Regular Council Meeting
November 19th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Fulmer

Members present: Mayor Halfacre presiding, Council Members Boatwright, Brookover, Ducworth, Fulmer, Smith and Watt.

Absent: None

Notification emailed: November 15th , 2024 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.

Proclamations: Small Business Saturday

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Sandra Effert, 833 Old Greenville Highway Apt 126, submitted a MyCivic comment discussing bus service to Patrick Square. Nanda Edgerton, 213 Charleston Avenue, submitted a MyCivic comment asking about the status of the TIF if Pickens County and the Pickens County School District opt out.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from November 4th, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Discuss a possible infrastructure reimbursement agreement between One Clemson Development, LLC and the City of Clemson. – Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte stated initially One Clemson requested six items for reimbursement. After staff met they found that four of the six items were not eligible as they were included in the planned development document. Two of the items were eligible with the wet well for pump station number one in the amount of $349,876.83 and the multi-use path in the amount of $23,520. The total reimbursement amount for both items is $373,396.83. There were 3 repayment schedules presented with four year, six year, and eight year timelines. Council Member Ducworth wanted to include stipulations that reimbursement comes after installation and covers the lesser of the actual cost or proposed cost amount. Council Member Watt favored the 6 year timeline.

Discuss the 2025 employee benefits renewal. – Human Resources Director Tracy Taylor was sick so Scott Ogburn spoke in her place. Average annual insurance increases are running at 7%. There are 2 options for reinsurance carriers. AccuRisk, who is our current carrier, would have an increase of 0.7%, and ATS/US Fire would have a 5.5% decrease. Mr. Ogburn also recommended increasing the employer cost per employee for dental from $33 per employee to $38 per employee. There would be no change in the vision insurance. A work session on this topic was scheduled for November 26th at noon.

Receive a recommendation from the Economic Development Advisory Committee to add more public restrooms to the proposed downtown building plan. – Community Engagement Coordinator Lindsey Newton deferred to Cameron Farish, who represents the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Mr. Farish suggested increasing the number of bathrooms for events and retail and adding an information booth in the building possibly staffed by the Chamber of Commerce. The closing time of these bathrooms would be seven or eight pm with to coincide retail hours. Mr. Farish also recommended having family bathrooms and a total of at least four bathrooms. City Administrator Andy Blondeau added that the proposed building is currently 1200 square feet with a cost of $700,000. The current building design would include an office, a visitor reception area, an interior bathroom, and two public bathrooms. The contractor quoted that the cost would be $20,000 per additional bathroom. The building and streetscape will be done in phases in the summer to avoid disruption downtown during busy seasons.

Staff Reports:

City Administrator Andy Blondeau: Hometown Legislative Action day is January 21st. The Vista Drive Sidewalk Meeting is 5:30pm and the TIF Information Meeting is at 6:00pm both on Thursday November 21st at Littlejohn Community Center.

Policy Action

Other Policy Action:

Consider approving a sign to be placed in the right of way in designated locations to create awareness for the 2025 Clemson 8 event. - Mayor Halfacre stated this item has been tabled at the request of the Clemson 8 event.

Consider authorizing the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. – Mayor Halfacre presented that many other cities have also participated in this initiative. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt, to approve authorizing the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding change order number one in the amount of $49,000.00 to Foothills Contracting Service LLC, to add shade structures and concrete pads to the dog parks currently under construction at Nettles Park. - City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented this item will add two 10x22 shade structures and concrete pads. Council Member Boatwright wanted to emphasize the project came in well under budget. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve awarding change order number one in the amount of $49,000.00 to Foothills Contracting Service LLC, to add shade structures and concrete pads to the dog parks currently under construction at Nettles Park. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding a contract for maintenance and repairs to the Keith Street Parking Deck. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle explained that there were three different bidders and was comfortable with recommending approval of the apparent low bid from Strickland Waterproofing Company. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve awarding a contract for maintenance and repairs to the Keith Street Parking Deck. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Authorize the City Administrator to take steps to enroll in the Bank of America – State of South Carolina purchase card contract. – Procurement Coordinator Brandon Burton presented the benefits of the program.

Council Member Ducworth filed a recusal form for this item. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Smith, to authorize the City Administrator to take steps to enroll in the Bank of America – State of South Carolina purchase card contract. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Recognized the students in the audience. Daniel Band won the State Championship.
Council Member Boatwright: Recognized the success of all the postseason recreation teams.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,	Approved
______________________________	By: ______________________________
Jeremiah Jackson, MBL	G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor