

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CPW TRAINING CENTER
214 CHURCH STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
JUNE 20, 2023
5:30PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, City Administrator Eric Delgado, IT Director Colby Rice, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison

ABSENT

Councilor Alicia Sullivan

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

Judith Brown – Advertiser

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order with Councilor Lowry giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn stated that the Juneteenth celebration was a success. He asked Councilor Campbell to report on the celebration. Councilor Campbell stated that she was so proud of the community. There were many people there from different backgrounds, including young and old. There were great speakers explaining the history of Juneteenth and why it is celebrated. It was both educational and entertaining.

Mayor Senn stated that he has received questions recently about what impact the new Streets & Sanitation facility will have on the surrounding community. He assured everyone that there will be no unpleasant odors or smells. There will be a fenced in enclosure for the city trucks and equipment and there will be landscaping.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda

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

Approval of the May 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Redistricting: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA REVISING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT LINES (05-23-01) – Mayor Senn reminded council that the redistricting map comes from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. It reflects what the law mandates and the priorities which were outlined by council in the redistricting workshop. Census data must be followed in the redistricting process.

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve Ordinance 05-23-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Budget: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024 (05-23-02) – Mayor Senn reminded council that this is a \$10,366,061 budget. Taxes will not be raised and the city's millage rate will remain the same. It contains a +5% minimum across-the-board pay raise for employees who have not received a pay raise since last year's 3% increase.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Ordinance 05-23-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 23-06-01: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAURENS APPOINTING INDIVIDUALS TO VARIOUS BOARDS – The city held a workshop on June 13, 2023 to allow council members to review applications received from citizens to restructure all city boards. The city received 29 applications, including 14 for the Historic Preservation Commission, 10 for the Planning Commission, and five for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Citizens named for the Planning Commission are Suzanne Lowry, Barrett Holmes, John Young, Booker Ingram Jr., and Toni Able. Citizens named to the Historic Preservation Commission are James Floyd Jr., Apryl Bailey, Beth Holmes, Dr. James Todd, and Stanley Yeargin. Citizens named to the Board of Zoning Appeals are Blake Davis, Spurgeon Reeder, Barton Holmes, Madge Byrd, and Will Prescott.

A motion was made by Councilor Campbell and seconded by Councilor Lowry to amend Resolution 23-06-01 to have certain term limits. Each group will stagger their terms for two-year and three-year terms by the first letter of the last name of the member. Members 1 through 3 will serve a three-year term and members 4 and 5 will serve a two-year term. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Resolution 23-06-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Resolution 23-06-02: A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MASC HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT – Mayor Senn began by stating that this resolution will provide a local match for a Municipal Association grant that the city is seeking. He stated that as part of the ongoing improvements to the city, we want to make sure we do all we can to offer public involvement. Traditionally, the way we have posted public meetings and notices are on a bulletin board inside the lobby of city hall. That may not be the most effective way of doing that. We are interested in putting a kiosk in a central location and people will be made aware of upcoming public events, public meetings so that we encourage public participation. This kiosk could also give directional signage. Instead of paying these solely out of city budget funds, we have applied for a grant from the Municipal Association. This grant requires a local match of \$2,500, which is 10% of the \$25,000 Laurens is applying for.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve Resolution 23-06-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Ordinance 06-23-01: AMENDING AND RESTATING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA AS IT RELATES TO THE REVOCATION OF BUSINESS LICENSES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – This ordinance addresses the fact that businesses must meet all legal and regulatory requirements. It must operate ethically, responsibly, and in accordance with the laws and ordinances of the City of Laurens. Failure to comply may result in the business license being suspended pending a hearing before city council for the purpose of determining whether the license should be revoked.

A motion was made by Councilor Campbell and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve Ordinance 06-23-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Ordinance 06-23-02: AMENDING AND RESTATING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA AS IT RELATES TO THE CARE OF DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – This ordinance addresses the proper care, treatment, and control of animals. It encompasses a wide range of measures designed to address various aspects of animal care, especially dogs. It ensures that animals receive proper nutrition, veterinary care, and exercise.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve

Ordinance 06-23-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Ordinance 06-23-03: AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA AS IT RELATES TO OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – Mayor Senn explained that this ordinance clearly states that it is a municipal violation for anyone to give false name and information to city law enforcement, to refuse to identify themselves to a police officer when that person is subject to a lawful traffic stop or lawfully being detained pursuant to a police investigation, and it is a violation to disrupt the proceedings of city council, city commissions, or any meeting of the council. Failure to comply may lead to arrest and upon conviction may be fined up to \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days.

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve Ordinance 06-23-03. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:



NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK