COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Jeannie Knight; Mayor Pro Tem Bob Mock; Council Members Gayle Beaudrot; Jay Lown, Kitty Storey and Sandy Totherow
COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Members Chris Myers
STAFF PRESENT: Attorney John Andrew Bishop; Town Administrator David Krumweide; Michelle G. Knox, Asst. Clerk/Clerk of Court; Kayla Davis, Clerk/Treasurer; Police Chief David Maxwell; Fire Chief Roy McClain; and Patrolman Andrew Lollis.
STAFF ABSENT: Utility Superintendent Lewis Saxton

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER—Mayor Knight at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Mayor Knight led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation was offered by Rev. Leland Beaudrot

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

IV. REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

A. A motion was made by Council Member Jay Lown and 2nd by Council Member Sandy Totherow to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting from August 21, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

B. A motion was made by Council Member Gayle Beaudrot and 2nd by Council Member Kitty Storey to approve the minutes of the Civic Events Committee Minutes from September 12, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Monthly Financial Statements for the Period Ending July 31, 2023--no changes were noted. The floor was opened for comments. Mayor Knight confirmed with Town Administrator David Krumweide that everything appeared to be in order. After hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Council Member Bob Mock and seconded by Council Member Kitty Storey to approve the financial reports as information. The motion passed unanimously.

V. LEGISLATION

Mayor Knight advised there was no legislation to move forward with at this time.

VI. REPORTS

A. MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Knight introduced Kayla Davis as the Town Clerk/Treasurer and had everyone go around the room and briefly introduce themselves. Mayor Knight commended the work the Civic Events committee, Patti Chasteen and Michelle G. Knox towards the fall festival. Mayor Knight explained the new location this year for the festival would be in the Erskine mall under the trees behind the Arts Center. Mayor Knight advised that there would be some streets that would be partially closed and there would be some parking signs out in the areas that people could park in. Mayor Knight stated that the Pickens Creek Band would be playing that evening and the Mt. Zion All-Male Chorus would be singing that morning. She was also confirming if the Dixie High School band would be playing. Council Member Jay Lown asked what we were going to do about the Post Office and Council Member Sandy Totherow stated that we would be able to park there but would have to leave the back parking lot open so that the USPS trucks could deliver to the post office. Mayor Knight advised that Fred Engler will be assisting with sound and providing microphones and speakers. Town Administrator David Krumweide asked if there was an active shooter plan in place. Police Chief David Maxwell confirmed that there was an active shooter plan in place for the entire county should that circumstance occur.

Town Administrator David Krumweide asked if there was a plan regarding the school. Fire Chief Roy McClain advised that they had just gotten the pillars placed 17 foot in the ground. Fire Chief McClain also stated that the school would be 3 stories tall and would be brought in by tractor trailer load over a 3-week process.

B. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

No business per the Town Administrator David Krumweide.
C. ATTORNEY JOHN ANDREW BISHOP
Attorney John Andrew Bishop has reached out to the law firm from Knie & Shealy from Spartanburg, SC that submitted a FOIA request back in June and they confirmed they have not received any information from the town. He stated that they are requesting information back six years on all commercial and residential trash for the town. Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Mock advised that this law firm handles mostly worker’s compensation and personal injury. Council Member Gayle Beaudrot stated that they could be requesting this information because the state requires that every vendor have their own worker’s compensation and she confirmed this needs to be sent to the law firm as soon as possible.

Another issue Attorney John Andrew Bishop brought up was the problem of our town officer’s not being bonded. He quoted from the South Carolina Code of Laws Section 17-13-90 -Service of criminal process on Sunday. “Criminal process may be served on Sunday, as on any other day of the week, for all crimes, felonies, and misdemeanors alike. However, only law enforcement officers under bond shall be permitted to execute a search warrant.” Attorney Bishop discussed at length the need for our officers to be bonded. Police Chief David Maxwell confirmed that they needed to be bonded but advised that no one locally was bonded and there needed to be more research done due to the cost of bonding each officer individually. Mayor Knight advised that the town would work to figure something out regarding this.

Council Member Gayle Beaudrot asked Attorney John Andrew Bishop if he had any information regarding the zoning problem with multiple non-family members living in the same residence or apartment. Attorney Bishop advised that he would get back to council regarding that.

D. FIRE
Fire Chief Roy McClain stated that everything was going well and the last month was pretty busy. He stated that yesterday, September 17th was particularly busy with 3 medical calls and 1 MVA. Fire Chief McClain advised that the ladder truck has been repaired to pass the pump test and they finally found out what was wrong with the switch that was causing the switch board to go out on the truck. He stated that the marines were back in town but they do not need assistance with role play this year. They have contracted all of that out now. They will be in town from September 18-October 8. Fire Chief McClain advised they will be teaming up with a few county fire departments on the morning of September 30th to perform a blitz for the smoke detectors. They will be going door-to-door along with the American Red Cross and the State Fire office. The American Red Cross and State Fire office will also have a booth set up for the fall festival later that day. Tomorrow (September 19th) the fire department will be out hanging door hangers notifying townspeople of the blitz. The State Fire office is furnishing all of the smoke detectors for the townspeople. They will be working College Street back to Main St/Ellis Road. Mayor Knight commented that was very valuable for the people of the town. Fire Chief McClain advised that the smoke detectors should be changed once every 10 years. Fire Chief McClain stated that if anyone needs any smoke detectors after the blitz that he will have some on hand at the fire department.

E. POLICE
Police Chief David Maxwell advised everything was going well. Stated that Jesse Ashley left Due West Police Department and went to work for Greenwood County Sheriff’s Office. Police Chief Maxwell introduced his new hire, Andrew Lollis, and stated that he was coming from Abbeville County Sheriff’s Office and was already certified through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy so he would only need ‘Due West training’. Police Chief Maxwell advised that Ptl. Lollis was a young go-getter and he was going to hit the ground running enforcing seat belt tickets. He stated we are fortunate to have Ptl. Lollis, that he will be turned loose on his own this week. Town Administrator David Krumweide stated that he heard there was good work done on the break-in in town. Police Chief Maxwell agreed that Patrolman Tucker did a great job with the break-in and there was 2 in custody by that evening. Police Chief Maxwell advised that he thought Ptl. Tucker could hold her own and he has no doubts about her capability.

Police Chief Maxwell advised there will be a homecoming parade Friday, September 22nd at 4:30 PM. They will go from Haynes to Washington Street, take a right on Main Street, a right back down Bonner Street then back to Haynes to finish the parade after the pep rally. He stated everyone with DOT is ready to help with the homecoming parade and that the students are really getting into the homecoming spirit to include the decorations in the school hallways. They can be viewed on the Dixie High School Booster Club Facebook page. The football game will be in Ware Shoals that evening.

F. UTILITIES
Fire Chief McClain spoke on behalf of the utilities company stating that everything was good with the utility company and there was no business to pass along.
VII. OLD BUSINESS
Council Member Gayle Beaudrot advised that at last month’s meeting council appointed a committee that consisted of the following: Bob Mock, Gayle Beaudrot, Jay Lown, Chris Meyers and Roy McClain. to review the RFQs of engineers for Wastewater Plant Upgrades. They only received 2 packets and review both. The committee scored each in five areas; Qualifications of the firm, Related Experience, Past Performance, Current Workload, and Local Knowledge. All the scores were averaged, Dunn & Shirley had an average of 97.4 while MRB had an average of 71.8. The committee would like to recommend to move forward with Dunn & Shirley. Mayor Knight confirmed that we need to vote. Council Member Gayle Beaudrot asked if the committee had the final say so? Fire Chief Roy McClain confirmed yes. Mayor Knight asked for a motion to hire Dunn & Shirley to satisfy the RFQ requirements for that grant. A motion was made by council member Bob Mock and a second by Council Member Sandy Totherow. Mayor Knight asked for any discussion, having none the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Knight advised there was no new business.

Council Member Jay Lown wanted to let everyone know he was meeting with DOT tomorrow (September 19th) regarding the issue of rain not running off at his rental property. He advised he is not sure what can be done about this but he is meeting with DOT tomorrow.

Mayor Knight asked about the 4-way stop. Council Member Jay Lown said it was supposed to be very visible when they put up all the signs and lights. Mayor Knight advised she would like to see it go from a 55 MPH to a 45 MPH speed limit in that area coming up to the 4-way. Police Chief Maxwell stated he doesn’t have an opinion regarding that. Council Member Sandy Totherow advised that the 3-way stop at her end of town is being run constantly by people, especially the loud, white squatted truck and tractor trailers. Fire Chief Roy McClain stated that Ellis Road and Bethlehem Church Road is a very bad area and people run it. Mayor Knight asked if there were any wrecks and Fire Chief McClain responded no.

There was extensive discussion regarding the use of cameras at these stop signs that are being ran from everyone around the room. Police Chief Maxwell stated that they could not issue a ticket based off of what was viewed on a camera. Fire Chief McClain advised that the brick pavers in town were supposed to slow people down in this area. Attorney John Andrew Bishop stated that we may need to consider speed bumps and Mayor Knight responded that we could not put speed bumps on state roads.

Mayor Knight asked if there was any other new business and there was none.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Mayor Knight reminded everyone the Due West Fall Fest Will be on Saturday, September 30, 2023, From Noon to 8:00 p.m. She stated that it should be great but the temperature was supposed to be on the rise again for that day. Council Member Sandy Totherow stated it should be better with it being under the trees this year.
B. Mayor Knight reminded everyone the next regular council meeting would be October 16th.

XI. ADJOURNMENT
Mayor Knight asked if there was no other business, please make a motion to adjourn. Council Member Gayle Beaudrot made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m., 2nd by Council Member Kitty Storey; all were in favor.

_____________________________________
MAYOR

_____________________________________
CLERK/TREASURER