

Regular Council Meeting
September 16th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

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, Brookover, Ducworth, Fulmer, and Watt.

Absent: Council Member Smith

Notification emailed: September 12th, 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.

Public Session: Mayor Halfacre presiding – Robert Lee, 112 Pressley Drive, spoke about the 1st amendment concerns on the Conversations with Council report card from March 2023. Tanya Hyatt, 110 Roslyn Drive, spoke about the history of Build a Better Clemson, and encouraged residents to work together building a vibrant city instead of continuing the narrative that City Council is corrupt. MyCivic Comment from Mary Werbaneth, 386 College Avenue, concerning yearly rent increases at the Ucentre apartment complex. MyCivic Comment from Stephanie Kernaghan, 121 Lewis Road, concerning if all Council Members have access to the FOIA documents in the reading room, and if they have been threatened. MyCivic Comment from Zoraya Rolda Rockow, 213 Wescott Drive, concerning Council Member Watt's statements, and asking Council Members Boatwright and Smith where they stand on the accusations. Also included with this comment are multiple screenshots of newspaper articles and social media comments.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from September 2nd, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a presentation from Palmetto Entertainment recapping Clemson Music Fest. – Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte stated last year she worked with Braxton Wilson with Palmetto Entertainment on Clemson Music Fest. Braxton mentioned that during the planning process they realized the university was working on a similar idea and decided to partner on one big event. The event last year only allowed 2 months for marketing. There were just over 7,000 people from 13 states on both days of the event. He was excited by the feedback he's received. The proposed annual event would be held the 2nd weekend in April with a 5-10 year long term plan. Last year, they made an effort to have local food vendors be involved. Council Member Boatwright, Mayor Halfacre, Council Member Watt all attended the first event and gave positive feedback.

Discuss a collaboration between Clemson University, local industries, government agencies, and community organizations to create a shared use space for the community. – Council Member Watt invited David Vaughn the Director of Clemson Engineers for Developing Communities to speak. The idea for this project goes back to pre-covid and originally targeted the Food Lion space. Several different ideas were discussed including bands, food trucks, and a commercial kitchen. Council Member Boatwright emphasized not removing the existing businesses. Council Member Ducworth mentioned bringing in the university to ensure buy-in and an estimated a cost of \$15 to \$20 million dollars for the project.

Staff Reports: A TIF work session was scheduled for Monday, September 23rd at 5pm.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider 2nd reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-11, Subsection p, Purchasing and Receiving.

– Procurement Coordinator Brandon Burton presented and there were no changes since the last meeting. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Brookover, to approve 2nd reading of a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-11, Subsection p, Purchasing and Receiving. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider a policy to establish criteria for special events and programs to meet in order to be eligible for sponsorship. – Council Member Brookover suggested adding a follow up report from the organizers after the event is complete to help evaluate its effectiveness. Council Member Fulmer wanted to increase budget for sponsorship items during the year. Council Member Brookover mentioned having most requests hopefully done in the budget process. Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, had concerns about the DEI statement. This statement was from a 4 year old vision statement and will be redone in the new comprehensive plan. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve a policy to establish criteria for special events and programs to meet in order to be eligible for sponsorship with the addition of a post event report that provides data for evaluation purposes for the city on the effectiveness of those sponsorships. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Brookover: Berkeley Drive is on the paving schedule for the State for FY 2026 and suggested coordinating city work on water, sewer, and green crescent trail additions at the same time for efficiency.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor