

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CPW TRAINING CENTER
214 CHURCH STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
JULY 31, 2023
5:30PM**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Councilor Sara Latimore

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 Bolt giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn stated that since the last council meeting, the city held its annual July 3rd celebration for Independence Day. Thousands of people attended this event and the feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the bands that everyone enjoyed listening to, the city also had the honor of recognizing three veterans, one of which received a key to the city. Mr. Paul O'Dell is 100 years old and one of the few remaining veterans of World War II. The city has had such positive feedback that it has helped cement the City of Laurens' reputation as the destination spot for Independence Day celebrations in the region.

Mayor Senn updated everyone on the progress of the Police Department and Judicial facility (including Council Chambers). He stated that it is slated to be completed by the end of August.

An updated draft of the new zoning ordinance has been received. This ordinance is currently under revision to make sure it meets the city's needs. This is part of the comprehensive planning process that the city is engaged in. Additional input sessions will take place once the draft is complete.

Meetings with the Gibson Grove property have taken place. This is the neighborhood

beside and behind the old Bilo. Traffic measures, walkability, and trails have all been addressed. These are not things that will cost a lot of money but will help traffic within the neighborhood. These discussions are ongoing so that any neighborhoods that initially get built, will be neighborhoods that we will be proud of.

Code enforcement is something that the city has been paying particular attention to. This has become more efficient by the code enforcement department working with the police department. There is now a Class 1 Officer that has been assisting with the code enforcement effort. This has really helped.

As everyone knows, the city has a need for sidewalks and infrastructure improvements. As part of this, the city has applied for the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant through the Department of Transportation. Through the TAP Grant, the funds can only be spent on things like sidewalks and trails. It cannot be used for things like filling potholes or widening roads. In order to obtain the funding, the city has to have good solid plans that DOT is ready to sign off on. The city has been working with Davis & Floyd to update plans for sidewalk improvements.

The four new garbage trucks for the Streets & Sanitation Department are scheduled to arrive by the end of August. The Streets & Sanitation building has, unfortunately, experienced some delays due to supply chain issues. The contractors are waiting for the arrival of truss clips, which is a key part to constructing the building. They will hopefully be delivered either this week or next week. The completion has slightly been delayed from August to mid-September. Mayor Senn stated that he knows folks are not anxious to have to use the county facilities for recycling, but we are thankful the Laurens County Landfill is located just outside the city limits. He asked the public for patience in continuing to use the county facility until our city facility is back up and running. Mayor Senn stated, "be aware that there is a place where you can take your recycling that you are paying for through those county fees."

Furthermore, there is an update regarding several street paving projects. The paving is scheduled to begin next week. The streets that will be improved are Kennedy's Ring, Coleman Street, Bub Avenue, Green Street, Harts Court, and Vine Street.

The Fire Department reports that they have answered more than 509 alarms just this year alone. Call volume has increased since June 26th due to a new emergency medical dispatching system. This is a nationwide system that is more effective in saving lives than our past dispatch system.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the July 31, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda and June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes -

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Sullivan to approve

the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 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-

Council did not have any further discussion about this ordinance.

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

2. 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 -

Mayor Senn stated that the care of animals is of concern to our community. He hopes the community can see by passage of this ordinance that this is of concern to city council as well. This ordinance doesn't solve everything, but it does give law enforcement the ability to address certain issues and it establishes some clearer standards for personal responsibility about what is and isn't acceptable as it relates to how people treat animals.

A motion was made by Councilor Sullivan and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Ordinance 06-23-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. 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 -

Council did not have any further discussion about this ordinance.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 23-07-01: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA AND MAIN STREET LAURENS USA, INC -

Mayor Senn stated that since the last council meeting, Main Street Director Jonathan Irick has taken a position with the State Main Street Organization. The Main Street Board has proceeded with their efforts to hire a new director. As the city begins this new

chapter with Main Street, we want to make sure that there is clarity between the city and Main Street as a non-profit organization. This resolution will establish clear benchmarks so that each side can plan and coordinate in the most effective way possible. A significant amount of effort has gone into hammering this out. This resolution has been approved by the Main Street Board. Mayor Senn explained that this is a memorandum of understanding and not a contract.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve Resolution 23-07-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Ordinance 07-23-01: ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE MAP NUMBER 906-20-01-068 -

Mayor Senn explained that this ordinance will rezone parcel 906-20-01-068 (760 East Main Street) from RM to B-4. City Council held a public hearing on July 18, 2023 and there was no opposition.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve Ordinance 07-23-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Ordinance 07-23-02: ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE TAX MAP NUMBER 906-12-10-027 -

Mayor Senn explained that this ordinance will rezone parcel 906-12-10-027 (1.72 acres on Mill Street) from B-4 to R-3. City Council held a public hearing on July 18, 2023 and there was no opposition. Mayor Senn reiterated that this is just a zoning change, it is not a final approval of any plans to build. Councilor Lowry confirmed that this property adjoins to property that is already zoned R-3.

A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve Ordinance 07-23-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:



NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Leslie Mattison

LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK