

Regular Council Meeting December 15, 2014

The regular Clemson City Council meeting of December 15, 2014 began at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Clemson City Hall.

Members in attendance were Mayor J.C. Cook, III presiding, Ms. Cox, Mr. Ducworth, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Trent and Mr. Oswald. Mr. Wright was absent.

Members of the press were Mr. Greg Oliver of the *Journal* and Mr. Vince Jackson of the *Independent Mail*.

Notification of the meeting was emailed to the *Greenville News*, the *Journal*, the *Independent Mail*, the *Pickens Sentinel*, the *Easley Progress*; WSNW Radio, WYFF Channel 4, WSPA Channel 7, and Fox 21 TV News on December 10, 2014.

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then requested Police Chief Jimmy Dixon and Captain Crenshaw, Clemson University Fire/Emergency Medical Services to recognize two Police Officers for their heroic response in a lifesaving event. Captain Crenshaw told the details of what happened when an individual collapsed at a local gym and the two Police Officers Blake Arflin and Daniel McNeely were first responders to the scene. The Officers initiated life-saving maneuvers immediately and the individual responded. Their due diligence and training in life saving practices saved the individual's life. Mayor Cook then presented the officers with a Certificate of Merit for their heroic efforts in this lifesaving action.

Mayor Cook then recognized Council Member Cox celebrating her birthday today. He also recognized Council Member Wright in appreciation for his six years of service and Council Member Trent in appreciation for his 20 years of service on Council. Mayor Cook then read the proclamation presented to Council Member Trent naming the Pavilion at Larry W. Abernathy Waterfront Park, the Buford E. "Butch" Trent Pavilion. Council Member Trent expressed honor and gratitude for the years he has served the City of Clemson.

Mayor Cook then opened the Public Session to receive any additional comments on the Rental Housing Ordinance amendments from the Public Hearing this evening. Council discussed several issues; the clarification of language that would require the additional noncompliant sticker be posted with the occupancy sticker inside the unit; the document disclosure statement that would be between landlord and tenant; the language for basements that states there must be a 5 sq. ft. window in the basement bedroom if there is no exterior door; and all windows are to be operable to open and lock.

Mayor then turned the Public Session over to Pro Tem Tim Fowler for any other public comments. Mr. Eric Newton, 501 Village Walk Lane, commended staff members and others for the efforts on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and gave his support for approval.

Mr. Mark Cato, local landscaper requested an updated on the requirements for lawn debris in residential areas as mentioned at the last meeting. Council Member Cox responded that she has seen landscapers blow leaves to road for the City to vacuum them up. Council discussed the different types of

debris and who is responsible to remove it. Council requested this item be added on the agenda in February and to have Public Works Director attend for discussion.

The minutes of November 24, 2014; December 1, 2014; December 8, 2014 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion Agenda:

The first item was a report on the December 4, 2014 Calhoun District Streetscape Planning meeting. Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator presented this report and said the design was well received and they had no real issues. The one item that was discussed was Calhoun Street angled parking and options to consider with Clemson Street becoming a one-way street. All of the information is posted on the City's website and the design team is doing a great job.

Mr. Blondeau then presented an update on the Tiger Blvd. message board and said there are a lot of options but it would definitely cost more than \$35,000.00. He said staff has seen samples delivered to City Hall and the size dictates the costs. There will also be a cost negotiated with SCDOT for the right of way. There will be more information available in the weeks to come.

Mr. Blondeau also reported that SCDOT denied the contract for the pedestrian bridge project because you cannot consider costs in the selection and it may have to be rebid. There is an option to use a company approved on the SCDOT list and the contractor the City had selected is on their list but the details of the requirements will have to be discussed.

The next item was a report regarding staff initiatives for advancing the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit process which has been mandated by SCDHEC. Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator presented this item and stated that an Ordinance has to be adopted by February and staff has to know how Council wants to fund the unfunded mandate. The options are implementing a \$4.00 a month utility fee or funding directly from the General Fund which would require cutting services. Staff has advertised job descriptions for 2 fulltime positions that close mid to late January for a GIS CAD Technician and a Storm Water Manager. There will be mandatory bid meetings on December 18th and 22nd for engineering firms that would assist with mapping and impervious surfaces. Mayor Cook suggested dedicating 2 mills from the street budget and implement a \$3.00 residential utility fee and a \$10 commercial utility fee. Council discussed options in the mapping and impervious surfaces. Mr. Cotton said discussions and Ordinance readings will continue in January. Council Member Fowler suggested contacting Pickens County for the inspections because they are already MS4 permitted and are doing mapping/assessments for other cities. There may also be federal grants available.

There were no Staff or Council Reports.

Policy/Action Agenda:

The first item was to Consider 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to adopt the City of Clemson 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Jennifer Folz, City Planner presented this item with no changes since 1st reading.

Council Member Cox made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Clemson 2024 Comprehensive Plan. Vote on this motion was unanimous. *(See attached.)*

The next item is to Consider approval of a Transportation Agreement between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and the City of Clemson. Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator presented this item as a first step to get the construction restarted on this project. The agreement includes the service schedule for the transit service twice a day, and the additional liability insurance cost of \$13,000.00. The railroad bridge construction will start as soon as the contractor issues a notice to proceed. There will also be a reimbursement agreement from SCDOT in January for Council’s approval. Council Member Trent made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fowler to approve a Transportation Agreement between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and the City of Clemson. Vote on this motion was unanimous. *(See attached.)*

The next item was to Consider a Resolution that authorizes the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the US Department of Transportation, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23 United States Code and other federal statutes. Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator presented this Resolution that designates who will have the authority to file required applications. Council Member Fowler made a motion, seconded by Council Member Trent to approve a Resolution that authorizes the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the US Department of Transportation, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23 United States Code and other federal statutes. Vote on this motion was unanimous. *(See attached.)*

The next item was to Consider a request for a Public Hearing for five Text Amendments to the City of Clemson Zoning Ordinance that address corrections to Scribner’s Errors and text clarification. Council scheduled a public hearing for January 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Trent commented on his years of service to the City of Clemson and his appreciation for Council Members and staff.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Beverly A. Coleman, CMC

By: _____
J.C. Cook III, Mayor