

Regular Council Meeting
March 18th, 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, Ducworth, Fulmer, Smith and Watt.

Absent: Council Member Brookover

Notification emailed: March 14th to the Greenville News, the Journal, the Independent Mail, the Post and Courier, the Pickens Sentinel, the Easley Progress; WSNW Radio, WYFF Channel 4, WSPA Channel 7 and Fox 21 TV News.

Proclamation: Women's History Month

Recognizing April as Fair Housing Month

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Holly Ulbrecht, 2 Birch Place spoke against the Keowee Trail Project. Eleanor Hare, 202 Crest Circle, spoke about keeping the Abernathy Park boardwalk and public parking. Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, submitted a MYCIVIC comment requesting a sidewalk on Mountain View Lane.

Approval of Minutes: March 4th, 2024 were approved as presented

Reports/Discussion

Staff Reports: City Administrator Andy Blondeau reminded Council about the PCMA meeting tomorrow.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider 1st reading of an amendment to Chapter 2 Article II Division 1 Section 2-30 to provide for language to encourage inclusive representation among boards and commissions – Council Member Smith thanked City Administrator Andy Blondeau and the City Attorney for their work on this. Council discussed the specific language of the ordinance and talked through making changes. Council Member Watt made a motion seconded by Council Member Smith to approve the 1st reading of an amendment to Chapter 2 Article II Division 1 Section 2-30 to provide for language to encourage inclusive representation among boards and commissions. Changes to the proposed text are as follows “For all applicants who otherwise meet all board and commission membership requirements, inclusiveness and representation should also be considered when filling vacant positions.” Vote on this motion was unanimous

Other Policy Action:

Consider a 25 year lease with Clemson University for Dawson Park – City Administrator Andy Blondeau stated that these are normally 5 year leases, but the university does not have any plans for the property. The cost of the lease is \$1 per year. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve a 25 year lease with Clemson University for Dawson Park. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider authorizing CATBUS to apply for LONO funding for 6 CNG buses and a fueling station –Transit Administrator Jerry Kerns said there are two separate grants to apply for but only a maximum of one would be awarded. This would be for 6 CNG buses and a fueling station located at CATBUS headquarters. Total costs would be \$5,560,000 of which \$392,000 would be the grant match cost to the City of Clemson. Clemson University would partner with us and commit to the other \$392,000 grant match cost. Council Member Watt asked about space issues at CATBUS with added buses. Transit Administrator Jerry Kerns said they are looking into adding additional capacity. Three buses from another program will be coming in the next 6 weeks. The 6 CNG buses, if approved, would be on site in 24 months. Council Member Fulmer asked about the range of the CNG. The range would be slightly less than the diesel buses and take around 20 minutes to refuel. Mayor Halfacre thanked transit staff for their hard work on this project. Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to approve authorizing CATBUS to apply for LONO funding for 6 CNG buses and a fueling station. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Watt thanked Stormwater Manager Ethan Barnette for his hard work in the Dellwood Neighborhood and offered to help work on a FEMA grant.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor