

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CPW TRAINING CENTER
214 CHURCH STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
DECEMBER 16, 2022
5:30PM**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Councilor Alicia Sullivan

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

Kelsey Woods - GoLaurens and Iva Cadmus - WLBG

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

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

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn began by thanking council for all their work for the past year. He stated that they have done monumental things as a body over the past four years. The city has been around 175 years and look at what has been accomplished together. The accomplishments include a reduction in the four-year decline in population, houses being built, new restaurants, improvements in code enforcement, beautifying the city, and eliminating crime.

Council recently had a workshop to discuss the condition of city streets. One item that was discussed was where the new plaza is going to be on the square. The brick streets that were placed around 1908 are easier to uncover and in better condition than anyone thought. Council discussed the options on how to approach this, however no action was taken since it was not on the agenda. They will proceed with finding the funding to help cover the expenses of this project.

Mayor Senn explained that, with the help of City Administrator Delgado, the city has applied for a \$30,000,000 grant through TAP (Transportation Alternative Program). This is money set aside for non-vehicular transportation. A portion of the grant would go to 19 miles of sidewalks in the city. Mayor Senn stated that he wants the public to understand that all parts of the city will improve if this grant is received; especially parts that have not seen infrastructure. He thanked City Administrator Delgado and staff for putting this grant together.

Mayor Senn explained that the city understands the need for housing, especially rental housing. There are proposed developments coming before council in the new year. Also, he mentioned the renovation of Truist that will help with the lack of accommodations. Mayor Senn stated that he wants to work with other community partners (Laurens County, DOT, other municipalities in the county, and Keep Laurens County Beautiful) with cleaning up litter. More than 20,000 pounds of trash was picked up last year and that doesn't include the Sheriff's Department program.

Mayor Senn also stated that there was a meeting at City Hall the night before with Councilor Lowry and several residents from Pinehaven Point in Ward 5. The residents are worried about people speeding through the neighborhood. Children are playing basketball in the streets and walking to the playground. Mayor Senn explained that Pinehaven Point was built piecemeal and that a homeowner's association was never established. That is one reason for this problem. He stated that he gives credit to the residents for coming forward and working with the city to find ways to help eliminate the speeding issue. Councilor Latimore stated that she is concerned about her district too and wondered why the meeting was just limited to Ward 5. City Administrator Delgado explained that this meeting was community organized and that it was the Ward 5 citizens that came forward and requested this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the December 16, 2022 Council Agenda

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

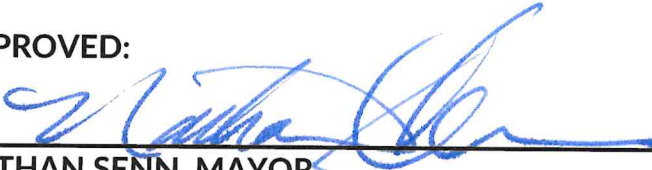
Approval of the November 15, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:



NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK