

Regular Council Meeting
July 1st, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 5:00 p.m.

Executive Session: Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to enter into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act; 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 Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to instruct staff to draft an updated FOIA policy to discuss at the next City Council meeting. Vote on this motion was unanimous. (Note Council Member Smith was absent for this vote).

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Halfacre

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

Absent: None

Notification emailed: June 28th 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.

Recognition: Receive a grant award from the Duke Energy Foundation – Trent Acker presented a \$19,000 grant for an emergency message board. This grant will help offset the money allocated in the budget to purchase the message board and allow that money to go towards battery backups for traffic lights for the highway 123 and 133 intersection as well as the highway 123 and highway 76 intersection in the event of a power outage.

Oath of Office: Officer Brandon Couch, Sergeant Presentation: Officer Joshua Hullett

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, spoke about government representation. Herb Tyler, 143 Folger Street, spoke in appreciation for the Juneteenth event. He also thanked staff and council for their work on the speed of the Chapman Hill Bridge repair.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from June 17th, 2024 were approved as presented. Mayor Halfacre abstained since he was not present. Abstention by city code is treated as an opposition vote. Council Member Boatwright made a motion to approve the June 17th, 2024 minutes, seconded by Council Member Fulmer. Council Members Boatwright, Brookover, Ducworth, Fulmer, Smith, and Watt voted in favor of the motion, and Mayor Halfacre opposed. Motion passed 6 to 1 in favor.

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. – Dr. Rhondda Thomas. This item has been postponed until the August 5th meeting.

Discuss a request adding The Shaw Center as an approved non-profit for the digital sign located in the flag plaza at City Hall. – Council Member Fulmer stated there was an event coming up on July 12 at 4pm to dedicate the Unity Fence in Rotary Park. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council

Member Watt, to add The Shaw Center as an approved non-profit for the digital sign located in the flag plaza at City Hall. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Staff Reports:

Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte: The Chapman Hill Road bridge repair was completed Friday. A Public Hearing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant will be held at 5pm on July 15th. Fireworks at Light the Lake is on July 3rd at 9:30p.m. . The last On the Ave Event will be on July 9th.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider 1st 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. – Utilities Director Benjie McGill stated this is required for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to approve 1st 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 an ordinance to amend City Ordinance Section 4-6 Cruelty to Animals. and Section 4-31 Outside shelter requirements for Dogs. – Police Chief Jorge Campos stated the changes add the ability to charge others with knowledge of the abuse as well as the one committing the abuse. It also adds specific language for shelter requirements for dogs. Council Member Smith asked about potential juvenile offenders. This issue would be left up to the officer's discretion. Council Member Watt asked about the punishment for violations. The punishment for violations is no different than other city ordinances. These changes remove a gray area in the ordinance. Council Member Brookover mentioned the police officers have recently completed required training on the topic. If someone makes a report, the police department is obligated to investigate it. Elaine Masceri, 204 Wren Street, spoke in favor of the ordinance. Margaret Thompson, 117 Argon Street, spoke in favor of the ordinance. She thanked Council Member Brookover and Chief Campos for their work on this issue. Chief Campos emphasized working with the owners to gain compliance before charging. Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, mentioned the party registration program, and doing something similar with animals. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve 1st reading of an ordinance to amend City Ordinance Section 4-6 Cruelty to Animals. and Section 4-31 Outside shelter requirements for Dogs. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding the Clemson Area Action Plan development and approval to Stantec in the amount of \$240,000. – Zoning and Codes Administrator Jacob Peabody presented this item. We are the first municipality in the state to be awarded the grant, which is an 80/20 match. We are partnering with the

university to split the 20% match on this so our portion of the grant is for \$24,000. The projected timeline for the project is 18 months. There is another implementation grant that can be applied for after the initial project is completed. The total contract amount for the project is \$240,000. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt, to approve awarding the Clemson Area Action Plan development and approval to Stantec in the amount of \$240,000. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider approving a continuation agreement for transit services between the City of Seneca and the City of Clemson/Clemson Area Transit. – Transit Director Jerry Kerns stated the current contract expired yesterday. This is a continuation of the agreement on a month to month basis while the City of Seneca does an evaluation of the service. Transit Director Kerns was unsure on timeline of the agreement since it involved multiple different parties. The current passenger count of the route is 6,000 per year. The cost of the service is borne by Seneca. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt, to approve a continuation agreement for transit services between the City of Seneca and the City of Clemson/Clemson Area Transit. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Congratulations to Davis Wash Miss Clemson who won the Miss South Carolina Pageant. Thanked Alli, Natalie, and Sarah for their hard work on the Mid-Year report which is now available.

Council Member Smith: Red Hill Reunion Fun Day is Friday 6pm-9pm, and Saturday 2pm-9pm.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor