

Regular Council Meeting
May 5th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Public Hearing 5:30 PM: 2024-R-04 Proposed Text Amendment (Bonding Commercial in Mixed-Use)

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:11 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Sherrill

Proclamations: Peace Officers Memorial Day and Clemson Police Week, Professional Municipal Clerks Week

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

Absent: Council Member Boatwright

Notification emailed: May 1st, 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 Halfacre presiding. Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, commented on Pendleton Youth Sports. Brandon Cruz, 217 Camelot Road, commented on the Clemson Paddle Jam event at 12 Mile Park to be held the last weekend in May.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting April 21st, 2025 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a report on the Quick Response Vehicle's first month of operations. - City Administrator Andy Blondeau introduced Clemson University Fire Chief Cramer. Chief Cramer thanked the City for their support with the new vehicles and also announced his retirement effective July 1st. Lt. Jim Thackston gave a report on the operations of the QRV. Since March 10th, there have been 247 calls. Numerous times the QRV was first on the scene. The QRV is staffed with a licensed paramedic, but it is not an ambulance and cannot transport victims to the hospital. The vehicle is equipped with a cardiac monitor, cardiac drugs, traumatic injury drugs, bleeding control, splinting, and an ultrasound machine. It also has a command unit in the back to coordinate during large incidents. The vehicle will be based out of Fire Station 2.

Receive a report from Daniel High School Student and Police Advisory Board member Ava Ross regarding her study on the cognitive dissonance between political views and personal values. - City Administrator Andy Blondeau introduced 11th grade Daniel High School student Ava Ross, who completed this project for her AP research class. Her research question was "Does bipartisan compromise exist within Democrats and Republicans in Clemson, SC, and how could these commonalities lead to a reduction in partisan polarization?". She encouraged everyone to work in a bipartisan manner. There were 97 total respondents in 3 days for the survey. Mayor Halfacre thanked her for her presentation.

Receive a report on the City of Clemson Arts Center Artist Grants. - Arts Center Director Joan Rossini presented the history of the artist grants program. The two fall grant recipients were Evelyn Beck and Hope

Maier, who received \$500 each. Evelyn Beck focused on 6 fiber art pieces highlighting female athletes. Evelyn spent her grant money on art supplies for the fiber art pieces. Hope Maier focused her grant on a new medium of acrylic wash board. She spent the grant money on an art kit by the French painter Sibylline and has completed 1 piece so far, but she has 3 more planned focusing on the natural world in the upstate.

Discuss proposed proclamation guidelines. - City Administrator Andy Blondeau gave the history of the proclamation issue. The guidelines would help ensure that there is enough time to complete each proclamation and that it falls in line with the city's values. Mayor Halfacre suggested continuing existing ones that have already been approved every year.

Discuss amending the existing easement with the USACE for upgrades to Pump Station 7 and the associated sewer trunk line. - Utilities Director Benjie McGill presented the history of the easement beginning in 1980. The amendment would extend the space to align with existing fencing, move 1 manhole, and allow a temporary space for the construction. The easement will be ready for approval at the next meeting to meet USDA funding.

Staff Reports: City Administrator Andy Blondeau: On May 12th there is a joint budget work session meeting with the Town of Central at 5:30pm at Central Town Hall for the CCRC budget. A special called budget meeting was set for May 19th at 4pm to discuss Enterprise funds. The On the Ave event series starts on May 13th. Andy, Alli and Bree met to discuss the internal communication plan and implemented a suggestion by Council Member Sherrill tonight to have a PowerPoint presentation (created by Sarah) to help present the agenda items.

Municipal Clerk Jeremiah Jackson: Presented about the Annual Shred Day held Saturday at CATbus. We collected \$3,075 and 627lbs of food for Clemson Community Care. There were 10,560 lbs. of paper shredded. When compared to last year's numbers, we had almost double the amount of money raised due to the generosity of the local community.

Policy Action

Consider 1st reading of a proposed ordinance change to match the definition of "Occupant" in Section 13-55 of our Rental Housing Regulations to the definition found in section 19-107 of the City's Zoning Code. - Zoning and Codes Administrator Jacob Peabody presented the item. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve 1st reading of a proposed ordinance change to match the definition of "Occupant" in Section 13-55 of our Rental Housing Regulations to the definition found in section 19-107 of the City's Zoning Code. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Other Policy Action

Consider authorizing the City Administrator to take the necessary action to surplus two (2) recycling trucks.

– Procurement Coordinator Brandon Burton presented that this follows the recently passed capital asset policy. The city currently has 3 recycling trucks. These funds could potentially be used to retrofit the remaining 2020 truck to use for garbage collection. Council Member Sherrill asked about the reasoning behind using Govdeals. City Administrator Andy Blondeau clarified that, while we no longer have a curbside recycling program, we still have the recycling center at the public works department. Council Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve authorizing the City Administrator to take the necessary action to surplus two (2) recycling trucks. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approving an amendment to the CATbus Agency Safety Plan to include FTA required updates. –

Deputy City Administrator Alli Gantte presented that there have been no changes since the last reading. She also took the opportunity to thank Brian Fisher, Leslie Wilder, Tracy Taylor, and Sarah Wickham for all of their hard work on this project. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones to approve an amendment to the CATbus Agency Safety Plan to include FTA required updates. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a contract with SR Mulch for removal of debris from Hurricane Helene. –

Procurement Coordinator Brandon Burton presented this is the last part of the Hurricane Helene cleanup. This company out of Greer will remove all the debris we have stockpiled and take it to Oconee County. There are several specific requirements for this project due to FEMA oversight. Public comment from Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Drive, discussed how the FEMA contract relates to the debris removal contract. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a contract with SR Mulch for removal of debris from Hurricane Helene. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: Congratulated Council Member Boatwright, now Council Member Scott, on her wedding. There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____

G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor