

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
126 EAST PUBLIC SQUARE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
5:30PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, City Attorney Tom Thompson, IT Director Colby Rice, City Administrator Gary Coleman, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison

ABSENT

Councilor Johnnie Bolt and Councilor Alicia Sullivan

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

Kelsey Woods – GoLaurens and Judith Brown - Advertiser

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & HEARING

1. **Historical Markers Committee** – Elma Morrison presented council with the reading of the marker for Hampton Street School that was approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. This marker will be located at 124 Caroline Street. She explained that this is the first marker out of three that will be placed in the city.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Fire Department** – Chief Hughes began by asking mayor and council to pray for Alton Wilson, a part-time fireman for the city. He is in the hospital with Covid. He explained to council that the fire department is currently busy with inspections and pre-plans. It is taking a little longer than last year due to Covid. He also told council that the fire department just completed foam training and a certified Narcan class. Chief Hughes sent out thanks to Councilor Bolt and Woodman Life for donating money to purchase smoke alarms for elderly people. Chief Hughes congratulated William Gonzalez on his recent promotion to lieutenant. He introduced Lt. Gonzalez to council and explained what an asset he is to the fire department.

2. **City Council Reports** – Both Councilor Miller and Councilor Latimore expressed their concerns about litter and residents keeping their own yards and areas clean. They also expressed concerns about the Highway Department not addressing pot holes since most city streets are maintained by SCDOT. They thanked Kerwin and the Streets & Sanitation Department for their hard work in keeping the city clean. Councilor Latimore stated that she had been approached about the Street & Sanitation Department needing new uniforms.

3. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Senn thanked Councilor Latimore for bringing the Street & Sanitation uniforms to everyone's attention. He also thanked Councilor Miller for speaking about residents exercising personal responsibility for their areas and that he can reach out to SCDOT about the condition of city roads. Mayor Senn also informed council that he has been in discussions with the Public Housing Authority about solutions to reduce crime, reduce homelessness, and create pride. Together, they can work to be responsive to the needs of people and can bring the community together. He was very excited to talk about PC Night that took place on the square Friday, September 17th. There were faculty and students from PC and President Matthew Vandenburg was also in attendance. Mayor Senn expressed his appreciation to City Administrator Gary Coleman and stated that he has enjoyed working with him. He has relied on City Administrator Coleman as an advisor and as a friend. City Administrator Coleman will retire from the city as of 12/31/2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of the September 21, 2021 Council Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Mayor Nathan Senn presenting Resolution 9-21-01 Designating an authorized representative and contact person for purposes of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** – Mayor Senn explained that the American Rescue Plan Act requires that a municipality designate a contact person to receive official communications and notices. This includes the signing of documents and making certifications required by the ARPA.

After being questioned by Councilor Campbell, Mayor Senn stated that this resolution does not give him authority to make purchases without council's approval.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Resolution 9-21-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 2. Building & Zoning Director Jeremy Hudson presenting the proposed addition to Pinehaven Point and Townhouse Community at Todd Avenue Extension** – Building & Zoning Director Hudson explained to council that the Planning Commission unanimously approved both the Pinehaven Point extension and the Townhouse Community on Todd Avenue Extension. Ms. Debbie Buckley, a representative from Oxford Real Estate Group, presented council with a layout of the townhome community on Todd Avenue Extension and was present to answer any questions. Members of council questioned her about soundproofing between units, parking, sidewalks, landscaping (trees), and if the plans conform to the city's zoning ordinances. Ms. Buckley stated that there are not currently plans in place for sidewalks, but she can revisit this with her company. She also stated that the Oxford Real Estate Group always leaves as many trees in place as possible. A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve the Pinehaven Point addition and to approve the Townhouse Community at Todd Ave Extension contingent on the changes discussed. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 3. Building & Zoning Director Jeremy Hudson recommending Beth Holmes and Diane Hayden as members for the Historical Preservation Commission** – Building & Zoning Director Hudson presented a letter to council from the Historical Preservation Commission Chairman Jordan Peeler requesting the approval for Beth Holmes and Diana Hayden to fill the vacancies on the commission. A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve these two appointments to the Historical Preservation Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 4. Schedule American Rescue Plan Workshop** – The mayor and council agreed to hold this workshop Tuesday, September 28th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discuss property matters and employment of replacement for City Administrator.

After coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Lowry to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Senn", written over a horizontal line.

NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie Mattison", written over a horizontal line.

LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK AND TREASURER