



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council Regular Council Meeting was called to order and presided by Mayor McLean with Councilmembers Cook, Neal, Kuykendall and Walsh present. City Manager Brooks and City Attorney Wham were also present. Media present was the Laurens Advertiser. The meeting was an open meeting. Citizens could view the meeting on the City's Facebook page.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember Walsh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor McLean stated the first order of business is to approve the October 3, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and the October 24, 2022 Work Session Minutes. A motion was made by Councilmember Cook to approve the minutes as presented with the second being made by Councilmember Kuykendall. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL TO RECOGNIZE EIGHT (8) POLICE OFFICERS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NALOXONE (LEON) PROGRAM

Mayor McLean explained there were eight (8) officers who were recognized by Governor McMaster for the Law Enforcement Officers Naloxone (LEON) Program. He stated these officers were recognized by the governor for saving a life by administering the overdose reversal drug naloxone in an emergency situation in 2021. The eight officers recognized were Catherine Anderson, Corey Barnes, Toriano Coleman, Adam Galloway, Anthony Harris, Brandon Howard, Charlie Lollis and Quintavious Mosley.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY CLERK

Mayor Mclean conducted the appointment of Sonya Lewis as the new City Clerk.



UPATE OF BOND PROJECTS – DP3 ARCHITECTS

A presentation was given by Mr. Mike Pry of DP3 Architects who explained they had been working hard with staff members to maximize the available dollars for the project since the last presentation to council which was given in July of 2022. Mr. Pry stated they've been able to get the project down to about seven and a half million dollars while the budget was six and a half million dollars. He explained a decision was made to combine the Police Department back into the Public Safety Building; which would allow courts to be with them. This has the Fire Department being pulled out and attached to the existing Community Building. Mr. Pry referenced the plans and handouts given to council for example. Councilmember Roth stated his concern regarding the cluttering of Ferguson Street during church services. Mayor McLean expressed the same concern. Councilmember Kuykendall also expressed concern for a crowded street during special events or summer weddings. Mr. Pry stated they would take a look at other options to keep from cluttering the streets. He explained they are still about one million dollars over budget. Councilmember Walsh asked if ARPA funds could be used to make up any difference. City Manager Brooks explained council could utilize those funds if they choose to do so and noted there would be further discussion on this project in a future council workshop. City Council thanked Mr. Pry with DP3 Architects for his presentation.

UPDATE OF BOND PROJECTS - GMK

A presentation was given by Mr. Bryant Brown of GMK. Mr. Brown gave an update on the recreation complex on Highway 56. Mr. Brown stated they are finalizing the property survey and working on the long-range use of the property. Mr. Brown stated they have met with DOT to determine what can and cannot be done as well as have looked at the infrastructure, lift station and storm water for the property. Mr. Brown explained they have been looking at trails throughout the park to see what types of trails can be added and how the trails will tie into the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Mr. Brown stated he is still working on the budget at this time and will be starting work on this project around March of 2023. Councilmember Neal expressed concerns about Mr. Brown bringing the numbers before Council at the time he has them ready and Mr. Brown stated he would do so. City Council thanked Mr. Brown with GMK for his presentation.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-010-001 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH SRF

Mayor McLean stated the next order of business is for Council to consider a second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-010-001 authorizing the financing of sewer system improvements to the state revolving fund. Mayor McLean asked for a motion to do so. The motion was made by Councilmember Walsh and was seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote was unanimous.



AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE RELATED TO FIRE RECOVERY FEES

Mayor McLean explained City staff has requested Council amend City Ordinance section 30-3 in order to increase the current fees by 27.47% to meet inflation and costs associated with responding to calls. Mayor McLean asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and was seconded by Councilmember Walsh. Fire Chief Marshall explained the Fire Department has an open-ended contract with Fire Recovery (a third party billing company) who sent the Fire Department a letter stating fees should be increasing due to inflation. Fire Chief Marshall explained the intent of this is so the Fire Department does not have to come before Council to ask for an Ordinance amendment every time this company increases fees due to inflation and clarified instead of an Ordinance reading, this would be a Resolution reading where the fee schedule is established and referenced in the Ordinance. Fire Chief Marshall stated these costs would go to insurance companies instead of individuals and noted they had recovered about fifty thousand dollars in the last few years. Councilmember Cook suggested a time-frame of two years to review the fees and Mayor McLean suggested reviewing the fees annually during the budget process each year. Mayor McLean asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and was seconded by Councilmember Walsh. The vote passed 5-1.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-006-004 REGARDING IMPLEMENTING CITY IMPACT FEES

Mayor McLean stated the next item on the agenda is for Council to consider Resolution No. 2022-006-004 regarding implementing City Impact Fees. Mayor McLean asked for a motion, a motion was made by Councilmember Walsh and was seconded by Councilmember Cook. City Manager Brooks stated this was following proper procedures to move forward with the study of impact fees. Assistant City Manager Meadors stated the impact fees being studied are also charged by Laurens County and Laurens City. Councilmember Walsh made a motion to approve and this was seconded by Councilmember Cook. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor McLean stated an executive session had been requested to discuss personnel matters regarding administration. Councilmember Kuykendall made a motion to enter into executive session and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Neal.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor McLean stated in executive session Council discussed personnel matters regarding administration and no action was taken. Mayor McLean asked if Council wished to take action on the matter discussed but no action was taken.



CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Brooks stated Ms. Lacresha Dowdy is still Clerk of Court but would now also be the Community Relations Specialist, Ms. Ashley Rochester is now our Planning Director while Mr. Tink Barnes' Company handles Inspections, Mr. Vernon Edwards is now our part-time maintenance supervisor, Ms. Ernestine Simpson is our City Treasurer and Ms. Sonya Lewis is our Clerk to Council. City Manager Brooks also stated he has met with USDA to discuss new programs they offer to help with the shell creek erosion and noted they also offer a Watershed Protection Program and Flood Prevention Program.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finance Director Waters referenced the quarterly finance report through September 2022 and noted the cash balance for the City's checking and investment accounts total \$16.5 million, there is an overall surplus in cash and securities for the quarter of \$331,517.00, the total revenue collected for this quarter with the general fund is \$1 million and the total collected for the quarter with the utility fund is \$6.5 million. Finance Director Waters explained interest rates are higher than normal and she would like to transfer some funds in the City's checking account with low activity into the state pool, which is a higher interest rate with more income potential.

MAYOR'S REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLean stated he received multiple reports of people living in the train depot, Police Chief Sonny Ledda stated the Police Department had some reports of disturbing the peace and found a homeless lady living in the train depot but the Police Department was able to help find housing.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the November 7th 2022 City Council Meeting was adjourned. The motion was made by Councilmember Cook and was seconded by Councilmember Neal. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.