

Regular Council Meeting
April 7th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Public Hearing 5:30 PM: Discuss the proposed City Ordinance to regulate the use of golf carts in the City.

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:35 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Smith

Proclamations: Child Abuse Prevention Month, Crime Victims' Rights Week, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Members present: Mayor Halfacre presiding, Council Members Boatwright, Fulmer, Evans, Jones, and Sherrill. Council Member Smith arrived at 5:38 pm.

Absent: None

Notification emailed: April 3rd, 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.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Boatwright presiding. Comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, regarding the discontinuation of Conversations with Council. Comment from Joanna Schuman, 107 Wescott Drive, regarding appointing a poet laureate for the City of Clemson.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting March 17th, 2025 approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Listen to a presentation on Clemson Homelessness. – Police Chief Jorge Campos and Clemson Community Care Executive Director Karen Carter both presented. Around 10 homeless people are in the City year round. and various amounts of transient homeless people who move through Clemson throughout the year. The closest homeless shelter is in Seneca with intake only on Wednesday. One of the biggest homeless needs are a place to bathe and use the bathroom. The City of Easley and the City of Pickens also have resources, but the issue with those locations is the lack of public transportation there. Law enforcement cannot make homeless individuals go anywhere unless they go voluntarily. Chief Campos used an example of “if you build it, they will come,” for issues that come with adding resources. Pickens County School District has a special department to help students experiencing homelessness. Chief Campos also suggested supporting other local non-profits that help the homeless as an alternative.

Update of the current status for going live with on-street metered parking. – Parking Manager Rebekah Wilbanks presented that the current goal is to go live on May 5th with on street metered parking. The current rate is \$1.50 per session with the first 30 minutes free and a limit of two hours. The marketing plan is to pass out flyers to downtown businesses, inform downtown business owners at a merchants meeting, use social media, and use television interviews to help inform the public. The first week will be warnings only, with enforcement for tickets the next week based on warning volume. Council Member Fulmer mentioned posting flyers in the windows of downtown businesses.

Discuss the addition of the Lawrence Road (One Clemson) property to the Parks Master Plan. – Parks and Recreation Director Jay Bennett presented that 3 places would need to be added in the current Parks Master Plan. Council Member Boatwright highlighted that this is part of the planned development agreement. The area is currently only grass until Parks and Recreation decides on its best future use.

Request a Public Hearing Date for 2024-R-04 proposed text amendment (Bonding Commercial in Mixed-Use). – Zoning and Codes Administrator Jacob Peabody presented that this proposal is reflective of feedback from citizens and council members to help fill vacant retail space. The current statistics for vacant retail is 9% in the City, compared to the national average of 15%. The public hearing on this issue was scheduled for 5:30 pm on May 5th.

Staff Reports: City Administrator Andy Blondeau: Clemson Music Festival is this weekend. The first meeting in June needs to move from June 2nd to June 9th due to quorum issues.

City Clerk Jeremiah Jackson: PCMA on 4/22 in Central. The Police Advisory Board opening for a high school student closes next Wednesday.

Policy Action

Consider 1st Reading of an amendment to Chapter 2-44 (c) regarding public comments at meetings. – Council Member Boatwright presented that this amendment is reflective of feedback from the last meeting. Council Members have had limited feedback from the public since the last meeting. Comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, regarding Council Members ability to respond to members of the public during the public comment period. Council Member Jones suggested getting answers on issues brought up during public comment and posting the answers on the City website. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve 1st reading of an amendment to Chapter 2-44 (c) regarding public comments at meetings. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider 1st Reading of proposed map amendment (rezoning) RZNE-000406-2025 Hwy 93 Parcels. – Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented an update that addressed the concern of students living there was unfounded due to strict eligibility requirements of the residents. Council Member Boatwright made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve 1st reading of a proposed map amendment (rezoning) RZNE-000406-2025 Hwy 93 Parcels. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: The Clemson Chamber has a new resource guide. He also complimented the work on the new website.

Council Member Boatwright: Complimented the beautiful new website and thanked staff including Sarah Wickham and Bree Sanders for their hard work.

Council Member Fulmer: An update on redefining the mission of EDAC is expected this summer.

Executive Session

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Boatwright, to enter into Executive Session for 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. 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 i. Civil Action #2024CP3900901, ii. Civil Action #2025CP3900042.

After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and return to 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 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor