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*COUNCIL MEMBERS MAYOR John R. Carter*

*Adolphus Brewster Doris Hamilton, Clerk/Treasurer Millie Dawkins*

*Stellartean Jones*

*Malea Merck*

**Gray Court Town Council Meeting**

**October 19, 2015**

**Minutes – 7:00 p.m.**

**Agenda**

**I.** **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Carter

**Council members present**:

Councilmember Adolphus Brewster

Councilmember Stellartean Jones

Councilmember Malea Merck

Mayor Pro Tem Millie Dawkins

Garry Smith – Town Administrator

**2**. **Invocation & Pledge**:

Invocation was given by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster

**3.** **Approval of Minutes**: September 21, 2015 Town Council Meeting

A motion was made to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes by Councilmember, Malea Merck. The motion was second by Councilmember, Stellartean Jones. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed.

**4. Old Business:**

A. Resolution to appropriate funds for the purchase of Christmas Lights and replacement bulbs up to $5,000 from Contingency funds. Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster, made motion to approve Resolution# 04-15-01- (A Resolution to Appropriate Funds from the Contingency for the purchase of Christmas decorations and replacement bulbs). Motion was second by Mayor Pro Tem, Millie Dawkins. Motion was amended by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster. He wanted to modify the Resolution to purchase additional replacement bulbs. A total of 1000 replacement bulbs are needed for the Town of Gray Court. A motion was made by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster to purchase 500 bulbs and the cost would be taken from the General funds. The cost of the bulbs would be approximately $.98 each. Motion was second by Councilmember, Malea Merck. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed to the amended motion.

**5. New Business:**

Mayor Carter received a donation request from United Way. Question was proposed to Councilmembers in reference to the amount of contribution to be given. Mayor Carter will check with Clinton and Laurens to see what amount they usual contribute.

Purchase three (3) fire proof cabinets – Motion made by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster and second by Councilmember, Stellartean Jones. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed to the added item on the amended agenda.

Purchase additional works shirts with their names printed on front of them for the Workers – motion was made by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster and second by Councilmember, Stellartean Jones. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed to the added item on the amended agenda.

**6. Public Comments**:

**7. Executive Session**: -

The council voted to go into executive session to discuss employment and compensation for an employee under the allowance provided for this purpose by the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, in section 30-4-70 (a) (1).

* Give One (1) employee-sanitation worker a new title of Assistance to the Utilities Supertindent. Employee must start training classes. Upon completion and certification of the classes, additional compensation will be added to pay.

This motion was made by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster and second by Councilmember, Malea Merck. The Councilmembers unanimously agreed.

**8. Adjournment: -**

**Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Carter**

Submitted By: Doris Hamilton

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**Gray Court Town Council WorkSession**

**October 19, 2015**

**Minutes – 6:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call To Order:**  Mayor Carter
2. **Invocation:** Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster
3. **Business:**
4. **Historic Way Finding signage discussion:**

Garry Smith commented that we have signs in the entrance of the town of Gray Court - Hwy#101 and Hwy#14 signs have been installed. Signage is needed at entrance way on Georgia Road, Hwy#92 and South Main. Additional signage installation will be left up to the Mayor and Councilmembers. Concerns were the cost of the signs and thought this cost would include the interior signs for the town. It was suggested that we tabled the project of putting up interior signs for the town. Motion was made to table the additional signage due to the cost by Councilmember, Stellartean Jones and second by Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster**.** The Councilmembers unanimously agreed

1. **Sidewalk and tree project for Main Street Update**: Garry Smith reported that AOS Specialty Contractors, Inc. wanted Jack’s confirmation that the project was completed.
2. **Discussion Highway 14 Christmas lights**: Garry Smith reported that the contractor and Duke Energy met on Friday, October 16, 2015. It may take a week to complete project of Christmas lights on Hwy#14. Duke Energy will have to know the time frame that the lights will be on during the holidays. These lights on Hwy#14 will not be on a meterthat will determine the cost of power**.**
3. **RIF’s Water line project update:** Jack Stoddard reported that connection of water lines is completed. All pipes were sanitized before connection. Webb Road tie in will be completed on tomorrow, October 20, 2015. Will move from Heath Stone back to Ropp Street for tie in. Deadline for completion of project is November 30, 2015.
4. **Website update**: Garry Smith will be working with sc.gov to enhance the town’s website. Garry & Brenda Smith attended a training workshop in Columbia for the website. Forms are scheduled to be on website in the near future.
5. **Gray Court Park and PARD Grant**- Funds are available for PARD Grant; hopefully get matched monies for us this year approximately $21,497.00. This info was reported by Garry Smith from Mike Pitts. Total amount for completion of South Ball Field would be approximately $45,000.00. These funds will allow the town to start work/complete the South Ball Field located in the Community Park – town will be responsible for $23,503.67. The PARD Grant application has been submitted to the County.
6. **Agenda Information –** follow up on resolutionResolution # 04-15-01- (A Resolution to Appropriate Funds from the Contingency for the purchase of Christmas decorations and replacement bulbs).

The council unanimously agreed to amend the agenda and take action on adding the purchase of three fire- proof filing cabinets for the office and additional work shirts for the utilities workers**.**

1. **Reports**
2. **YMCA –**

* Gina reported that the Silver Sneakers will be having their annual Christmas Dinner again this year and the date of this event will be Tuesday, December 8, 2015. YMCA-Town of Gray Court will be having exercising classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays evening beginning Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m**.**

1. **Financial Report: Garry Smith –** financialreports emailed to Mayor & Councilmembers. Approximately $277,000 that we could move to general funds continquency account. The October’s financial statement reflected an increase in the salaries/budget – partially as a result of hiring three new hires effective July 1, 2015.
2. **Sheriff** – report was given to Mayor & Councilmembers
3. **Mayor Carter**

* Mayor Carter thanks everyone that helped with the Clean-up day for the town of Gray Court. We had about 25-30 people to participant. Due to inclement weather, we spent about two (2) hours picking up trash. Approximately 1 ½ ton of trash was collected.
* Waste Industries sent us a gift card for $350.00 reimbursement for lunch providing during the clean-up date for the town.
* Joe Boyd visited the Mayor and insisted that he had sent us a check for $300.00 in the mail but we have no records of check being received. This check per Joe Boyd has not cleared the bank.
* Receiving complaints about Cooke’s Trailer park. We filed paper work with Laurens County Building & Code department but no response yet.
* Greenville Hospital System will let us use their Santa float again this year for the 2015 Christmas Parade.
* Community Foundation Investment project – has a balance of $40,000 and if needed, we could use these funds for the park.
* Soil and water Conservation representative will visit Mr. Barksdale’s property in reference to the water issue in his yard.
* Realtor plan to purchase land on Georgia Road from Lenard Stoddard to build at least eight homes. Part of this land is not located within the town’s limit. It will be about approximately 45 days before the closing on this property. We will start rezoning/annexation process after purchase of land is completed to annex property in the town limit.
* Reported that someone is interest in the purchase of Exxon and Roper

properties.

1. **Fire Department**:

* Councilmember, Stellartean Jones notified the Fire Department about the 2015 Christmas Parade for Gray Court.
* A representative from the Town of Gray Court is needed for the Fire Department board. Mayor Carter will address this need and get back with the Councilmembers

1. **Water** – report given to Councilmembers & Mayor by Jack Stoddard
2. **Committee Report**

* **Mayor Pro Tem, Millie Dawkins**, inquired again on the purchase of benches on Main Street. Comment made - this maybe a project for the Spring or later. Benches on Main Street would re-create the problem for the store owners to complain again. The town does not have enough traffic on Main Street to warrant benches. The town parks would be another option for the placement of the benches.

**\***Need date scheduled for limbs and leaves pickup!

\*pothole located on Hwy 101 & 14 near towns traffic light

\*artwork on walls of Main Street Park

* **Councilmember, Stellartean Jones** – 2015 Business Appreciation Dinner was very successful. Cost of dinner was approximately $3,000.00.
* **Councilmember, Adolphus Brewster** – 2015 Christmas Parade Committee meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2015, 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Need to solicit additional members for this committee. Requested the present of Mayor and Councilmembers. Contacted Miss South Carolina in reference to one of our Grand Marshalls. She will call us back for confirmation.
* **Councilmember, Malea Merck** – commented on possibly a mini/tiny house being built in the rear of Mark Epperly store. Do we have an Ordinance to cover Mini Houses being built? Garry Smith confirmed that we do have an Ordinance in place to cover this issue. He will review the Ordinance and get back with the Councilmembers.

1. **Water System Business Plan Update**
2. **Administrator Report**: Garry Smith; Goals & Objectives, & Business Plan Update

Adjournment

**Council Members: Adolphus Brewster ♦ Malea Merck ♦ Millie Dawkins♦ Stellartean Jones**

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**Incorporated October 20, 1899**