

Regular Council Meeting
January 16th, 2024
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 5:03 p.m.

Executive Session:

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Brookover to enter into Executive Session to SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(1). 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, there was nothing to report.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Fulmer

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

Absent: Council Member Watt was absent for the executive session, but present for the Regular Meeting.

Notification emailed: January 12th 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.

Oath of Office: Swearing in of Officer Felipe Cajeme

Proclamation: Clemson University National Champion Men's Soccer Team

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – MyCivic Comment from Stephanie Platt asking to please distribute city ordinances to landlords and apartment complexes so that tenants can be aware of them. City Administrator Andy Blondeau stated it will be posted on Conversations with Council Report card on how we make people aware.

Approval of Minutes: January 2nd, 2024 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Discuss the nomination process for black history month honorees – Council Member Smith discussed sending a link out so people from the community can be nominated. Mayor Halfacre discussed sending out a list of recent past recipients to Council.

Consider amending the Board and Commission membership requirements to include inclusive and representative language – Council Member Smith will work on ordinances for boards and commissions with City Administrator Blondeau. Council Member Ducworth mentioned the importance of the accountability of Council Members to help recruit members for boards and commissions. Council Member Watt discussed changing the application process so that people can apply for more than one board or commission. Mayor Halfacre discussed using a top 3 list for preferences and checking a box for all the boards and commissions they are interested in serving on. City Administrator Blondeau will begin overhauling all board and commission ordinances and bringing them back one by one for Council to review.

Report on Tourism marketing and the business passport program – Tourism and Community Events Coordinator Lauren Gamrat presented her report. She discussed the physical shopping passport soft launch.

The program ran from December 1st to January 12th, had wonderful feedback, and she is definitely going to run it again next year. She also obtained SCPRT Grant funding for billboards that will run January to June in Commerce, GA; Dillard, GA; and Clearwater, SC. A digital billboard was purchased on Highway 76 that will also run January to June to promote events. She has also worked on the Upcountry South Carolina Visitors guide and the 2024 Visit Clemson Visitors Guide in partnership with the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce. Brian Lee Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce President presented about rowing. He said there are currently 18 colleges with 31 team's total. The 1st team will be here the 3rd week in February. Twelve Mile Park will be closed February 7th to March 31st for the rowing teams.

Staff Reports: City Engineer Nathan Hinkle gave an update on the DOT Quarterly meeting. He reported that City logos can now be placed on the pedestrian bridges. The signal pods on Highway 123 are now live for adaptive signaling. Old Cherry Rd and Highway 133 will both be repaired and repaved this summer. Municipal Clerk Jeremiah Jackson reminded Council of upcoming dates for PCMA on January 30th, HLAD on February 6th, and the ITGA Conference June 5th-7th.

Policy Action**Ordinances:**

Consider approving the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 7 Finance - Sec. 5 Budgeting – Finance Director Leslie Wilder stated that there have been no changes since first reading. Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 7 Finance -Sec. 5 Budgeting. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approving the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 18 Traffic - Sec. 17 Violations; Sec. 18 Penalties for failure to comply with a traffic citation; Sec. 34 Metered and Leased Parking- Community and Economic Development Coordinator Lindsey Newton stated that there have been no changes since first reading. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 18 Traffic -Sec. 17 Violations; Sec. 18 Penalties for failure to comply with a traffic citation; Sec. 34 Metered and Leased Parking. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider a sponsorship request from Wreaths Across America- City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented the request. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve a sponsorship request in the amount of \$1,020. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider an amendment to the May 5th, 2023 LINK Strategic Partners Professional Services Contract- Mayor Halfacre recommended to delay this until after an upcoming zoom call with LINK. Council Members Brookover, Smith, and Watt volunteered to be on the zoom call.

Authorize the City Engineer to apply for the South Carolina Recreational Trail Program (SCRTP) Grant: and, commit to a minimum match of \$25,000.00 for the SCRTP Grant – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle stated this trail would be behind the baseball field at Ashley Dearing Park. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to authorize the City Engineer to apply for the South Carolina Recreational Trail Program (SCRTP) Grant and, commit to a minimum match of \$25,000.00 for the SCRTP Grant. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Authorize Chief Campos to sign an agreement with the Phoenix Center for funding of the Fake ID Pilot Program- Chief Jorge Campos stated the money has to be spent in this fiscal year. The sub recipient of grant will be Amanda Davis with the Phoenix Center, and the City of Clemson would fall under that. This grant came from Covid supplement funds through the SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. If approved the grant would fund the project through June. Fifteen establishments will be a part of the pilot project. Council Member Smith asked about the requirements for the grant. Mrs. Davis stated they would need data sharing from the project. The retailers will also have to do retail training that lasts 4 hours, but the cost is free. Council Member Brookover made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to authorize Chief Campos to sign an agreement with the Phoenix Center for funding of the Fake ID Pilot Program. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor reinforced attendance to PCMA if at all possible. He also thanked Sarah for flyers and said he has gotten good feedback.

Council Member Fulmer stated that 78 pickets were painted at the event on the January 6th. There are still 75 pickets to go.

Council Member Smith mentioned the \$750,000 CBDG grant for neighborhood improvements in the Abel community.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor