

Regular Council Meeting
February 5th, 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 6:42 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Robert Halfacre

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

Absent: None

Notification emailed: February 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.

Proclamation: Mia Tensley and Dr. Kenneth Robinson

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – Peter Hyatt spoke in favor of the potential amphitheater at the Keowee Trail project. Bob Healey spoke about delivery trucks blocking College Ave near the Bixby development and potentially creating a no stopping sign. Ric Ware spoke about the Keowee Trail project and determining costs for the amphitheater and dredging. Robert Lee discussed diversity. MyCivic comment Julie Morgan-Ryan in opposition of the Keowee Trail project.

Approval of Minutes: January 10th, 2024 (Special Called), January 11th, 2024 (Special Called), January 16th, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Discuss the addition of Columbus Day and Veterans Day to the City's Holiday Policy -Human Resources Director Tracy Taylor spoke about the classification and compensation study along with the benefits study. The study found that we had 2 less holidays than other peer jurisdictions. Council Member Ducworth asked about our current holiday schedule vs the federal holiday schedule. This change will give the City 12 holidays versus the federal holiday schedule having 11.

Discuss a public hearing date for RZNE-000206-2023- Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods spoke that the developer would like to withdrawal the request due to issues that popped up during due diligence testing. The developer will look at other potential alternate sites in town.

Discuss increasing the City's Duke Energy Overhead to Underground program stipend- Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte stated there were 81 total submissions. The program currently has Duke Energy and the City each paying \$750 per project. Changing the amount to \$1500 each for both parties is recommended. If the City does not spend the money on the program, it rolls off after 3 years. Duke Energy representative Trent Acker spoke in favor of the increase. Council Member Boatwright asked about notifying previous applicants that did not move forward about the program change. Council Member Ducworth

discussed that we can also use the money for commercial projects as well. Council Member Brookover asked about doing other service lines as well such as telephone or internet lines at the same time. Mr. Acker said they are expressly prohibited from doing so.

Staff Reports:

Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte discussed the Budget Retreat. Conversations with Council is February 8th at 6:30 at Abel Baptist Church in Clemson.

Municipal Clerk Jeremiah Jackson reminded City Council to complete their Statement of Economic Interest and also discussed their upcoming travel for training.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider 1st reading of an amendment to the board and commission enacting ordinances to enhance equity and inclusion- Council Member Smith. This item was tabled.

Other Policy Action:

Consider a Resolution Committing the city to providing a Local match for the Abel Community Sidewalk and Safety Enhancement Project in the amount of \$270,364.00- Deputy City Administrator Allison Gantte stated this is clerical paperwork required for us to receive the grant. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Smith to approve a Resolution committing the city to providing a Local match for the Abel Community Sidewalk and Safety Enhancement Project in the amount of \$270,364.00. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Authorize the City Engineer to enter into negotiations with Pond & Company for the design of the Nettles Scenic Bikeway- City Engineer Nathan Hinkle stated that they received 6 proposals, and interviewed 3 firms. The selection committee recommended Pond & Company. Council Member Fulmer asked to confirm that this is essentially the Green Crescent Trail. The sections are named to help to differentiate them for logistics. Council Member Watt asked about start time for the project. Mr. Hinkle suggested it would be an 18 month buildout. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to authorize the City Engineer to enter into negotiations with Pond & Company for the design of the Nettles Scenic Bikeway. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre thanked Alli Gantte and Natalie Hinson for their work on the City's year in review flyer.

Council Member Smith reminded everyone about the Black History Month Luncheon on February 29th at 11 am at Littlejohn Community Center. Capacity is limited to 150 people so please RSVP.

Council Member Brookover reminded Council when dealing with consultants to be aware of the scope of the project, follow protocols, and push requests to staff.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor