

Regular Council Meeting
January 13th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 5:50 p.m. following the public hearing.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Smith

Members present: Mayor Halfacre presiding, Council Members Boatwright, Fulmer, Evans, Jones, Sherrill, and Smith.

Absent: None

Notification emailed: January 9th, 2025 to the *Greenville News*, the *Journal*, the *Independent Mail*, the *Post and Courier*, the *Pickens Sentinel*, the *Easley Progress*; WSNW Radio, WYFF, WSPA, and Fox Carolina.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Boatwright presiding – MyCivic comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, regarding sidewalks, Conversations with Council, and water meters. MyCivic comment from Nanda Edgerton, 213 Charleston Avenue, regarding the crosswalk in front of the Moda development. MyCivic comment from Nanda Edgerton, 213 Charleston Avenue, regarding the sale of the Wyatt Avenue Apartments.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January 6th, 2025 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a presentation of the City of Clemson's annual audit report for the fiscal year ending 2024 by a representative of Mauldin & Jenkins. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder introduced Grant Davis from Mauldin and Jenkins. The city received a clean, unmodified opinion. The City has 162 million dollars in assets and 65 million dollars in liabilities for a 97 million dollar net position. This was an 18 million dollar increase from fiscal year 2023. The City has 10 months worth of expenditures in the fund balance.

Present the budget variances for the Fiscal Year 2024 audited financial statements. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented that as part of our ordinance we are required to present budget variations over 10% or \$10,000 dollars, whichever is smaller, in a regular council meeting. There were 13 incidents throughout the year for various departments and funds, with some due to new GASB rules. The city collected 2 million dollars over expected in revenue versus 95 thousand dollars over expected in expenditures in the general fund.

Review the Catbus Agency Safety Plan as required by the Federal Transit Administration. Interim Transit Administrator Sawyer Gambrell. Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte presented for Administrator Gambrell. This plan is required by the Federal Transit Administration and includes an added section on assaults on transit workers. Council Member Jones asked about the in-house CDL training program. This program is a partnership with Tri-County Technical College and Utilities, Public Works, and Catbus.

Discuss an amendment to the Ethics and Code of Conduct Statement for Elected and Appointed Officials. - Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte. Council Member Evans requested more time to review this item. Council Member Jones suggested a working group on the item.

Receive a report on the paving list for the 2025 & 2026 Paving Cycle. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented the list, noting that they try to not pave roads that will have upcoming utility work on them. The list is larger than normal this year due to 8 million dollars of ARPA money that was allocated. The contract for paving is normally done one year in advance. Mayor Halfacre requested a top 25 roads to pave list to be sent to Council.

Staff Reports:

Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte: Shout out to Public Works, Police, Utilities, Catbus and the communications team for their hard work with the winter storm. Hometown Legislative Action Day is 2/21. The next Conversations with Council is 2/13.

Planning Director Nathan Woods: Properties along Mountain View Lane are zoned R-20. The apartment complex View at Blue Ridge located at 807 College Avenue is zoned RM-4, but there is currently no formal proposal for redevelopment.

City Clerk Jeremiah Jackson: Reminder about sending your RSVPs for the Smoked dinner next Tuesday.

Policy Action

Consider Second Reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-8 Fixed Assets. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented there were no changes since last reading. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve second reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-8 Fixed Assets. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Discuss expanding the scope of the Municipal Overhead (OH) to Underground (UG) Conversion program with Duke Energy to include the burial of the secondary line from the service pole back to the transformer pole if feasible. – Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte presented there had been no changes since the last meeting. If passed, Duke Energy will reach out to previous homeowners that may benefit from the change. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve expanding the scope of the Municipal Overhead (OH) to Underground (UG) Conversion program with Duke Energy to include the burial of the secondary line from the service pole back to the transformer pole if feasible. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Fulmer: The Sincerely Daniel project is phenomenal and is projected to open in February for 1 year. Hats off to Bree for being on the job a week with the snowstorm messaging.

Council Member Smith: Nominations for Black History Month and Women's History Month are now open.

Mayor Halfacre: Shout out to Natalie and Sarah with their work on the year in review.

Executive Session

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to enter into Executive Session to Consider Appointments to City Boards and Commissions; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1).

Vote on this motion was unanimous. After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and return to the open session.

Following Executive Session,

Council Member Evans made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to appoint John Ducworth to the Economic Development Advisory Committee community member position for a term of 2 years. Vote on this motion was unanimous. Council Member Fulmer will serve as the Council Member representative on the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to appoint Sarah Williams and Jacob Wichelns to a term of 3 years for the community member position and Mindy Spearman for a term of 1 year for the visual or performing artist position on the Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture, and Tourism Committee. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to appoint Winton Hunter and Elaine Masceri to the Police Advisory Board for 3 year terms. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Council Member Sherrill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to appoint Hunter Hanahan to the Board of Architectural Review for a term of 2 years. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Council Member Fulmer made a motion seconded by Council Member Jones to appoint Benjie Cumbie and Bryan Yoder for terms of 4 years, and Charlie Kernaghan for a term of 3 years to the Planning Commission. Council Member Smith commented that she thinks the commission needs to be more representative. Mayor Halfacre and Council Members Boatwright, Evans, Fulmer, Jones, and Sherrill voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Smith opposed. The motion passed 6 to 1 in favor.

Council Member Boatwright filed a recusal for this item. Council Member Jones made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to appoint Karen Ware and Annie Moroski to a term of 3 years and Keith Rockow to a term of 2 years for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____

G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor