

Regular Council Meeting
August 5th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Watt

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

Absent: None

Notification emailed: August 2nd, 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 Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – MyCivic comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, discussing speeding.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from July 15th, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a report on the status of the Black Heritage Trail and the proposed location for the city's portion of the trail. – City Administrator Andy Blondeau deferred to Dr. Rhondda Thomas and Shelby Henderson to present. A \$3.4 million dollar grant was obtained from the Mellon Foundation in December 2022 to establish a Black Heritage Trail, and the group has been working diligently on it since. The group would need permission from the city for 3 potential sites including the Calhoun Bridge Center, Rotary Park, and Dawson Park. The Calhoun Bridge Center will be the main site, with Rotary Park and Dawson Park being used for interpretive signage. The group went to the Red Hill Reunion at Dawson Park and got lots of feedback at the table set up there. They also have done oral history interviews and photo scanning where the participants get a copy of the recordings and scans on the spot. There is a quarterly newsletter as well as a brochure that has been created. A potential mural site would be located on the back of the new Dawson Park picnic shelter. A vote on this will come at a later date when they get closer to implementation, with early 2026 being the projected launch of the project.

Discuss including a paid parental leave policy to the personnel policy manual. – Council Member Watt discussed this issue with Lindsey Watley who mentioned saving up her sick days for pregnancy leave. Human Resources Director Tracy Taylor recapped the current policy which is that each full time employee gets 3 weeks sick leave and 2 weeks of Annual Leave for the first 3 years of employment. That leave can roll over from year to year up to certain limits. FMLA leave of 12 weeks is also available as required by law but does not pay during that time. In looking at other agency policies, leave time varies based on maternal vs paternal. Having 6 weeks of leave for the parent giving birth and 2 weeks leave for the other parent is what the current state policy is. The City of Clemson also offers a Sick Leave Bank that would be available for use after all of the employee's sick leave and annual leave was exhausted. Council Member Ducworth asked for Tracy's recommendation which was for 6 weeks for both parents. Clemson University is the same as the state policy.

The group consensus was 6 weeks for either parent, which would also extend to adoption, birth, and guardianship. Tracy will bring back a policy for City Council to vote on.

Discuss determining the special event and game day rates for the parking garages. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented. Planning and Development Office Manager Rebekah Wilbanks is now in charge of parking with the reorganization and her recent promotion. First Baptist Church charges \$40 for game day parking and that is the staff recommendation for the City parking garages as well. There are no reservations and it will be first come first served. The group consensus was the \$40 for the day was appropriate. A policy will be brought back for City Council to vote on.

Receive an update on the current status of the downtown metered parking program. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented the update of current issues with the parking software and the 2 hour time limit and with the 30 minute time limit. These issues are only with the mobile pay feature not the new parking meters. The staff recommendation is to leave it as is currently, pending a projected software update in the next few months and only require paid parking in the parking garages for now. This is the same software Clemson University currently uses. Council Member Boatwright discussed the Lutheran Church lot and suggested painting the spots in it with stencils for the 2 hour limit. Also mentioned is that streetside parking is currently limited to 2 hours per day, so you cannot spot hop. The new parking software uses license plates as an identifier instead of space numbers.

Discuss a recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding setbacks and PD acreage. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods stated it was voted 5-0 not to approve the changes at the planning commission. An important distinction was made that the comprehensive plan and zoning codes are two different things. Council Member Watt asked for the current status of the Comprehensive Plan. The existing condition report of 60 pages has been completed. Planning Commission Chairman Herb Tyler and Nathan will be holding public in person meetings over the next month around town for next steps.

Staff Reports: City Administrator Andy Blondeau: Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte was recognized as a top woman in business across the state. The Welcome Back Festival is August 19th which is the same day as the City Council Meeting. The next City Council meeting was moved to August 26th at 6:30pm.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider 2nd reading of an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an intergovernmental wastewater capacity and services agreement and a project management agreement for the Pendleton/Clemson Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. – City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented this item was the same as was voted on previously. Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to approve 2nd reading of an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an intergovernmental wastewater capacity and services agreement and a project management

agreement for the Pendleton/Clemson Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider 1st reading of a Freedom of Information Act policy. – City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented and asked for City Council's feedback on the redaction policy and suggestion to publish completed FOIA requests on the website. The new FOIA software has been purchased for around \$5,000 dollars which will come out of the IT department's existing budget. The fees section of the policy was updated to include the recommended "lowest paid qualified employee" state law language. The City Attorney will do redactions that are non-police. The city attorney recommended publishing FOIA requests due to requests for the same information. Herb Tyler, 143 Folger St, made a public comment supporting the use of the state law language. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to approve 1st reading of a Freedom of Information Act policy to include using the FOIA software to publish the completed requests. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider approval of the Parks Master Plan. - PRACT Committee Chairman Bill Caraway presented. The committee is in favor of the plan and asks for City Council's support. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to adopt the Parks Master Plan. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding a contract for the design, fabrication, and installation of the Sincerely, Daniel Exhibit. – CAAAM Director Angela Agard presented. This will be a temporary exhibition at the Calhoun Bridge Center and will include 50 years of black athleticism from 1964-2014 at D.W. Daniel High school. There were 4 bids received and Good Kids MADD City was selected based on their previous curatorial work. Council Member Fulmer asked about funding and noted the project came in under budget. Council Member Watt asked about the timeframe of the project. The installation of the project is planned for late November. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to award a contract for the design, fabrication, and installation of the Sincerely, Daniel Exhibit as presented. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding a preventative maintenance contract for the Chapman Hill Road Bridge. - City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented the item. SCDOT does bridge inspections for the city, and this will address issues found during the inspections. This work does not increase weight capacity for the bridge. There was \$500,000 budgeted for bridge work, and the repair work cost for both bridges was around \$200,000. Cerka is the contractor that would be doing the work. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Smith, to award a preventative maintenance contract for the Chapman Hill Road Bridge as presented. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding repair work on the Old Central Road Bridge. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented this item. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt, to award a contract for repair work on the Old Central Road Bridge as presented. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Andy, Alli, and Mayor Halfacre presented to university executive leadership team and discussed future efforts. They will be continuing monthly meetings. He also has a copy of the MASC Annual report available.

Council Member Brookover: Look into purchasing “20 is Plenty” signs and flashing led speed signs. Also create a schedule to replace existing speed signs. Council Member Ducworth wants Chief Campos’s input.

Executive Session:

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to enter into Executive Session to consider appointments to City Boards and Commissions: Sustainability Commission; Police Advisory Board; and Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture, and Tourism Advisory Committee; 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 Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to appoint Elaine Richardson, Eunice Lehmacher, Cynthia Hekking, Robert Fennell, Reeta Singh, Andrew Evans, Mary Hendrix Jones, and Nancy Spitler to the Sustainability Commission. Cynthia Hekking was appointed to the Master Naturalist position. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to appoint Crystal Garrison to the Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture, and Tourism Advisory Committee. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to appoint Steven Plant and Saniya Elizabeth Burns to the Police Advisory Board. 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 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor