Lonzo Badger, stated that they are cutting the grass throughout the town and still picking up limbs. Also stated that the tree size is getting larger. Mr. Badger stated that the dumping of furniture has decreased lately.

**Community Development** – Council Lady Lewis, stated that the Palmetto Palace will return Saturday, Sept. 19 on Flat Street in front of the Community Center from 10am – 2 pm.

Mr. Dublin, has given permission to paint a mural on the side of his building, it will be a display of Kite Birds. This should start in about a week or so.

The ARTS Team will resume their Dear Allendale project. They will be interviewing people to get their opinion on what they would like to see in Allendale and what they think of Allendale.

Mr. & Mrs. Hartley will be hosting a "Coffee Connection" at Emma's house. This event will be for the Police Department, Sheriff Department and the National Guard. The date will be announce at a later time.

In the process of making a TV presentation that will be representing the Town of Allendale. This will air on ETV, should be out around the first of the year.

Working on a project called Navigating 2020 and more information will be provided later.

Remember to go and Vote.

Remember to sign up for the Census.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Patricia Johnson – Increase in Shooting or Discharge of firearms in the Town.  
How is this problem being addressed?

Marlon Creech – Resignation  
Councilman Cohen (Hold Over) Clarity?

Nate Hartley – Municipal Bonds  
Does the Town have any Municipal Bonds?  
If so, what are they being used for?

Randy Creech - Two Questions  
Is County responsible to help out the Police Department?  
Early Voting?

## **ANNOUCEMENT**

Councilman Smith announced that we are in the process of installing microphones and some upgrades to the courtroom.

Also we will be looking at ways to make our Town Hall, handicap accessible.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Lady Lewis. Council Approved.