

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Adolphus Brewster  
Millie Dawkins  
Stellartean Jones  
Malea Merck*



*MAYOR John R. Carter*

*Doris Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer*

**Gray Court Town Council Meeting**

**November 16, 2015**

**Minutes – 7:00 p.m.**

**Agenda**

**1. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Carter

**Council members present:**

Councilmember Stellartean Jones  
Councilmember Malea Merck  
Mayor Pro Tem Millie Dawkins

Garry Smith – Town Administrator

Councilmember – Adolphus Brewster (hospitalized)

**2. Invocation & Pledge:**

Invocation was given by Garry Smith

**3. Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2015 Town Council Meeting**

A motion was made to approve the October 19, 2015 minutes by Mayor Pro Tem, Millie Dawkins. The motion was second by Councilmember, Malea Merck. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed.

**4. Old Business:**

- A. Mayor Carter reported that we will purchase a new water fountain for the town hall.
- B. Councilmember, Malea Merck, proposed the question of adding one additional installation/lightning on the pole located near Georgia Road. Response – the town would have to repeat the installation/process with the vendor to make this happened, in addition to the extra cost for installation/lightning of one (1) pole on Hwy#14.

**5. New Business:**

Garry Smith presented to Mayor and Councilmembers the enhancements that he and his wife had made to the website. Enhancements included importing of office forms & ordinances: UDC, business license, signage and zoning applications and procedures.

Councilmember, Stellartean Jones, proposed the question on the importance of confidentiality of information being presented in the Executive Session. This information is not available for the public until it is discussed in the town council meeting. Must show respect for Mayor and Councilmembers.

6. **Public Comments:** Acknowledged visitors: Eleanor Hill and Nadine Phillips.
1. Nadine Phillips commented on how she would like to open a coffee shop on Main Street to help enhance the growth of Gray Court. She talked about the small town image but we must embrace grow and changes to be ready for the future of Gray Court. She inquired about funding for a small business such as a Coffee Shop. Is there a grant available for such a project?
  2. Would like to see sidewalks on Georgia Road to the town limits. There is a grant for alternative transportation for projects as sidewalks and beautification of the town per Garry Smith. He will research and get back with Mayor and Councilmember. Meanwhile, we will get estimates from several contractors on the cost of the sidewalks.
  3. Mayor Carter thanked Eleanor Hill and Nadine Phillips for taking the time to come to the town council meeting.
7. **Executive Session:** -
8. **Adjournment:** -  
**Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Carter**

Submitted By: Doris Hamilton

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**AGENDA**

1. **Call To Order:** Mayor Carter
2. **Invocation:** Garry Smith
3. **Business:**

- i. **Demonstration of Web-site improvements**

Garry Smith presented the enhancements that he and his wife made to the Website. Applications for business license, zoning and utilities/water services have been imported to the website. Also, UDC and business license fee schedule were added to website.

- ii. **Security System upgrades and proposal**

A proposal from LEC was given to Garry Smith to present to the Mayor and Councilmembers. Pro-Tec security system that would include security for the doors and windows. Garry met with a representative from LEC/Pro Tec Security to tour the town hall in reference to security issues. Additional items discussed: safety film on glass in office that would prevent shadow of glass – price range from \$15.75 to \$16.00 per foot, replacing windows and doors, installing a security system that will guarantee the doors are locked, access locks on door to administration office and changes access code on doorway to Judge’s chambers..ASAP. Another reason for these security changes is to limit the number of employees to have access to the front office due to a bond issue. This security system would include hallway monitoring with a monthly monitoring fee of \$44.95 or \$29.95.

Employees that are bonded will be allowed in the Clerk’s office. This would also enhance the security system that we are trying to implement. The town does have a bond insurance policy to cover these employees.

Suggested a safety training class to be set up for council and employees.

- iii. **Historic Way finding signage discussions** – set up meeting with Garland on the next phrase of signage within the town limits – Tuesday, November 17, 2015 and get a proposal.

- iv. **Sidewalk and tree project for Main Street Update:** Sidewalk and tree project were inspected by AOS, Mayor Carter and Jack Stoddard. Findings - repairs had been made to the sprinkler by AOS. Damage to the sprinkler system was made when the

Pharmacist put his reserve signs up for his customers. Mayor Carter will notify the Pharmacist about this issue. Approval for final payment to AOS per Garry Smith.

**v. Update highway #14 Christmas lights and others**

Christmas lights were installed as of Thursday, November 12, 2015.

**vi. RIF's Water line project update:**

Tests were conducted and need approval from DHEC.

**vii. Gray Court Park and PARD Grant update** – application was made for grant monies to start phrase for the south field phrase of the park. Councilmember, Stellartean Jones, wanted to know if we can set up area designated for children to start getting equipment for the children playground area. Mike Pitts will let us know the status of application this week November 16-20, 2015. This grant will be sufficient monies to complete the south field phrase. Will solicit volunteers to help with the setup of the children playground equipment.

**viii. Agenda Information** - reminded Mayor and councilmembers on a meeting to discuss salary and title changes for sanitation workers. This meeting needs to also include an overview of a salary compensation plan – per Garry Smith.

**4. Reports**

**1. YMCA – Brian Harland reported:**

- Silver Sneakers will be having their annual Christmas Dinner again this year on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. This event will be held at the Pleasant View Center.
  - YMCA-Town of Gray Court is conducting exercising classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. These classes are being monitored for attendance in order to justify them.
  - gym equipment – two new treadmills will be placed at Pleasant View Center
  - Would like to have at least two hours for the evening exercising classes! Evening class begins at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
  - advertising of evening classes will be placed on Gray Courts water cards that will be mailed November 30, 2015
  - Legislator of year for the support of the YMCA – Garry Smith was honored
  - Soccer program is still on agenda for Gray Court Park once the construction of the park has been completed.
  - Gina is working with Doris on the 2015 Christmas Parade.
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- Jason Tavenner –DSNB, Laurens County – getting ready for their clients to move to Pleasant View Center. Will need to make several adjustments to bathrooms entrance for handicapped person.

- YMCA plan to offer classes on educating people on healthy living, proper healthcare and diabetics.
  - YMCA has been recognized as a statewide facility – if you are a member in Laurens, you can attend any YMCA facility in the state.
2. **Financial Report: Garry Smith** – financial reports emailed to Mayor and Councilmembers.
  3. **Sheriff** – report was given to Mayor & Councilmembers – Dogs reported being trained at the Pleasant View Center. Sheriff will get some signs put up to address this issue.
  4. **Mayor Carter**
    - Town of Gray Court acquiring properties within the town limits
    - an inquiry was made on having a gun shop in the town – sheriff will research and get back with Mayor Carter
    - annexation on Georgia Road acres in reference to the property being purchased and possibly housing development built
    - DSNB continue getting setup for the move of client workers to Pleasant View Center. Need final approval from DHEC.
    - purchase new commodes for restrooms
    - schedule pick up for leaves and limbs – tentatively December 14, 2015
  5. **Fire Department:**
  6. **Water** – report given to Councilmembers & Mayor by Jack Stoddard
  7. **Committee Report**
    - **Councilmember, Stellartean Jones** – noticed that the back gate at the Pleasant View Center was not locked during the evenings.

## **Water System Business Plan Update**

8. **Administrator Report:** Garry Smith; Goals & Objectives, & Business Plan Update

Adjournment

**Council Members: Adolphus Brewster ♦ Malea Merck ♦ Millie Dawkins ♦ Stellartean Jones**  
**P.O. Box 438 ♦ Gray Court, South Carolina ♦ 864-876-2581 ♦ Fax 864-876-3999**  
**Incorporated October 20, 1899**