

Regular Council Meeting
January 2nd, 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, Brookover, Ducworth, Fulmer, Smith and Watt.

Media present: None

Notification emailed: December 29th 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.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Alesia Smith presiding – There was a MyCivic comment from Nanda Edgerton discussing parking and delivery trucks. Robert Lee discussed the pedestrian overpass as a potential art project. Mary Nester was concerned about downtown parking and also eliminating Abernathy Park parking.

Approval of Minutes: December 18th 2023 minutes were approved as presented. Mayor abstained since he was not present. Abstention by city code is treated as an opposition vote. Council Member Brookover made a motion to approve the December 18th 2023 minutes, seconded by Council Member Watt. Council Members Boatwright, Brookover, Ducworth, Fulmer, Smith, and Watt voted in favor of the motion, and Mayor Halfacre opposed. Motion passed 6 to 1 in favor.

Reports/Discussion

Consider a sponsorship request for Wreaths Across America – Ann Warmath and Melody Jones presented that tier chapters cover 11 cemeteries in the area totaling 1,018 veterans. They gave an official certificate of appreciation for the city's support in 2023. There was a price increase for the wreaths from \$15 to \$17 for the first time since 1992. There is a projected need of 1,050 wreaths for this year. The donation from the City of Clemson for 2023 was \$740 and provided 110 wreaths due to the matching program. The request for this year is \$850 which would provide 125 wreaths. This request will go to the sponsorship committee of Council Members Boatwright and Brookover.

Consider amending the Board and Commission membership requirements to include inclusive and representative language – Council Member Smith presented potential changes to add inclusive language and provide City Council flexibility in appointing members to encourage diversity. Council Member Brookover stressed the importance of recruiting for boards and commissions to be representative. Council Member Watt discussed increasing the number of board members with the population growth in the area. Council Member Ducworth mentioned the current challenge of filling some boards as they are now.

Staff Reports:

Mayor welcomed the new City Attorney Michael Kozlarek.

The SCDOT Quarterly Meeting is January 11th. The new real time traffic system is operating but has some communication issues.

The Strawberry Lane ARPA project meeting is January 4th at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers

The Skate Park Firm of Spohn Ranch has a drop in meeting on January 11th from 6pm to 8pm at the Methodist Church

Conversations with Council is on the 11th at 6:30pm at the Fire Station

A Special Called Meeting at noon was scheduled for January 11th.

Council Member Ducworth discussed taking ownership of state roads.

Policy Action

Ordinances:

Consider approving the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 7 Finance -Sec. 5 Budgeting – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented and there were no comments. Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Watt to approve the 1st reading of an Ordinance to amend the City Code Chapter 7 Finance -Sec. 5 Budgeting. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approving the 1st 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 presented that she did the minimum amount of changes as to not have a domino effect on other ordinances. The football parking section was eliminated. There are twenty 24/7 parking spaces in the Keith Street parking deck specifically mentioned that are for the residents of the connected condo complex. Changing parking fees in the future would be able to be done in the budget. There are 37 sections currently in the traffic chapter. Council Member Watt made a motion, seconded by Council Member Smith to approve the 1st 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 approving the purchase of new body worn cameras and online storage with Axon– Police Chief Jorge Campos stated there were no changes since the last meeting other than a price increase since it was a new calendar year. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Brookover to approve the purchase of new body worn cameras and online storage with Axon. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider an amendment to the May 5th, 2023 LINK Strategic Partners Professional Services Contract- City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented the proposed changes. LINK received a much greater response than anticipated. City Administrator Blondeau will be meeting with them next week. Council Member Brookover has some concerns with a 40% contract increase after some of the work was already done.

Council Member Boatwright wants the final product to be ready to implement. Council Member Watt stated that there were more issues than initially anticipated, as well as more participation. Council Member Ducworth stated there is blame on both parties. Council Member Brookover wants clarity on what we currently owe vs what is projected. Council Member Smith commented on the lack of clear communication on both sides.

Public Comment: Robert Lee spoke that he was confused on some of the terminology and felt alienated. No vote was held.

Consider approving the revision of the Pendleton Clemson Wastewater Treatment Plant Interjurisdictional Agreement that is needed for SCIIP funding requirements– Utilities Director Benjie McGill presented the change of removing section 4 so that all 3 agreements match, and we can meet the funding requirements. Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to approve the revision of the Pendleton Clemson Wastewater Treatment Plant Interjurisdictional Agreement that is needed for SCIIP funding requirements. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor- Council reports/comments/new business

Council Member Fulmer Picket Painting on January 6th of 250 pickets, 100 have been painted. He also stated the CAAAM art exhibit was excellent.

Council Member Watt discussed how the city communicates with the public mail, email, etc. Susan Sharp with the Greater Clemson Community Foundation has a new certificate program for nonprofits.

Council Member Ducworth asked about the Old Stone Church and Cherry Road intersection. It is currently waiting on AT&T to move a cable to move forward with construction.

Council Member Boatwright has been going to yoga at the Central Clemson Recreation Center. There is a free drop in class at 8:30 am on Thursday mornings.

Executive Session:

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Brookover to enter into Executive Session to discuss board and commission appointments. 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.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: _____

G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor