

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

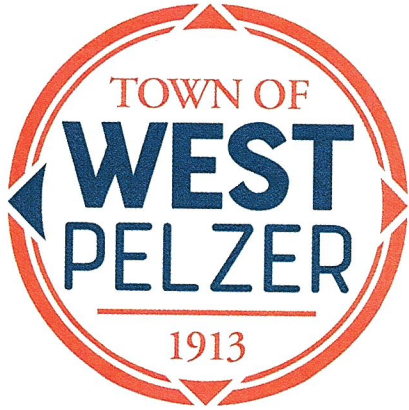
Tuesday November 12, 2024

6:00pm

West Pelzer Municipal Center

30 Main Street

- I. MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. CALL TO ORDER
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - a) *October 15, 2024, Council Meeting*
- V. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS
 - a) *Paula Payton - Clerk's & Admin Report*
 - b) *Chief Zachary Owen - Police Department Update*
- VI. CITIZEN COMMENT (per Town Code, Sec. 2-56/sign up required/limit 3 minutes)
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) *Resolution 2024-1112 "Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Municipal Board of Zoning Appeals for the Town of West Pelzer, South Carolina"*
- IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. ADJOURNMENT



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 12, 2024
6:00pm
West Pelzer Municipal Center
30 Main Street

Those present: Mayor Jim Riddle, Council Members Jeff Lee, Thomas Scarfo and Tim Williams; Town Clerk/Administrator Paula Payton, Town Attorney Carey Murphy and Chief Zachary Owen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Jim Riddle at 6pm

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - October 15, 2024, Council Meeting
Motion to approve by Councilman Scarfo, 2nd by Councilman Lee; all were in favor.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Paula Payton - Clerk's & Admin Report – see attached
Chief Zachary Owen – Police Department Update – see attached

CITIZEN COMMENT (per Town Code, Sec. 2-56/sign up required/limit 3 minutes)

Ann Odom – asked Council to consider updating the Town Christmas lights; and questioned if we could schedule an officer to work Sundays.

Rick Sanders – thanked Councilman Williams for taking time to talk with local business owners; also, stated that he had waited 30 days for a response from the Mayor regarding questions asked at the October meeting. Sanders asked Mayor Riddle to set aside a time to explain the 10 year plan to the citizens.

Joyce Vanhook – asked if the monthly police report could be listed in the Journal.

Roy Budgall – questioned the invalid motions made at the October meeting; Town Attorney Murphy explained that the state statute requires items be listed on a posted agenda, unless it constitutes an emergency.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2024-1112 “Resolution to Appoint a Member to the Municipal Board of Zoning Appeals for the Town of West Pelzer, South Carolina”

Clerk's Comments: The Town's zoning ordinance states that we may create a Board of Zoning Appeals; the purpose of this board is to serve as an administrative mechanism to enforce the zoning ordinance. Powers include: making decisions on appeals that arise from the administrative decisions of the town's zoning administrator; granting or denying applications for variances from zoning ordinances, or granting or denying applications for special exceptions; remanding matters to the zoning administrator if the board has not received adequate information for its review. The board's decisions are subject to appeal only to a circuit court. The resolution is to appoint Fredrick Dillon as our founding member to the BZA. Councilman Scarfo made a motion to approve, 2nd by Councilman Lee; all were in favor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Williams – stated that when he received a call regarding the invalid motions at the October meeting he requested both items be added to the November agenda, but was informed that two members objected to the items being on the November agenda.

Questioned who made the decision to deactivate the elected official's key fobs for the Municipal Center? Mayor Riddle stated that the decision was made after discussion with the Municipal Association and Chief Owen. Councilman Williams stated that he felt like the Councilman members were discriminated against and he was told it was a federal law violation. Is access denied? Stated that he felt the fair thing would be to take the Mayor's key fob as well; asked the attorney's opinion. Town Attorney Murphy stated that he would be happy to offer legal advice in executive session.

Councilman Williams also questioned the status of the Town's Christmas lights; Payton responded that she received a call last Friday from the contractors that were scheduled to install the week of Thanksgiving and they had cancelled, stating they did not have time. Payton added that she was also informed by the contractor that several utility poles suffered severe damage during the storm and would have to be replaced before installing lights. Payton stated that she was reaching out to other contractors to schedule install where it is possible.

Councilman Williams stated that he had reached out to Sen. Mike Gambrell regarding the crosswalk at Main and Stewart Street. SCDOT has agreed to do a traffic study on the intersection. Councilman Williams and Sen. Gambrell also discussed the possibility of a round about or traffic light at the Main/Palmetto Road intersection. (Clarification made by Councilman Williams via email on November 20, 2024 "I called Senator to get info as to who I could talk to at SCDOT about school safety lights on Main Street. The other issues were what I would be discussing with the SCDOT".)

Councilman Lee – stated that he wanted to be clear that all Council members have access to the building during office hours and added that he would not want to be in the office unless staff was present. He also added that deactivating the key fobs was not in violation of any federal law and certainly was not discrimination; it is not a legal issue.

Councilman Lee advised Chief Owen to flip the number of warnings versus tickets.

Councilman Scarfo – none

Mayor Riddle – read a written statement he had prepared (see attached)

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none

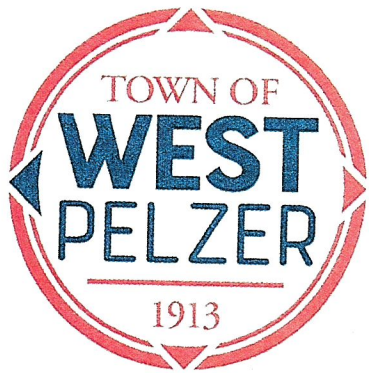
ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Lee made a motion to adjourn at 6:34pm, 2nd by Councilman Scarfo; meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

Paula H. Payton, MMC, ABL

Town Clerk | Administrator



#gowest

www.westpelzer.com

To: Mayor Riddle and Council

From: Paula H. Payton, MMC, ABL

Subject: Administration Report

Date: November 2024

The following are updates and information related to activities in the Town of West Pelzer and/or upcoming events. Please contact me with any questions that you may have related to these items. ppayton@westpelzer.com or 864-947-6297 ext. 101

O'Dell Community & Entrepreneur Center

- Open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm
- Free Wireless Internet, Conference Table, Individual Desks, Whiteboard, Television for Presentations, fully ADA compliant
- **The Senior Place – Meals on Wheels**
 - Food & activities are provided every Monday & Friday; 10am-2pm
 - Free; donations accepted

Announcements & Events

- Tree Lighting in Chapman Park – December 6th
- Annual Christmas Parade – December 7th

Training

- October 30, 2024 Council Roundtable hosted by MASC
- October 30, 2024 Annual Planning Commission Training

ReWa Project

- Phase 1 Rehabilitation Project
 - Low impact
 - Camera/TV lines
 - Scheduled to begin mid-October
 - Citizens will be notified by door hangers
 - Some work will require contractors to enter residents' property
 - Work to be performed by North American Pipeline Management (NAPM)

Finance

- October 2024 Budget
 - General Fund Income \$12,989.39 ~ Expense \$66,310.26
 - Hospitality Tax Income \$2,364.99 ~ Expense \$17,074.46



**WEST PELZER POLICE DEPARTMENT
30 MAIN STREET
WEST PELZER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29669**

To: Mayor Riddle & Council

From: Chief Zachary Owen

Subject: Police Department Report

Date: November 2024

*The following is statical data related to activities of the West Pelzer Police Department.
Please contact me with any questions or concerns:*

zowen@westpelzer.com

864-947-6297 ext. 103

October 2024 Statistics

• Calls for Service	157
• Traffic Stops	38
• Tickets	5
• Warnings	33
• Reports	11
• Citizen Contacts	250

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1112

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE MUNICIPAL BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
THE TOWN OF WEST PELZER, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Town of West Pelzer is authorized by the Town Code of Ordinances and South Carolina Local Government, and authorizes as the Mayor and Town Council deem necessary; and


WHEREAS, the Commissions have terms as required by ordinance; and

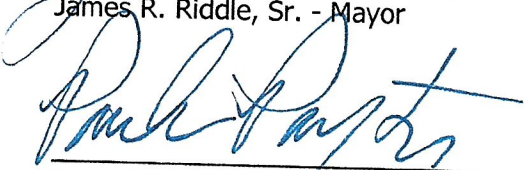
WHEREAS, following requests for nominations, the nominations presented meet all requirements set forth by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of West Pelzer is authorized to appoint members to commissions, subject to approval by the Council of the Town of West Pelzer.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of West Pelzer that the Town formally appoints Frederick Dillon to the Town Board of Zoning Appeals for terms as set by Town Code of Ordinances.

Resolution declared and adopted on November 12, 2024.


James R. Riddle, Sr. - Mayor


Paula Payton - Town Clerk

RESPONSE

A wise person once said, "There is a time and place for all things." I agree.

After our last council meeting, I was asked why I did not respond to specific comments expressed regarding my lack of response, in their opinion, to the recent storm Helene, which significantly damaged our state and others while inflicting significant damage to West Pelzer and surrounding towns. Some, if not most, tend to have a myopic view regarding such events.

First and foremost, council meetings are formal business meetings in which, in a representative democracy, elected members meet to conduct the business of the people among themselves in a manner outlined by state law. The mayor will direct the meetings and follow a printed agenda available to the public.

Council meetings are not a time for public debate between the council and the public who may be in attendance. Unfortunately, this seems to be the opinion of some due to the way many council meetings were conducted in the past, and it has led to misunderstanding and confusion among some members of the public and some council members. Much of this problem was corrected by Mayor Sanders when he took office by focusing our council meetings on the meeting's agenda, civility, and order. However, it seems there are still some who want to go back to the way things used to be. As mayor, I am determined that that should not happen.

I have responded personally to some regarding these matters and am available to others who still may have questions. I am available; West Pelzer is a small town, I am out among the people, I walk much of the town daily, I dine in our restaurants, and I can be reached through a call to the Municipal Center. I am ready and willing to discuss constituents' questions and concerns, preferably through a face-to-face meeting, arranged with a call, text, or simply by asking. There is a time and place for all things.

West Pelzer roughly has 1200 citizens, each with personal concerns, needs, and opinions, as do I, but as your mayor, your concerns and your needs are mine. I covet your opinions and your prayers.