

TOWN OF MCBEE
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 18, 2009 – 5:00 PM

Present: John Campolong Jr., Shilon Green, Charlie Sutton, A. C. McLeod Jr., Marilyn Fields

Note to Minutes: No clerk present. Minutes typed by Teresa Gardner, interim Town Clerk.

Special Meeting called to order by Mayor Campolong to discuss an appeal to DHEC regarding the 208 Awarding Plan. He asked to hear discussion from the floor. Mayor Campolong stated that from what he has seen; if the 208 Plan is awarded to Alligator, it is going to box in McBee completely and probably lead to other things of the waste site that we are opposed to. In addition, back in March it was agreed to have everyone sign a statement in opposition of the waste site.

Kemp McLeod stated that the agreement with Hartsville to take care of the sewage of McBee would be adequate in the near future. He also stated that it is a proven way to dispose of sewage here in McBee and that it would accommodate any industry that might come, especially new industry that has been proposed in our area. In addition, that Hartsville would accommodate that added usage. He stated that he feels like that would be adequate for the town of McBee and that this plant is so close to McBee and we have an underground aquifer. This would be a negative thing for our economy and the land prices close to McBee and close to this sewage plant. In addition, this is not a proven way to dispose of sewage as far as land application and especially in our area where the aquifer is delicate. DHEC made a statement that our aquifer is delicate here in our area and that we need to be very cautious in how we treat our sewage. He stated that he was supportive of the appeal. What we have in place is to use Hartsville. Hartsville has agreed to up their usage and they would expand. This is the avenue we need to approach.

Mr. Campolong reiterated the fact that there are other options available and we do not have to have this. Subsequently, we do not need to take the risk and jeopardize our future.

Charlie Sutton asked what it would take to support a system like that. Chesterfield County would not be enough to support it.

Mr. Campolong stated that he had had contact with someone who is well familiar with this system out West. He stated that the cost of running this type of system was phenomenal and the type of personnel that you had to employ was not just the normal blue-collar worker. They were people in upper echelon professionalism and they drew large salaries. He stated that he did not want to take the risk.

Marilyn Fields asked if they had a permit. Kemp stated that they are doing a study of the aquifer right now and said it would take four years and this was the second year. The study is not complete. He stated that he was not against having a good sewage plant in place, but we already have adequate sewage from Hartsville. He does not see the need in building a plant that put at risk the town of McBee. In addition, if they use land applied, they will still have to use Hartsville because they cannot do A O Smith right now by doing land applied, so there is some risk. We do not need any mistakes done right here. Having a plant this close to town would be a negative thing for land prices. We have other facilities in the county such as Cheraw. Cheraw could take care of it. They have more capacity than they can use, also Hartsville said they would accommodate us. We are only using 15 to 20% of what they said

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they would pledge to us. They have a contract until 2017. Let us utilize what we have and really study our aquifer, and with USDS doing that, figure out the best plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Campolong to make appeal to DHEC to have the board review the application of the 208 Plan given to DHEC. Kemp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Campolong stated that work was still being done on the budget. It is taking a bit longer because we haven't got a history of what has happened in the past. Terri has been working diligently to try to re-look at his. We have more of a guideline to go by since we switched over to the government type of audit. Terri says she doesn't know what the penalties are but the auditors tell us if you under budget and your revenues are over, then you get penalized. We want to be careful that we don't do that.

An attendee requested the floor. He did not believe that the 208 Plan would be cost effective as proposed and shared some research backing his statement. Mr. Campolong asked Kemp, as a member of Economic Development Board, could that be something that could be brought up at that meeting.

An attendee brought to the Councils attention that the freight train sat on the tracks in McBee on Sunday afternoon for two hours backing up traffic. Someone commented that a citation could be issued after fifteen minutes. Mr. Campolong asked Mrs. Fields to see if there was an ordinance concerning this issue.

Marilyn Fields gave an update on Latondra Johnson's recovery from knee surgery. Mr. Campolong gave an update in regards to Terri King posting the police department fines and assessments. Mr. Campolong re-stated that the town was not after the number of tickets to be written but exposure of the public safety to the town.

Mr. Campolong shared that he is actively pursuing the different grants for municipalities that would help toward increasing the town's public safety. The application for the recreation field is almost ready to be submitted to the National Baseball Association. Shilon Green asked about the condition of the tennis courts. Hopefully the recreation grant will help toward the upkeep of the courts. Mr. Campolong has started working through the State Legislature to see what funds are available toward the upkeep of the recreation areas.

Mr. Campolong shared how he is giving the town exposure by sharing what the town is doing.

Marilyn Fields asked if a date would be set for the budget workshop. Will need to wait, to set the date, until Terri has the budget ready for review.

Shilon Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kemp second the motion. All agreed to adjourn.

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