

Regular Council Meeting
February 19th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Reverend Cannon

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

Absent: Council Member Ducworth. Mayor Halfacre left to go speak at Clemson University after the PRACT commission annual report agenda item. Council Member Boatwright left after recusing herself for the executive session.

Notification emailed: February 15th 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: Reverend Joe D Grant, Judy Randolph, and Felicia Greenlee for Black History Month.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Tim Dunmeyer spoke about the Keowee Trail project and its impacts.

Approval of Minutes: February 5th, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a report from Robbin Gilbert on the Miss Clemson and Miss Teen Clemson Pageant – Mayor Robert Halfacre attended the event held at Daniel High School and stated they did a fabulous job. Mr. Dale Maddox, the Pageant's Executive Director, spoke about the event and thanked City Council for their support. Miss Tigertown Teen Maddie Hernandez, Miss Clemson Teen Mattie Porter, and Miss Clemson Davis Wash also spoke about their respective community service initiatives.

Receive the Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture, and Tourism Commission Annual Report- PRACT Committee Chairman Bill Carraway spoke that the group has grown now to 10 members. Urban Park and Land Management has completed phase 1 of the Green Crescent Trail. There is a new structure at Dawson Park and a new playground at Nettles Park. The new community programs coordinator Faith Rodriguez was hired. The City of Clemson was the only agency in the state to have hosted 3 state tournaments. There were 2,415 participants in sports programs, 6,420 participants in other programs, and 4,000 participants in tournaments for a total of 12,835 participants served. The Arts Center Pumpkin Palooza event had 100 more people than the previous year. The Pop in the Park event series was also created this year. Program Manager Emily Freelin has been doing a great job with social media marketing. CAAAM hired part time museum assistant Felicia Greenlee. The City of Clemson is the host for the Juneteenth celebration this year. The Sincerely Daniel project is focused on black athletic history at Daniel High School. Tourism Director Lauren Gamrat created the "See You Here" marketing campaign. The Park Master Plan will be updated in late spring. New pickleball courts and a dog park at Nettles Park will begin work this year. Mr. Carraway thanked the staff for their help. Mayor Halfacre thanked Mr. Carraway and staff for their hard work.

Receive the Annual Audit Presentation- Finance Director Leslie Wilder stated that this is a team effort and introduced Grant Davis CPA with Mauldin Jenkins. It is an unmodified report, which is a clean audit. There were no past audit adjustments. Total assets of \$132 million vs total liabilities of \$52 million result in a net position of \$80 million dollars. A substantial portion of this is capital assets of \$56 million. Revenues were \$45 million and expenses were \$30 million, resulting in a change of net position of \$15 million. Mr. Davis thanked Leslie and her team for their hard work on getting a 130 page document ready.

Present the budget variances for the Fiscal Year 2023 audited financial statements- Finance Director Leslie Wilder discussed the variances. Individual departments may have been over budget, but overall the city was under budget. The city had more revenue than projected, and less in expenses than projected.

Discuss an ordinance to amend Article 2, Division 2, Section 2-41 of the City Code regarding public hearings-Council Member Boatwright stated recently the city has been having a lot of public hearings. The language is currently not clear. The goal of the changes is that whoever is presenting the agenda item has 20 minutes for their presentation. Council Member Fulmer stated he had no problem with 20 minutes, but doesn't want to limit public comments. Council Member Brookover wants to use initial time for information. Council Member Watt was also in favor of the 20 minutes for presentations. The City Attorney advised to not limit one side or the other.

Staff Reports:

Municipal Clerk Jeremiah Jackson discussed the State of Clemson, and PCMA events.

Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte Discussed that the City is partnering with Clemson University for the Inaugural Clemson Music Fest. The only city money that would be used for the event would be specialized marketing funds that would come from Accommodations Tax funds. The event will have food trucks, art, and be family friendly. All the money from the event goes to the promoters and none to Clemson University or the City of Clemson.

Council Member Fulmer Scheduled a Council Work Session for February 28th at noon for the Keowee Trail project.

Policy Action

Ordinances: None

Other Policy Action:

Consider a mutual aid agreement with the North Myrtle Beach Police Department- Police Chief Jorge Campos stated all costs would be reimbursed to the city. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to approve a mutual aid agreement with the North Myrtle Beach Police Department. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider increasing the City's Duke Energy Overhead to Underground Program Stipend-Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte stated she is recommending to increase the amount to \$1,500 each for both

the City and Duke Energy. If approved there will be a new form created and a letter sent letter to Duke Energy requesting the change go into effect March 1st. Council Member Watt filed a recusal form for this item. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve increasing the City's Duke Energy Overhead to Underground Program Stipend. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider the addition of Columbus Day and Veterans Day to the City's Holiday Policy- Human Resources Director Tracy Taylor stated she recommended adding Columbus Day and Veterans Day to the City's Holiday Policy. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve the addition of Columbus Day and Veterans Day to the City's Holiday Policy. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider authorizing the City Engineer to negotiate a contract with Hogan Construction for design, demolition, and construction of the new downtown police substation- Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented the item. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to authorize the City Engineer to negotiate a contract with Hogan Construction for design, demolition, and construction of the new downtown police substation. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider authorizing the City Engineer to negotiate a contract with Seamon Whiteside for streetscape improvements to College Avenue between Hwy 93 and N. Clemson Ave- Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented the item. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to authorize the City Engineer to negotiate a contract with Seamon Whiteside for streetscape improvements to College Avenue between Hwy 93 and N. Clemson Ave. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Brookover thanked Sarah on behalf of Mayor Halfacre for her work on the Community Connection.

Council Member Smith registered everyone that could go for the Black History Luncheon.

Executive Session:

Council Member Watt 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. Vote on this motion was unanimous. Council Member Boatwright filed a recusal form for this item. After discussion, a 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 Watt to appoint Denise Rodgers to the Lodging position, Robert Congdon, and Chris Fuller to the

Hospitality positions, and reappoint Ethel Pettigrew and Bill Harley to the At-Large positions for the Accommodations Tax Committee.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor