

**CITY OF LAURENS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
126 EAST PUBLIC SQUARE  
OCTOBER 18, 2022  
5:30PM**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, Councilor Alicia Sullivan, City Attorney Ginny Merck-Dupont, IT Director Colby Rice, City Administrator Eric Delgado, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison

**PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

Judith Brown – Advertiser and Iva Cadmus - WLBG

**THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION**

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

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Mayor Senn began by acknowledging October as domestic violence month. He thanked the city's Victim Advocate, Amanda Greer, for her hard work and her time with putting an awareness walk together. It was a great success.

Mayor Senn also updated everyone on the projects that are taking place in the city. He stated that Starbucks and PC's project at the Capitol Theater are moving forward with their permitting. Also, the soon-to-be neighborhoods of Ridge Haven, Laurens Station, and Gibson Grove are being issued grading permits and moving forward with their DHEC permits. Each of these communities will have broadband from the get-go.

He continued by informing everyone that the remaining balance of the ARP funds have been received. These funds have already funded an investment in technology infrastructure for the city that catches us up after decades of not really being able to fully fund the city's needs. They will also pay for the expansion of the police department and our municipal courts. It will provide a new chamber for city council combined with the new municipal court room. It has allowed us to purchase a 100-foot fire truck to replace one that was 34 years old. We continue to make these significant improvements in our city in strategic ways so that we are using one time money on one-time projects that will put us in the best position going forward

Mayor Senn announced that the city will be shifting to a new waste disposal/garbage company at the beginning of March when the contract is up with the current company, Green For Life (GFL). Despite several years of meetings and constant phone calls/emails, there have been continuous service quality issues with GFL. The city accepted bids for replacement companies and only received one. Carolina Waste Industries will take over

garbage billing and garbage collection beginning in March of 2023. He explained that the public will be receiving literature and mailers prior to this change.

He continued by stating that last month council gave second and final reading to the Redevelopment Commission Ordinance, which authorized the city to form a redevelopment commission. This will aid in the restoration and renewal of blighted neighborhoods across the city. The first step in this process is to have it recognized by the state and that paperwork has already been sent to Columbia. We are waiting to hear back on the official establishment of that commission. Be on the lookout for solicitation of interest to serve upon that commission. We want to make sure this is a community led organization that truly reflects the needs of the community. It won't be city council 2.0. This will be reflective of the community itself.

There is a new substation on Hwy 221 that is being built by CPW. Mayor Senn stated that he is happy to see one of the commissioners at the council meeting. We appreciate the partnership with CPW. It is Mayor Senn's understanding that this substation will have a particular dedicated service to Hunter Industrial Park and it may also be used for back-up supply for the city. This is a tremendous economic development incentive for us to be able to say that we have power that can adequately supply the businesses at Hunter Industrial Park and supply more to come. It will specifically supply power to Europastry which will soon take place of Muffin Mam. This will provide 155 new jobs. Mayor Senn stated that he is proud of the way our law enforcement is improving under Chief Grounsell. The department is very near fully staffed at this point and Chief Grounsell is using police funds more wisely.

Mayor Senn was proud to speak about the fun events that are coming up for the city. Boo In the Park will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the Christmas Market is set to begin the Saturday after Black Friday. The Christmas Market will consist of vendors selling locally made items. There will be live music, refreshments, and brass bands every Saturday throughout the Christmas season.

Mayor Senn introduced Blake Sanders from Studio Main in Pelzer to discuss what a comprehensive plan is and how it will affect the city. Mr. Sanders explained that a comprehensive plan is a document that describes the history, current state, and future vision for the community. It acts as a road map to assist in guiding future growth and development while promoting health, safety, and general welfare of the people. Priority investments are identified where City Council may decide to focus long-term funding and visioning. He informed council that there will be public drop-in meetings on November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be online and hard copy surveys available until 12/31/2022 and a stakeholder meeting in December 2022. City Council will review these results in Q1/Q2 2023. His ideas include:

- Downtown streetscape and pedestrian areas are ready for improvements
- Economic Development is evident, and creating downtown places through streetscape improvements reinforce this activity
- Prioritize ADA accessibility and safety (minimize vehicular and pedestrian conflicts)
- Re-placement of brick paver bands (removing ADA barriers, allowing for additional lighting, irrigation sleeves, etc.)

- Addition of bulb outs for trees (move the trees away from the edge of buildings, give more area for root growth, and add expanded areas along the sidewalk; minimize distance for pedestrians to cross)
- Examination of tree health; trees have reached maturity and are starting to decline with weak central leaders, cavities, etc.
- Working within the existing street metrics (wide lanes=higher speeds) to add on-street parking and expand pedestrian spaces
- Addition of on-street parking along East and West Public Square and along East Laurens Street
- Working with Laurens County to ensure that landscape and pedestrian circulation are complementary

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approval of the October 18, 2022 Council Agenda**

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

### **Approval of the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Mayor Nathan Senn presenting second reading Ordinance 9-22-01, Annexation Ordinance 100 Percent Petition Method (Highway 221/Industrial Park Road, TMS# 412-00-00-007) -**

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Ordinance 9-22-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Mayor Nathan Senn presenting second reading Ordinance 9-22-02, An Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances, Regulation of Amusements and Entertainment within the City of Laurens -**

A motion was made by Councilor Latimore and seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve Ordinance 9-22-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Mayor Nathan Senn presenting second reading Ordinance 9-22-03, An Ordinance to Repeal Section 38-57 of the Code of Ordinances, Regulation of Bus, Hackney and Taxicab Stands within the City of Laurens -**

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Ordinance 9-22-03. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Mayor Nathan Senn presenting second reading Ordinance 9-22-04, An Ordinance to Repeal Section 6-2 of the Code of Ordinances, Regulation of Sunday Sales of Alcoholic Beverages within the City of Laurens -**

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Ordinance 9-22-04. The motion was approved unanimously.

**5. Mayor Nathan Senn presenting second reading Ordinance 9-22-05, An Ordinance to Repeal Chapter 42 of the Code of Ordinances, Regulation of Vehicles for Hire within the City of Laurens -**

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Ordinance 9-22-05. The motion was approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Resolution 22-10-01 - A Resolution to Reduce Annual Premiums -**

Mayor Senn explained that the SC Municipal Insurance Trust and SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund offer deductible options to reduce annual premiums. To take advantage of this option, the city must sign this resolution no later than November 18<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion about the deductible amount, it was decided that the amount would be left up to the City Administrator's discretion. Mayor Senn explained that since this is a resolution, only one reading is necessary.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve Resolution 22-10-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

**2. Resolution 22-10-02 - A Resolution to Acknowledge a Land Donation to support Swamp Rabbit Trail Development -**

Breton Wolf owns a tract of land on East Main between the Laurens Hotel and what was formerly Sprat Groceries and Todd Distributors. He is donating that tract to the city so that the city can develop Swamp Rabbit Trail. This resolution acknowledges his donation. Mayor Senn and council recognized Mr. Wolf and greatly thanked him for his donation.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Resolution 22-10-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Mayor Nathan Senn presenting first reading Ordinance 10-22-01, Laurens Commission of Public Works, Seventh Supplemental Bond Ordinance -**

Mayor Senn explained that this is a bond to finance the construction of a new electrical substation located adjacent to Hunter Industrial Park. When completed, it will feed the

Hunter Industrial Park and will back feed into the Mill Street substation. This will address industrial capacity and reduce the likelihood of power outage disruptions.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve Ordinance 10-22-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Mayor Nathan Senn presenting first reading Ordinance 10-22-02, An Ordinance Authorizing the City to Dispose of a Portion of Real Property to Laurens County -**

Mayor Senn stated that he has spoken with council about this before. The county is renovating the EMS headquarters on Exchange Drive next to the Ridge. To complete the project, they need the city to square off a small piece of land we own.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve Ordinance 10-22-02. The motion was approved unanimously with Councilor Lowry abstaining.

**5. Mayor Nathan Senn presenting first reading Ordinance 10-22-04, Annexation Ordinance 100 Percent Petition Method (South Harper Street Extension, TMS# 387-00-00-087) -**

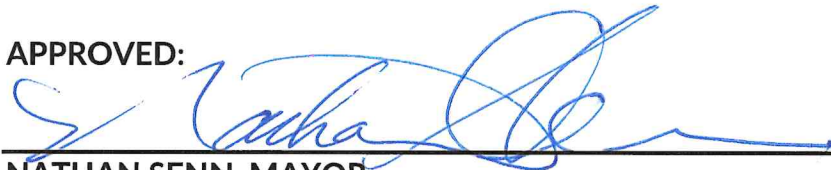
Mayor Senn explained that the owner of this property has placed the project on hold.

A motion was made by Councilor Campbell and seconded by Councilor Lowry to table this ordinance. 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:**



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**NATHAN SENN, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**



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**LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK**