

Regular Council Meeting
March 4th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

5:00 p.m. Public Hearing- PUD-000177-2023 (Hub Clemson at Abernathy Park)

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:38 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: Council Member Boatwright left during executive session.

Notification emailed: March 1st 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.

Recognition: 4 State Champion Basketball Teams: 8U Boys, 12U Girls, 14U Boys, 17U Boys.

Former Board and Commission Members

Presentation of Life Saving Award to Amanda Mills

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Eunice Lehmacher spoke about the need for affordable housing and sustainability. Robert Lee discussed car free cities. James Desellier asked for more information about the affordable housing progress.

Approval of Minutes: February 19th, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a presentation of the Clemson Police Department 2023 Annual Report- Police Chief Jorge Campos stated this report is required for accreditation. Some highlights from the report are there were 5,758 vehicle stops resulting in 3,315 citations and a 73% clearance rate from the investigations department. There was an overall decrease in crime from the previous year. The ID scanning pilot rollout has started with 6 business so far on board. There were 2921 scans with 572 returning the ID as fake. Council Member Brookover asked about help with crime victims and the homeless in crisis situations. There are some state funds available to help crime victims. The homeless situation is complicated from a funding perspective. The best practice in this situation, due to issues with city funds, is partnering with a nonprofit or using donated money. Council Member Watt asked about the return on investment for the different technology items. Chief Campos stated that while there is not specific data for that, the Flock cameras were instrumental in solving 2 homicides.

Discuss forming a Sustainability Advisory Commission- Council Member Watt stated that Tony Tidwell was also involved. The committee is planned to consist of members of the public and ex officio members. There was a public comment from Ken Marsh about information that he had from a previous similar committee.

Discuss language to enhance equity and inclusion among boards and commissions- Council Member Smith discussed this item and changes to make before having first reading. Council Member Brookover struggled with the line of city council reserves right to make changes to the membership. Council Member Ducworth gave the Economic Development Advisory Committee as example to include in the decision making process.

Council Member Fulmer said there are already issues with recruiting for boards. Council Member Smith clarified the goal of this change is before the applicant is appointed, not to remove members from existing boards.

Staff Reports

City Administrator Andy Blondeau: Conversations with Council is March 14th at 6:30pm the Fire Station and the Statement of Economic Interest is due by March, 30th at noon.

Policy Action

Other Policy Action:

Consider approving a traffic calming request on Poole Lane- City Engineer Nathan Hinkle stated this is the 2nd Traffic calming request with the new policy. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1,000. Beth Smith spoke in favor of it. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to approve a traffic calming request. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Smith thanked everyone who attended black history luncheon.

Executive Session:

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to enter into Executive Session to consider Appointments to City Boards and Commissions; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) ,receive a legal briefing from City Attorney; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) , and discuss an annexation and economic development matter; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(5). 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 Ducworth to appoint Jennifer Thackston to the vacant remaining term on the planning commission. Vote on this motion was unanimous. There was nothing to report on the remaining two executive session items.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor