

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall**

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

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Council Member Ducworth

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

**Absent:** Council Member Ducworth

**Notification emailed:** August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**Oath of Office:** Officer Pittman

**Public Session:** Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, discussed the equity framework posted on the website.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved as presented.

**Reports/Discussion**

Discuss the feasibility of establishing a maximum city wide neighborhood speed limit of 20 mph. – Police Chief Jorge Campos gave some history of the issue on the “20 is Plenty” campaign. Chief Campos has had conversations with the city engineer about other traffic calming measures as part of a comprehensive traffic strategy. Another well-known traffic program is “Vision Zero” that focuses on eliminating traffic fatalities. Chief Campos pulled crash data and found most crashes were along major corridors with few crashes in the neighborhoods. Council Member Brookover stated this is about pedestrian safety and the “20 is Plenty” is one part of a multi prong strategy. Council Member Fulmer wants to focus on cut-thru roads that have areas with no safe lanes for pedestrians. Council Member Smith asked if there are any roads with a 20 mph speed limit. Currently there are 15 mph and 25 mph. Chief Campos clarified that this change will not apply to state roads. City Administrator Andy Blondeau mentioned a quote for digital speed limit signs of \$3,000 each, which can be added to the budget amendment for the new police vehicles. Chief Campos highlighted the sunlight issues with solar power signs and the tree cover in the city. Chief Campos noted that there were 493 tickets issued in June and 436 tickets issued in July. Council Member Watt mentioned residents commented that they notice a difference. Chief Campos will work on getting a traffic policy ready.

Receive a sponsorship request from SMOOOTH INC. – Abrianna Lucky, the public relations director for the nonprofit SMOOOTH INC, presented the request. Sabrina Greenlee is the CEO, and the charity focuses on advocating for women who are victims of domestic violence. They will be holding a Women’s

Empowerment Luncheon event at Traditions on the Lake on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm. The event will have various speakers and a panel discussion. The event is open to the public. Council has to wait until next meeting to act on the sponsorship amount as this was only advertised as a discussion item.

Receive a sponsorship request for the 2025 TEDxClemsonU Event. – Ainara Garcia presented a flyer about TEDxClemsonU, which is an entirely student run organization. This year’s event sold out at 100 tickets, and

the event cost was over \$13,000. They are planning for a future event after spring break next year. This sponsorship request will be brought up at next meeting for a vote.

Discuss a text amendment to Chapter 7, Sec 7-11, Subsection p, Purchasing and Receiving. – Procurement Coordinator Brandon Burton presented this item. The change would affect the language welcoming women and minority own businesses to submit bids applying to all City contracts not just contracts for grants and loans for State and Federal projects.

Staff Reports: Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte: A renter's guide was distributed to over 1200 properties including apartment complexes. Upcoming projects include how to start a business in the city as well as a new resident guide. These are being produced by the new Content Creator Natalie Amerson who is now on board full time.

Municipal Clerk Jeremiah Jackson: Municipal Elected Officials Institute training is coming up.

### **Policy Action**

#### **Ordinances:**

Consider 2nd reading of a Freedom of Information Act policy. – City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented this item and noted changes to add publishing FOIA requests to the website along with adding the attorney fees in the areas that City Council requested. Chief Campos requested a change on publishing a list of those in jail online. We are not technologically ready yet for this change and are waiting on new software to be able to fulfill this goal with the current estimate of implementing it next summer. Staffing would also be an issue as the required redactions are time intensive. It will be available in person at the police department by request. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Brookover, to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of a Freedom of Information Act policy with the changes requested by Chief Campos. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

#### **Other Policy Action:**

Consider approving a paid parental leave policy. – HR Director Tracy Taylor said this policy is based on what City Council requested from the discussion in the last meeting. The policy would provide up to 6 weeks of paid leave to either parent. This is over and above what the current state policy is. Council Member Watt mentioned that it can extend beyond that with approval if necessary. City Employees are required to provide documentation. Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, spoke about maternity leave vs family leave. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt, to approve a paid parental leave policy. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider setting special event and game day rates for the parking garages. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented that there were no changes since last meeting. The rate would be \$40 for the day matching the nearby church rate. The parking garage would be open to the first customers at 7am on game day and is first come first served. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council

Member Boatwright to approve setting a special event and game day rate for the parking garages in the amount of \$40. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider an easement and shared use agreement with Clemson United Methodist Church. – City

Administrator Andy Blondeau presented that we have developed multiple agreements with the church throughout the years. This agreement is consolidating all of the outstanding agreements, before making the large investment in Clemson Park. A projected sewer line agreement will be added later once the location is determined. The church has already approved the agreement. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve an easement and shared use agreement with Clemson United Methodist Church. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider a budget amendment to purchase 2 new police vehicles. – Police Chief Jorge Campos presented this item. The City has purchased 10 new police vehicles over last 2 years, but the fleet is aging. There were also 3 police vehicles that were totaled in the last year. The money for this comes from funds allocated for bridge repairs that came in under budget. There will still be \$131,000 of these savings remaining after the vehicle purchase. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve a budget amendment to purchase 2 new cars in the amount of \$145,000 and 8 new speed signs for \$25,000. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

#### **Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business**

Council Member Watt: Commended the DEI training speaker Dr. Brian Smith.

Mayor Halfacre: The planning commission has several upcoming community meetings.

#### **Executive Session:**

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Brookover to enter into Executive Session to discuss the City Administrator's Annual Review; 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 Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to approve the city administrator's annual review and the standard city salary increase of 2.5%. Council Members Boatwright, Brookover, Fulmer, Smith, and Mayor Halfacre in support. Council Member Watt in opposition. Motion passed 5 to 1 in favor.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

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Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: \_\_\_\_\_

G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor