

Regular Council Meeting
February 17th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:33 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Sherrill

Members present: Mayor Halfacre presiding, Council Members Boatwright, Fulmer, Evans, Jones, Sherrill, and Smith.

Absent: None

Notification emailed: February 13th, 2025 to the Greenville News, the Journal, the Independent Mail, the Post and Courier, the Pickens Sentinel, the Easley Progress; WSNW Radio, WYFF, WSPA, and Fox Carolina.

Proclamations: Black History Month Honoree Sabrina Greenlee

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Boatwright presiding. Rose Buller, 329 Grange Valley Lane, commented about the condition of Chapman Hill Road and guardrails along the bridge. Richard Pruett, 126 Ridgeline Row, also commented about the Chapman Hill bridge issue.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 3rd, 2025 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive the 2024 Police Department Annual Report. – Police Chief Jorge Campos presented the report. He highlighted the fake ID alcohol scanning program that was launched last year. Drug reports are projected to go up with the hiring of a new detective. There were 0 homicides last year. Thefts from vehicles were down significantly. There were 9,791 traffic stops with 4,730 tickets in the last year as well as 58,855 calls for service. Mayor Halfacre thanked Chief Campos and his staff for their hard work.

Discuss possible amendments to Article II Sec 2-44 (c) regarding public comments at meetings. – Mayor Halfacre presented that he had received numerous inquiries about the public comment period. He listed the policies of peer jurisdictions including, Central, Charleston, Columbia, and Easley that were sent out for review. Mayor Halfacre also mentioned the MyCivic online comments. Council Member Smith discussed continuing the MyCivic online comments but having those that are present come to the podium to read them. Council Member Fulmer was in favor of not allowing someone to donate their time or speak on behalf of others. Council Member Smith discussed responding at the end of public session. Council Member Evans liked the opportunity for presiding officer to respond. There was consensus around the current allotment of 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes total for public session. Staff will work on updating the policy for the next meeting.

Schedule a Public Hearing date for a proposed rezoning for an affordable housing project. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods requested a public hearing on this matter for 3/17 at 5:30 pm. Nathan gave a list of the basic rezoning process steps: 1. Staff receives an application and fees. 2. Staff posts signs on

the property and places the request on the planning commission agenda. 3. Planning Commission reviews the request and makes a recommendation to City Council. 4. City Council schedules a public hearing and staff publishes an ad in the newspaper, posts hearing notice signs on the property, and mails notices to owners of properties within 200' feet of the property. 5. Following the public hearing, City Council considers rezoning and votes on an ordinance to amend the zoning map. If approved, the zoning map is updated. The time crunch in this particular situation is due to federal funding deadlines in May.

Staff Reports:

City Administrator Andy Blondeau: The PCMA February meeting has been canceled. Statements of Economic Interest are due 3/30.

Policy Action

Consider Second Reading of an amendment to 2024-R-05(Vesting Non-Conformities). – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods stated there are no changes since the last meeting. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Sherrill, to approve second reading of a text amendment to 2024-R-05 (Vesting Non-Conformities). Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider First Reading of an amendment to the City's FOIA policy. – City Clerk Jeremiah Jackson explained the changes of removing the online requirement for law enforcement records, removing the cd/dvd line item since it is no longer used, and removing language regarding public computer access. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve first reading of an amendment to the City's FOIA policy. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Consider a resolution to adopt a capital asset policy for the City of Clemson. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented about the resolution. She detailed the process moving from the previous ordinances that were recently passed to this policy. Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve a resolution to adopt a capital asset policy for the City of Clemson. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider awarding a bid for phase 1 of the Clemson Park project to New Terrain Grading for \$377,422.79. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle discussed this is in preparation for the skate park and phase one of the project. Construction will start immediately, with skate park construction beginning in March. The pump track and Green Crescent Trail will be open during construction. This bid was split to separate the building from the grading work for consistency on the bids. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to award a bid for phase 1 of the Clemson Park project to New Terrain Grading for \$377,422.79. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approving the installation of traffic calming measures on Ashley Rd. at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle stated this is the second request since the new policy has been in place and the first to meet the requirements. The public meeting had over 50 attendees. He proposed 2 areas of speed cushions and repainting the stop bars at the stop signs. If issues continue, the last option would be to create a three way stop at Ashley Road and Shaftsbury Road. Council Member Evans asked about the process. It was explained that residents fill out a form, then the city holds a public meeting asking for input. Council Member Boatwright also asked about the cables on roads around town. These are setup by SCDOT for traffic counts. A majority of residents were in favor of this approach. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve the installation of traffic calming measures on Ashley Road at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider authorizing the Mayor to send a letter of support for House bill (H3292) allowing municipalities to adopt ordinances for night use of golf carts. – Police Chief Jorge Campos explained that this request came from the Police Advisory Board. Several residents have requested to use their golf carts at night, which is currently only allowed on barrier islands. Council Member Boatwright had safety concerns. Council Member Evans was concerned with the implication of the letter of support. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for House bill (H3292) allowing municipalities to adopt ordinances for night use of golf carts. Council Members Fulmer, Jones, and Mayor Halfacre in support. Council Members Boatwright, Evans, Sherrill, and Smith in opposition. The motion fails 3 to 4.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Thanked Sarah for hard work on Community Connection and highlighted frequently needed items for victims services.

Council Member Smith: The Black History Month Luncheon is 2/27 at Littlejohn Community Center from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Council Member Fulmer: Shout out to the Public Works department, Cody, and Tony for help with the trees that fell in the Lutheran Church parking lot.

Executive Session

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to enter into Executive Session for Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim and/or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, and/or settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim (SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2)). i. Civil Action #2025CP3900042. Also invited into this executive session was former Council Member John Ducworth.

After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and return to open session.

Following this executive session there was nothing to report.

Council Member Jones made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to enter into Executive Session for Receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim and/or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, and/or settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim (SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2)). i. Civil Action#2022CP3900034 ii. Civil Action #2024CP390090. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and/or proposed sale or purchase of property (SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(2))i. Recreational Property. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and return to open session.

Following Executive Session, Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to instruct the City Administrator to engage in discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor