

Regular Council Meeting
January 6th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

6:30 PM Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Halfacre

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

Absent: None

Notification emailed: January 2nd, 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.

Oath of Office: Mayor Halfacre, Council Members Evans, Jones, and Sherrill took their oath of office.

Mayor Pro Tem Appointment: Council Member Fulmer nominated Council Member Boatwright, seconded by Council Member Jones. Council Member Smith nominated herself, but did not receive a second. The vote appointing Council Member Boatwright to Mayor Pro Tem for a two year term was unanimous.

Public Session: Mayor Halfacre presiding – Cameron Farish, 368 College Avenue, spoke about safety and security for downtown with better lighting. Ann Warmath, 610 College Street (Central), gave a report on the Wreaths Across America program and asked for continued sponsorship. Melody Jones, 3612 Rocky Creek Drive (Seneca), gave a report on the Wreaths Across America program for the Old Stone Church location. Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, spoke about rezoning Mountain View Lane and the street paving schedule. Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, spoke about the equity framework and City Council referring it to planning commission for review.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 10th, 2024 were approved as presented. Council Member Smith abstained since she was not present. Abstention by city code is treated as an opposition vote. Council Member Boatwright made a motion to approve the December 10th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Council Member Fulmer. 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.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a downtown building and streetscape presentation from MPS, Hogan Construction and Seamon-Whiteside. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle summarized the history of the project. A underground waste plume was discovered and will be remediated as part of this project. Daniel Merritt with Seamon Whiteside presented a status update on the project. In 2018 the City adopted the downtown master plan. Proposed improvements include replacing pavers and adding bollards for pedestrian events. Some other potential changes would be reversing the direction of Sloan Street to eliminate turning lanes and removing the turning lane from College Avenue on to Hwy 93. As proposed, this would remove 9 downtown parking spots. Austin Eckles with Hogan Construction and Mike Goll from MPS presented that the building would

have storage, an office, a lobby and 4 public restrooms open during daylight hours. Adding a second story onto the building now at a projected cost of \$400,000 versus constructing it in the future was also discussed. City Administrator Andy Blondeau proposed doing the building construction this year and the streetscape the following summer.

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 Alli Gantte presented. Feedback from program users recommended adding this option. Duke Energy confirmed that this is an eligible use of the funds but require a letter requesting the change. Money in this program rolls off 5 years after receipt. The estimated balance currently in the account is \$330,000.

Staff Reports:

Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte: Introduced the new Public Information Officer Bree Sanders.

City Administrator Andy Blondeau: The next City Council meeting is next Monday beginning with a Public Hearing at 5:30 pm.

Policy Action

Consider First Reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-8 Fixed Assets. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented the proposed changes. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve first reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-8 Fixed Assets. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider the ACATS sub allocation funding formula for Clemson Area Transit. - Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte presented that this is a result of the move from GPATS (Greenville) to ACATS (Anderson). This move to ACATS increased funding by \$650,000. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve the ACATS sub allocation funding formula for Clemson Area Transit. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding the negotiated bid of the HWY 93 Water Project 2024 to Gar-Con, Inc for \$856,419.075. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented this project was originally put out to bid in May, but came in over budget, so the scope was adjusted several times. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to award the negotiated bid of the HWY 93 Water Project 2024 to Gar-Con, Inc for \$856,419.075. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding Bid Alternate #1 of the Clemson Redhill Water Upgrade Project to Gar-Con, Inc for \$1,077,086.00. - City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented that this project would receive \$600,000 from CDBG grant funds to help to offset some of the costs. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded

by Council Member Fulmer to award Bid Alternate #1 of the Clemson Redhill Water Upgrade Project to Gar-Con, Inc for \$1,077,086.00. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Boatwright: Appreciated the new College Avenue crosswalk installation.

Executive Session

Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to enter into Executive Session to Consider Appointments to City Boards and Commissions; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) and receive a legal briefing regarding case #2022CP3900034 and case #2024CP3900901 from the City Attorney; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) 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, there was nothing to report.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor