

TOWN OF IVA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, REGULAR
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, IVA TOWN HALL
204 EAST JACKSON STREET, IVA, SOUTH CAROLINA

MONDAY, April 13, 2009

MINUTES

A meeting of the Iva Town Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the council chambers of the Iva Town Hall, located at 204 East Jackson Street in Iva. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, proper notification of the meeting was given.

Officials Present:

Mr. Bobby E. Gentry, Mayor
Mr. Elmer Powell, Council Ward One
Mr. Kenneth Norwood, Council Ward Two
Ms. Mary Forrester, Council Ward Three
Mr. Dennis Metz, Council Ward Four
Mr. Tim Taylor, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Ms. Mary McCormac, Town Attorney

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gentry

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was offered by Rev. Paul Young. Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America following the invocation.

Amendment of Agenda

Motion to amend agenda to add Resolution 2009-012. Mr. Metz made the motion. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. Mayor Gentry commented that Resolution No. 2009-012 would be Item 14 on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from March 9, 2009 were presented to council for approval. Mr. Metz commented that page 3, paragraph 1, line 5 needed to be amended to remove the word "was" in the sentence

"One mobile home is awaiting the issuance of a title and deed and that was water and sewer service available at the property". Mr. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes with Mr. Metz's amendments. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Iva Planning Commission

Mr. Metz commented that South Carolina law allows for Planning Commissions and Boards of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Metz commented that in the last meeting, March 9, 2009, he nominated Mr. John D. Evans to be appointed to the Iva Planning Commission. Mr. John D. Evans was approved by the council in the same meeting. Mr. Metz commented that Mr. John D. Evans had submitted a letter of resignation from the commission. Mr. Metz read the letter aloud in the meeting. Mr. Metz made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Evans. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. Mr. Metz made a motion to appoint Mr. Paul Hart to the Planning Commission. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Mr. Powell made a motion to appoint Ms. Annette Holley to the Iva Planning Commission. Mayor Gentry commented that there was no vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Powell made a motion to appoint Ms. Annette Holley to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. The vote was 2-2-1. (Powell, Metz *for*; Gentry, Norwood *opposed*; Forrester *abstained*) The motion did not carry due to a non-majority vote.

Mr. Metz made a motion to dissolve the Iva Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. The vote was 2-3. (Powell, Metz *for*; Gentry, Norwood, Forrester *opposed*)

Mr. Metz made a motion to appoint Mr. Randall Shirley to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Metz made a motion to amend his prior motion to table the appointment until speaking with Mr. Shirley first. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor of the amendment to table the appointment. The vote was 5-0.

Mr. Metz made a motion to appoint Ms. Dorothy Smith to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. The vote was 2-2-1. (Powell, Metz *for*; Gentry, Forrester *opposed*; Norwood *abstained*) The motion did not carry due to non-majority vote.

Mr. Metz made a motion to appoint Mr. Mark Gymer to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Henry Holley commented to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Holley commented that he is speaking of the same issue that he spoken of in the past several meetings. Mr. Holley commented that he submitted three mobile homes to Mayor Gentry to be condemned. Mr. Holley commented that one mobile home has been removed but nothing has been with the other two mobile homes. Mr. Holley questioned why the Mayor would not submit the mobile homes to Anderson County for condemnation. Mayor Gentry commented that he is working with Anderson County to condemn properties in Iva. Mayor Gentry commented that seven mobile homes have been removed.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TOWN OF IVA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Pursuant to South Carolina Law, Section 5-7-220, Proper Notification of the Public Hearing was given. Notice of the Public Hearing was printed in the Anderson Independent-Mail on March 11, 2009.

Mayor Gentry called the meeting into Public Hearing to receive public comments concerning the proposed Town of Iva Comprehensive Plan. The time was 10:20 a.m. Mayor Gentry commented that two members of the Planning Commission were in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Gentry recognized Mr. William Harris and Ms. Marlene Wiles. Mayor Gentry thanked the members of the Planning Commission for working diligently on the plan and its presentation to the council.

Ms. Annette Holley requested that her comments be transcribed into the minutes.

The following are the transcribed comments of Ms. Annette Holley.

"I was at all but one meeting of the Planning Board. These three members, Ms. Wiles, Mr. Harris and Mr. Burdette worked together to put the Comprehensive Plan in place. I feel they have done a excellent job. As they put the finishing touches on it, they made a comment that they had done all they could, now the rest of the story would be with the Mayor and Councilman. In the plan, page 8 shows the needs and goals of the town. Any money the town receives and has to be matched by the town should be money that will benefit all town taxpayers, not just certain areas. Some benefits for all would be uniform garbage cans issued by the town. This is definitely a project that would beautify Iva and would result in every taxpayer getting something for their

tax money. Also a dump truck that could be used annually or semi-annually for large items picked up. I noticed in the Comprehensive Plan that the 65 and older in Iva is 24%. This group is definitely a group that doesn't have physical ability to take of heavy item or means of transportation. This is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the population of Iva. Another $\frac{1}{4}$ is in the age group of 45-64 = $\frac{1}{2}$.

Every item that comes before council should be investigated as hoe to fix or repaid correctly and at a price within range of other figures. Maybe not always the cheapest.

With the Quality of life (page 28) the State and DHEC laws should followed and if the Police don't know the laws maybe they should spend some time learning them. All four points are very important to the well being of the citizens of the town and to visitors. Also annexation out on 413 (highway) would be a good start as there isn't as many obstacles to overcome, and some of the county citizens would like to be in the town. The conclusion of the Planning Board's Comprehensive Plan states that the administration is always seeking ways and means for the betterment of the town and ALL of its citizens."

Thanks for
allowing me to express
my opinion and
thanks to the Planning Board Personal

Dorothy Smith commented to the Mayor and Council concerning the proposed Town of Iva Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Smith commented that the Town of Iva had the highest tax rate, highest water/sewer bill rated and taxes prepared food. Mayor Gentry interjected and asked Ms. Smith to make her comments regarding the Water/Sewer bill increase until the public hearing concerning the rate increase was held. Ms. Smith agreed.

Ms. Annette Holley presented information concerning DHEC's policy on open burning. (hereto attached as addendum item 1)

Mr. Kenneth Norwood commented that, as a citizen, he did not support the commission's recommendations concerning prohibition of smoking in public places and riding recreational vehicles on private property.

Mr. John D. Evans commented that the Comprehensive Plan was good. He commented on the need of enforcement. He asked if he could revise the historical element of the plan to include more specific details of Iva's history. Mayor Gentry commented that he could present written details of Iva's history to be included with the minutes of the meeting as an addendum. Mayor Gentry made a motion to add Mr. Evan's written historical details to the April 9, 2009 council meeting minutes as an addendum to be approved by council. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Evans recommended employing someone who is knowledgeable in assessing structural stability to determine the condition of certain structures in Iva. Mr. Evans commented

that the council needs to pursue public transport for those citizens in Iva that are not able to drive.

Mr. Metz commented that he spoke with members of the Anderson City Council about the possibility of Iva being included in the Electric City's Transit Routing System. Mr. Metz commented that he is looking into possible federal transit money to assist with this effort.

Mr. Evans commented that the lakes surrounding Iva are a great natural resource to the community. He suggested the town seek ways to provide accommodations for fishermen. Mr. Evans commented that council should entertain an ordinance that would protect historical structures in town. Mr. Metz commented that the Parker Bowie Complex will be a great attraction in Iva and will help to eliminate some of the cost spent on maintaining Iva's fields. Mr. Evans commented that members of the council should visit the Iva Museum.

Mr. Metz commented on Iva's budget. He commented that certain funding could be budgeted for historical preservation and certain structures could receive special rates if they qualified. Mr. Metz commented that he is investigating various sources for funding.

Ms. Joyce Townes commented on the Public Safety Element of the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Townes commented that there was no mention of the Sheriff's Department or Park Police. She also commented on the budget for the Iva Police Department. She commented that the plan did not mention Iva's reserve officers. She commented that she supports outsourcing the Police Department.

Ms. Dorothy Smith expressed her concern with garbage bins behind the Mexican Restaurant in Iva.

Ms. Marlene Wiles, Chairman of the Iva Planning Commission, commented the plan is only an overview of the ten year projected future of Iva. She commented that the plan is not designed to include specific details of each element. She commented that the Planning Commission was not trying to minimize certain concerns, however does not deal garbage bins, etc. Ms. Wiles commented that she wanted the Planning Commission to be available for citizens to address their concerns to. She commented that the Planning Commission would hear concerns of the citizens and make recommendations to the council.

Mr. Henry Holley commented that all town and county codes should be enforced fairly.

Mr. Dennis Metz asked if citizens could participate in meetings of the Iva Planning Commission in making amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Wiles commented that she did not want continual amendments being made to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Mary McCormac commented that amendments should be made as conditions change in Iva. Ms. McCormac further commented that the Planning Commission could review and make recommendations to the council on certain issues within their purview.

Ms. Annette Holley commented that before the Comprehensive Plan is confirmed, council members should understand the laws and abide by them themselves.

Mr. Metz made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The time was 10:55 a.m.

Resolution 2009-006

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-006. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ORDINANCE 2009-001

Pursuant to South Carolina Law, Section 5-7-220, Proper Notification of the Public Hearing was given. Notice of the Public Hearing was printed in the Anderson Independent-Mail on March 10, 2009.

Mayor Gentry called the meeting into Public Hearing to public comments concerning Ordinance 2009-001. The time was 10:56 p.m.

Ms. McCormac commented that the purpose of the ordinance was to increase the rates for Water/Sewer service for Iva customers as a result Starr-Iva water Department and Anderson County Sewer Authority increasing their costs. Mayor Gentry read aloud a letter received from Starr-Iva Water Department Board of Directors announcing the rate increase that became effective in March 2009.

Mayor Gentry presented the rate increase information to the members of public in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Gentry commented that the charge for minimum use in water would not be affected. There is minimum charge for the first 2,000 gallons

of water. The increase will come into effect after the minimum 2,000 gallons. The rate will increase \$.50 for consumption per 1,000 gallons after the minimum use of 2,000 gallons. The rate increase for sewer will increase by \$1.00 for all users. Mayor Gentry commented that the price of garbage pick-up will not be affected.

Mr. John D. Evans commented to the Mayor and Council concerning the rate increase. Mr. Evans asked if Iva received services from Starr-Iva water Department and Anderson County Sewer at bulk rate. Mr. Evans also asked if Starr-Iva Water Department is a private company. Mr. Evans commented that he does not see how garbage could be picked up at \$1.00 a week per customer. Mr. Evans asked if all customers in Iva are being billed for service. Mr. Evans also asked if meters are in a condition to be read each month.

Mayor Gentry commented that a grant has been submitted that would allow for the installation of new radio water meters. Mayor Gentry commented that Iva Museum and the Iva Fire Department are not billed for Water/Sewer service.

Mr. Henry Holley asked why the Iva Fire Department is not billed for Water/Sewer service when they are supported by Anderson County.

Ms. Joyce Townes asked how much the basic water/sewer bill was for Iva customers.

Ms. Annette Holley commented. (SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM ITEM NO. 2)

Ms. Dorothy Smith commented that she appreciates what the Mayor and Council has done and is continuing to do to make improvements to Iva. She expressed her concern with Iva's high tax rate and high rate for water/sewer service. Ms. Smith also expressed her concern with town vehicles (both water and police department) being used for personal use.

Mr. Metz commented that he has spoken with the Mayor and Town Administrator for the Town of Pendleton concerning the outsourcing of their Police Department to the Anderson County Sherriff's Department. Mr. Metz commented also commented that he spoke with citizens in Pendleton. Mr. Metz commented that everyone he spoke with in Pendleton was happy with the Sheriff's Department operation in Pendleton.

Mr. John D. Evans asked Mayor Gentry to explain the conditions of rainy weather. Mayor Gentry commented that rain water causes infiltration issues with dilapidated sewer lines. Mr. Evans expressed his concerns that the increase may not be enough to cover any surprise increases by suppliers in the near future.

Mr. Henry Holley commented that if rain leaks into the sewer lines then why not repair them. Mayor Gentry commented that the cost is very high in repairing such problems. Mayor Gentry commented that the town has applied various grants to assist in efforts to repair lines.

Mr. Metz commented that he has spoken with Mr. Eddie Moore, Chairman of the Anderson County Council, and Mr. Robert Waldrep, Member of the Anderson County Council, concerning Iva's billing for sewer treatment. Mr. Metz commented that Anderson County has the highest tax rate in the State of South Carolina and the Town of Iva had the highest tax rate in Anderson County.

Mr. John E. Evans asked Mayor Gentry about the condition of the Iva Water Tank. Mayor Gentry commented that he is investigating sources of funding to assist in repairing the water tank.

Mr. Metz made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. The time was 11:32 a.m.

Ordinance 2009-001 (Third and Final Reading)

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve Ordinance 2009-001 for third and final reading. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-007

Mayor Gentry commented that the Town of Iva has plans to submit an application to the S.C. Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 to assist with repairs and upgrades to existing sewer lines in Iva. Mayor Gentry commented that a resolution committing the town to pay \$50,000 in a local match for the project to attach to the application. Mayor Gentry commented that some of the lines are 80 years old and dilapidated and are in desperate need of repair. Mayor Gentry commented that the project area will be town-wide. Mr. Taylor commented that the likely source of the \$50,000 local match will be in the form of a Water/Sewer Revenue Bond.

Mr. Powell made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-008

Mayor Gentry commented that Resolution 2009-008 would approve the installation of decorative cross-walks at the intersection of the East and West Green Street and Highway 81 south. Mayor Gentry commented that the funding would be provided through the Town of Iva streetscape fund (Anderson County). There was discussion concerning the need for the crosswalks and how it would provide enhanced pedestrian safety.

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Norwood seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-009

Mayor Gentry commented that Resolution 2009-009 would approve the request to be made to the S.C. Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of East and West Jackson Street and Highway 81 South for the purpose of installing a traffic light.

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Forrester seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-010

Mayor Gentry commented that Resolution 2009-010 would approve the S.C. Department of Transportation to pave certain roads within Iva. Mayor Gentry commented that there would be no costs to the Town of Iva for the road paving. Mayor Gentry commented that Findley St. and portions of Parkview Road would be paved. He also commented the E. Broad Street may also be included in the paving project.

Mr. Metz made the motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-011

Mayor Gentry commented that the Resolution would approve paving within the Iva City Cemetery. Mayor Gentry commented that a through-way road in the cemetery needed to be paved.

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve the Resolution. Ms. Forrester seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Resolution 2009-012

Mayor Gentry commented that the Resolution would approve the request of \$50,000 in local match funds required for the Town of Iva SCODT Enhancement Grant Phase II from the Anderson County Transportation Committee. Mayor Gentry commented that the SCDOT was in the amount of \$200,000 has also already been approved.

Mr. Metz made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Updates on Various Projects

Mayor Gentry commented on the following:

The "Welcome to Iva" sign located at the south entrance into Iva has been repaired.

The Hwy 81 Median located at the north entrance into Iva has been repaired.

Park equipment from the East Lake Street Park has been removed. The swings have been relocated to the Iva Ball Field and will be repaired for useable condition. New seats have been ordered.

Mayor Gentry commented to council that their assistance in choosing playground equipment for the Iva Ball Field is needed. The Town of Iva has a PARD grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase and installation of playground equipment for the ball field.

Mayor and Council Comments

MAYOR

Mayor Gentry announced that the Town of Calhoun Falls will have their annual "City-wide Yard Sale" on May 16, 2009.

Mayor Gentry asked council to consider making a contribution to sponsor the Crescent High School FFA Rodeo. Mr. Powell made a motion to approve a contribution in the amount of \$500.00. Ms. Forrester seconded the motion. The vote was 4-1. (Powell, Norwood, Gentry, Forrester *for*; Metz *opposed*).

Mayor Gentry asked council to consider making a contribution to sponsor the annual Safe-Harbor Bike Ride in Iva. Mr. Metz made a motion to approve a contribution in the amount of \$3,000.00. Mayor Gentry seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0-2. (Gentry, Forrester, Metz *for*; none *opposed*; Powell, Norwood *abstained*)

WARD ONE

No Report

WARD TWO

Mr. Norwood commented about a drainage issue at E. Green St. and Hwy. 184.

WARD THREE

Ms. Forrester commented that patch work was needed on Wiles Street. Ms. Forrester also commented that a "City Limits" sign was needed on Hwy 184.

WARD FOUR

Mr. Metz commented on the program for sponsoring terminally ill world war II veterans to Washington, D.C. Mr. Metz also commented that a street sign was needed for W. Cruette Street. Mr. Metz commented that street signs for Chaffin Road and E. Broad Street needed to be switched.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Taylor
Town Clerk/Treasurer
TOWN OF IVA