

Regular Council Meeting
March 3rd, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Public Comment Subcommittee: 6:03 PM Council Members Boatwright, Fulmer, and Jones.

Council Member Boatwright gave some background on the issue. Council Member Jones noted that the City currently has only an informal policy regarding Council Members not responding during public session and asked City Administrator Andy Blondeau for clarification. Administrator Blondeau noted the intent behind this was to focus on allowing the public to speak, but Council Members are allowed to speak if they choose to do so. Council Member Fulmer read off a proposed list of rules including keeping the 30 minute time limit, but not allowing donation of time, speaking on behalf of others, or reading MyCivic comments for those that are present. Council Member Jones brought up consolidation of those speaking on the same topic, allowing the presiding officer to speak after every comment, only discussing issues under the jurisdiction of the City, addressing all comments to City Council as a whole, and not using public comment periods to promote candidates or businesses. Also discussed was having the public intending to comment sign in the night of the meeting beginning 30 minutes before. Those not signed in beforehand will still be allowed to comment once the initial sign is completed if there is time remaining. This will be a discussion item at the meeting on 3/17.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Fulmer

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

Absent: None

Notification emailed: February 27th, 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.

Oath of Office: Sergeant Maritzabel Reyes

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Boatwright presiding. MyCivic comment from Kathy Pruett, 126 Ridgeline Row, regarding extending the guardrail for the bridge on Chapman Hill Road. MyCivic comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, regarding a City dress code and speed limit signs.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from February 17th, 2025 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Discuss a mutual aid and law enforcement support agreement between the City of North Myrtle Beach and the Clemson Police Department. – Police Chief Jorge Campos stated the City of North Myrtle Beach will pay

for all lodging and food costs associated, and the agreement is only for the weekend of the busy bike week. Council Member Jones asked about a reciprocal agreement. For Home Football games Clemson University makes all arrangements for the extra officers. Council Member Sherrill asked about the total number of officers for home football games, and Chief Campos estimated 300 officers in support of the games.

Staff Reports:

City Clerk Jeremiah Jackson: Reminder that statement of economic interest is due 3/30.

Policy Action

Consider Second Reading of an amendment to the City's FOIA policy. – City Clerk Jeremiah Jackson presented that there have been no changes since last reading. Council Member Boatwright wanted to clarify that this removes a reading room for the public, as they are currently posted on the City's website. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve second reading of an amendment to the City's FOIA policy. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action:

Request council's approval to declare the 2012 Sutphen fire truck as surplus with the proceeds being used to offset the cost of the new 2025 Sutphen fire truck. –Finance Director Leslie Wilder stated that this was necessary for Council to approve so the funds could be used towards the new fire truck. City Administrator Andy Blondeau stated this is according to plan and estimated \$350,000 in return for the sale. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve declaring the 2012 Sutphen fire truck as surplus with the proceeds being used to offset the cost of the new 2025 Sutphen fire truck. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Request for a budget amendment to purchase the 2025 Sutphen fire truck. –Finance Director Leslie Wilder stated this line item was unintentionally not listed during the 2025 budget process, but the funds are there. There will be some use of fund balance to make up any difference in the purchase price. City Council approved this purchase in 2023. This fire truck will be both a ladder and pumper truck combined. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve a budget amendment to purchase the 2025 Sutphen fire truck. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Authorize the City Engineer to enter into negotiations with MKSK for the re-design of Abernathy Park. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle stated we went through our procurement process and six firms responded. Three firms were interviewed. Council Member Jones asked for the current budget for the Abernathy Park renovations, and City Administrator Andy Blondeau stated \$5.6 million is currently budgeted for the Abernathy Park rebuild. MKSK have a landscape architect, architect, and an engineering team that is located in Greenville. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to authorize the

City Engineer to enter into negotiations with MKSK for the re-design of Abernathy Park. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Authorize the City Engineer to enter into negotiations with Weston & Sampson for the development of a city engineering design manual. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle presented that 2 bid responses were received. The goal of the design manual is to be beneficial for both the City and to give developers uniform detailed standards. Council Member Evans asked if we have a current manual. City Engineer Nathan Hinkle replied that it is currently more internal, and mainly references SCDOT standards. Council Member Jones was in favor, noting that it is helpful as a contractor. Council Member Jones made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to authorize the City Engineer to enter into negotiations with Weston & Sampson for the development of a city engineering design manual. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider allowing the Shorecrest Neighborhood to replace a neighborhood entrance sign on public property. – City Engineer Nathan Hinkle explained the sign will go in the right of way near the intersection of Shorecrest Drive and Sloan Street on City property. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer to allow the Shorecrest Neighborhood to replace a neighborhood entrance sign on public property. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Thanked Nathan Hinkle and team for the Regional Transportation Plan meeting. Thanked staff for their work on the Conversations with Council report card. Clemson 8 is this Saturday. There is an Eagle Scout project at 12 mile park this Saturday. The Green Crescent Trail posted about Berkeley Drive.

Council Member Smith: Thanked everyone for attending the Black History Month Luncheon. The Sincerely Daniel exhibit is wonderful and please go by. Also a huge shout out to Lindsey Newton for her help with both events.

Council Member Fulmer: City Council needs to review and revamp the purpose of EDAC. He suggested a small group of Council Member Sherrill, Nathan Woods, and himself to work on it.

Council Member Boatwright: Spring sports sign ups have started.

Council Member Sherrill: Asked about marketing for Sincerely, Daniel to current athletes.

Executive Session

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to enter into Executive Session to Consider Appointments to City Boards and Commissions: Building and Fire Board of Appeals; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1). Also 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 #2024CP390090. 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.

Council Member Sherrill made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright to appoint Tanner Fitzwater and Cecil Huey both to 4 year terms on the Building and Fire Board of Appeals. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Following executive session there was nothing to report regarding the legal matter.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor