MINUTES
TOWN OF DUE WEST
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 6:00PM
TOWN HALL -- 103 MAIN STREET

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Gayle Beaudrot; Mayor Pro Tem Bob Mock; Council Members Beck Eleazer, Chris Myers, and Kitty Storey
COUNCIL ABSENT: Jay Lown
STAFF PRESENT: Kayla Davis, Clerk/Treasurer; Police Chief David Maxwell; Fire Chief Roy McClain, Utility Superintendent Lewis Saxton
STAFF ABSENT: Attorney John Andrew Bishop

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mayor Beaudrot led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation was offered by Rev. Leland Beaudrot.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
Mayor Beaudrot recognized Marty Yanarella as a visitor and thanked him for coming. Mayor Beaudrot explained that Mr. Yanarella requested to be on the agenda and she gave him the floor. Mr. Yanarella began by saying that he was there to express concerns over the lack of rate increases in the electric bill. He stated that when he was on council it was discussed that we needed to raise the base rate for electricity then but nothing has changed. However; Duke Energy has had 4 rate increases over the past 4 years. He expressed his desire to have a small increase in each bill but it is too much to try to make up for Duke Energy’s increases over just one month. Mayor Beaudrot thanked him for expressing his concerns and stated that she would take it under advisement.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER
Mayor Beaudrot introduced and welcomed newly elected Council Member Beck Eleazer as having won the open seat on council.

V. REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS
A. A motion was made by Council Member Chris Myers and 2nd by Council Member Kitty Storey to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting from October 16, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
B. A motion was made by Council Member Bob Mock and 2nd by Council Member Beck Eleazer to approve the minutes of the Civic Events Committee from November 9, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
C. A motion was made by Council Member Chris Myers and 2nd by Council Member Kitty Storey to approve the August 2023 financial statements as information. Motion carried unanimously.
D. Monthly Financial Statements were not available at the time of the council meeting for September 30, 2023.
E. Monthly Financial Statements were not available at the time of the council meeting for October 31, 2023.
F. Mayor Beaudrot advised that pursuant to the South Carolina Code of Laws the council must take time this first council meeting after the election to elect a new Mayor Pro Tempore. Council Member Kitty Storey nominated Bob Mock to continue serving as Mayor Pro Tempore. This motion was 2nd by Chris Myers. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. LEGISLATION
Mayor Beaudrot advised there was no legislation to move forward with at this time.

VII. REPORTS
A. MAYOR’S REPORT
Mayor Beaudrot advised everyone with only a week on the job she has hit the ground. She advised that she has been working with Chief Maxwell to hire an officer to fill the open position in the Police Department. She has worked with the Abbeville County Voter Registration Office to schedule a Special Election to fill the empty council seat. She is currently working on financial reporting and has met with a new accountant but that was futile. Mayor Beaudrot has worked with Aramark at Erskine College to schedule the Town Employee’s Christmas dinner. She has worked to setup a mayor’s office in Town Administrator David Krumwiede’s former office. Mayor Beaudrot has been working through literal years and years of paperwork in the former Administrator’s office. She has also sat through and observed a court session.
B. ATTORNEY JOHN ANDREW BISHOP
Not present.

C. FIRE
Fire Chief Roy McClain began by apologizing that he did not have a report to give everyone as he has been on vacation. He advised that everything at the fire department is going well and there have been a few calls that the fire department has responded to. They are waiting on the remaining parts to come in to fix the pump truck. It is operable but it cannot pass a pump test right now. When all parts are on hand the truck will go to Easley to be fixed.

D. POLICE
Police Chief David Maxwell advised Mayor Beaudrot has been working with the police department a lot and he appreciates how available she has made herself. Chief Maxwell advised that there was an open position and it has been filled. The new officer will start at the first of December. He stated that it has been an unusual time with high turnover that they don’t typically see at the police department. He was unable to provide a report for the reports/citations that they have issued this month. He advised that there was an arson at the High School and there have been 2 people charged. Chief Maxwell also advised they have been working with the Sheriff’s Office on another case at the High School.

F. UTILITIES
Utility Superintendent Lewis Saxton stated that Duke had completed the smoke testing for the sewer that started on November 13, 2023. He advised that it set several smoke alarms off on campus and there was a potential issue on Johnson St. but it was not related to the smoke testing. A washing machine hose had busted and flooded the house, even though this was not related Superintendent Saxton still assisted the homeowner as much as he could but stated that she had help as well from her family.

Superintendent Saxton advised they have found someone new to cut right of way on the power lines; Quail Hollow has been completed. He advised they hired Joseph Mitchell’s company to do the work and were very satisfied with the quality.

Chief Maxwell advised that someone on Gordon St. thought their bathroom was on fire from the smoke testing.

Superintendent Saxton stated that he was hoping to have all Christmas decorations up before Thanksgiving.

Mayor Beaudrot thanked everyone for their continued work for the Town. She then advised everyone that we would now be heading into executive session regarding a personnel matter if everyone would please leave the council room except for the Mayor and current council members.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Council Member Beck Eleazer made a motion to go into executive session. 2nd by ??????????? at 6:16 PM. At 6:28 PM Council Member Kitty Storey made a motion to exit executive session and Council Member Chris Myers 2nd the motion.

Mayor Beaudrot advised that council would not be taking any action regarding executive session.

IX. OLD BUSINESS
No old business to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS
No new business to discuss.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Mayor Beaudrot advised everyone the Town would be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.
B. Mayor Beaudrot reminded everyone that the Christmas parade was December 1 at 5:15 PM and it will follow the same route. Lining up on Beaulah St. proceeding down main street and exiting through the 4-way or on Washington St. The Town Christmas tree lighting will follow at Washington Street Park.
C. Mayor Beaudrot reminded everyone that there would be a special election for the open council seat on February 6, 2024. There would be possibly 2-3 people running.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Beaudrot asked if there was no other business, please make a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kitty Storey made a motion to adjourn at 6:31 PM, 2nd by Council Member Chris Myers; all were in favor.

MAYOR

CLERK/TREASURER