



**CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
117 E. BROADWAY STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY APRIL 4, 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hanna

The invocation was given by Mayor Hanna

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Council present: Mayor Hanna, Frankie Poston, Dipen Khambhaita, Doolittle Stone and April Collins

City personnel present: Holly Swann, Marlene Rollins, Ron Douglas

Guest Present: Dwayne Skinner, Tamala Owens, Kenneth Ard, Jackie Stasney, Jonathan Daniels, Julie Rogers, William B. Dastou Sr. and Craig Cribb

Motion was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita to approve the agenda with an amendment to add the Fair Housing Resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion was made by Council Member Stone and received a second by Council Member Collins to approve the minutes from the March 7 and March 21 council meetings. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Bill Dastou-313 Country Club Drive, states he occasionally 2 to 3 times per year comes to Johnsonville (until his wife retires), he currently pays \$130.00 each time he comes for a deposit and set up fee, his options are to pay a monthly minimum fee for something that he is not using or the \$130 each time he has the opportunity to come here, it just seems a little unreasonable. He is requesting relief from this as an exception as he is probably the only person in the water district with an issue like this.

Mayor Hanna stated it is unusual and the last thing we want to do is alienate two fine people who want to retire in Johnsonville, council will talk about it see if there is something we can do.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dwayne Skinner, 221 E Marion Street, stated he was born and raised in Johnsonville, moved back about six years ago. The first thing he wanted to say is he recently paid a bill here in Johnsonville at City Hall that was approximately 60 to 70% penalties and fees. He stated he would like to step back and give a better understanding of who he believes he is to even speak on this matter that he is speaking on. He assisted on two national political campaigns, four state and served on seven county and regional economic development committees and sub committees, development director and director of major gifts, cultivation for two Boy Scouts of America councils with assets of three to five million dollars at any give time. He is currently working in Orangeburg, SC with Affordable Housing Committee and nonprofit to attack the issue of affordable housing in the state of SC. He is currently serving on Economic Exploratory committee for Laurens and Newberry Counties, he on the Cherry Dale expansion subcommittee for the city of Greenville, SC, cofounder of JAG (Johnsonville African American Alumni Group), also serving as board member of DIG (Dreams Imagination and Gift Development Council) in Williston, SC. Mr. Skinner stated all this to say he believes he is standing on a place where what he is about to say has some merit. A few years ago, there were some water bills issued from the city of Johnsonville that were extremely higher than the normal. He expressed concern over the issue, now he pays \$700 for rent for WJ's restaurant, he waters bill exceeded he rent for several months in a row, when he called, he remembers asking what the problem may be and was told that he must have a leak, now for his water bill to go from \$140 to \$600 plus. Then is apartment on Marin Street across from the school water bill shot up, he called and was told you must have a pool, he stated he does not have a pool. There was never any explanation given to himself or to anyone else in the city of Johnsonville as to why those water bills shot up that high and he doesn't remember getting any recompence or any money back towards any bills for paying those water bills. Since that time, he has operated in good faith with the city of Johnsonville continuing to do events, assisting with the schools, city and the district on many different levels. At this time, he came in to pay and get his city business license, He was a year late, he admits that, 100% his fault. He stated he don't understand the formula on computing the business license, he was told give me the number and I will compute it for you, he stated no problem and gave an example of \$50,000 in sales he was given the amount. Great now he knows kind of how to get the amount. When he comes back with his total sales, he was told there were

unacceptable because the number was much lower than the \$50,000 that he used as an example. He asked what does he need to provide and was told his actual information showing how much sales he had done at WJ's. He then contacted the SC Dept of Revenue had a letter sent to him showing his sales. He attempted to bring the letter and was told that was unacceptable, and he needed his W2's. He politely declined. So, he rolled over to the second year, he comes back this time with same information, Department of Revenue yearly sales totals for WJ's Restaurant, he tried to turn them in, was told it was unacceptable. Year three he come back this time there is someone in place who actually knows the system and understands the ins and outs. He had a great conversation with the lady to his left, everything was understood, at the end of the day he still had to pay the bill going back three years with all the compounded interest, because when he tried to turn in the SC Dept. of Revenue form stating my sales. I was told it wasn't acceptable. When having the discussion about how they verify my sales I was told we contact the SC Dept. of Revenue and they used those numbers to tell me what my bill would have been three years ago, two years ago, and last year. At this time the majority of the bill is penalties and interest. He stated he thought he conducted himself in a pretty fair fashion but he made sure he asked the following question before leaving her office, it feels to him as though he was being penalized because someone didn't know how to do their job. She never threw someone under the bus, she said this is what we can do for you moving forward. Which is the proper comment that should be made from someone in her position, he appreciated all the help she extended, but the fact is He tried to present the same information to staff at this building twice to pay a bill, now paid that is at least 50% but more likely 60 to 70% in interest in order for me to continue to do business in the City of Johnsonville at a restaurant that people love, locally, it not a money maker he does it because it's named after his father, and he lives here in Johnsonville. He Thanked Council

Mayor Hanna responded council will take under advisement and have Ms. Holly contact him shortly.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by Council member Poston and received a second by Council member Khanbhaita to approve first reading to Amend an Ordinance, Agreement and Supplement for local Revenue Service Programs with the Municipal Association. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Swann presented to council of the newest policies and procedures for (FOIA) Freedom of Information Act, that will be placed on line, the policy and rates were taken from Florence County, these rates are cheaper than the original rates.

Ms. Swann presented to council a resolution recognizing April as Fair Housing Month, we do this every year in April to be eligible to apply for the CDBG funding from the Department of Commerce.

Motion was made by Council member Collins and received a second by Council member Stone to approve A Resolution recognizing April as Fair Housing Month. **Motion carried unanimously**

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

We will have another budget workshop next Tuesday at 5:30

MAYORS REPORT

Things are moving along very well with the golf course, we did postpone it we were shooting for May 1, we just need another month as bas as we need revenue we are going to give it another month, you get one shot to make a first impression and we want that one to be a good one, we got Reece Jones he is going to hang his hat on this its got to be something that he is okay with for it to be endorsed by him he is the number one architect in the United States, we want to make sure everything is right and we are doing everything in our power to make sure that is going to happen.

Motion was made by Council Member Poston and received a second by Council Member Khambhaita to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Adjourned: 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved by City Council on this 9th day of May, 2023

Attest: Marlene Rollins
Marlene Rollins, City Clerk

Johnny Hanna
Johnny Hanna, Mayor