

Regular Council Meeting
April 6, 2015
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

Call to Order: Mayor J.C. Cook, III at 7:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Cox

Members present: Mayor J.C. Cook, III presiding, Council Members Chapman, Cox, Ducworth, Fowler, Hay and Oswald.

Media present: Greg Oliver, *the Journal*

Notification emailed: April 1, 2015 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

Proclamation: *Paint the Town Purple, Cancer Awareness Month*

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Fowler presiding–

Public comments continued from the public hearing – *see public hearing minutes.*

Mr. Vince Jackson, Greater Clemson Blues Festival introduced committee members and invited Council to attend the upcoming annual Blues Festival event April 15th – 25th. He then presented Mayor Cook with a “Caution MOJO Working” T-Shirt. Mayor Cook expressed appreciation to Mr. Jackson for his dedication to the annual event.

Approval of Minutes: March 16, 2015 approved as presented; March 23, 2015 approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion Agenda:

Receive a report from the consulting firm Seamon, Whiteside & Associates (SWA) and design recommendations for the Old Calhoun District streetscape project – Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator introduced Clint Rigsby, SWA and he presented a detailed overview with renderings of the results from the design planning of the Old Calhoun streetscape. They have just completed the final phase of the streetscape and the goal was to incorporate the historical area into the new streetscape. Mr. Rigsby said they felt it important to make the area a meaningful place with a special core within the area. They also considered the CAT bus route to define a bus stop. He then reviewed the design plan concept that included the key existing features/structures for the improvement to the street design; removing nonconformance parking from the street; adding sidewalks and crosswalks; managing stormwater; forming edge walls and hedges; protect existing trees – only a few to be removed; completing the street tree canopy; and defining the entrances with oriental trees. He said there was even an idea from a resident to install a swing at the bus shelter instead of bench seating. The main intersection of Calhoun will be designated as the special core area. Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator stated that there will be 2 phases –1) the infrastructure that will be done prior to the actual streetscape work and it will be bid for construction during the summer months so easements with property owners for underground utility can be done with AT&T, Duke Energy; and 2) Curb-gutter, streets, and sidewalks that will bid in February 2016 with actual construction May through August 2016. Council directed staff to proceed with bids for the project to begin work with Duke and AT&T.

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Discussion for considering a change in the Parking Deck Fees for monthly parking and football parking. Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator presented this item and said fees have not changed since the parking deck was built and are not up to date with the current market. The parking deck and Sloan Street fees are \$25.00 and staff is proposing an increase to \$30.00 a month. The football parking fees for in-town residents are \$75.00, staff is proposing an increase to \$100.00 and out of town fees are \$100.00, staff is proposing an increase to \$125.00 per season. The renewal letters will be going out in the next two weeks for July 1st deadline so staff is requesting Council's approval to proceed with letter notifications prior to budget approval so that the parking deck lessee will be aware of the increase prior to the deadline. If Council has a census on the fee increase it will be included in the upcoming budget. Mayor Cook suggested the rates be increased periodically so that they are consistently up to date with the current market. Council directed staff to move forward with letter notifications for the rate increase.

Receive the Summary Report from the City Council Planning Retreat that was held on March 13, 2015 – Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator presented this item and noted a copy was emailed to Council. He stated that the priorities from the retreat will be utilized in the budget process and if council has any changes/questions to please notify him.

Staff and Council Reports:

Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator reported that the City is conducting a Clean Sweep Day in conjunction with Clemson University and mulching is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th. Mr. Cotton then commended the Parks & Recreation Department, for "Camp Clemson" last week and said that security/safety was taken very seriously by staff. They also had great activities, games and lots of fun things for the children. He said they had 1,500- 2,000 children at the Easter Egg Hunt with games, inflatables, and a hotdog lunch. Now the Recreation department is prepping for the USA Triathlon on April 23rd -34th and spring baseball/softball. He said Jamie Cathey, and her volunteers have done a great job and the City is very fortunate to have the Recreation department. He then reported that the water-sewer line replacement project continues and Ruby Collins is doing great job, and no complaints from property owner from the impact. The City met DHEC deadlines for the Notice of Intent with the MS4 permitting. The Stormwater Manager has developed a Stormwater Utility Billing FAQ's list and sent it to Council in an email to review and add any other questions that staff may have missed. The City hosted the last planning session for Old Calhoun District last Thursday and the conceptual design plan was presented tonight.

Council Member Cox reported that she attended the JCUAB meeting and two Clemson University students from the ASPIRE Group spoke about their focus on programs for drug-alcohol abuse, sexual violence, suicide, and mental health issues. She also reported that the recipient of the Larry Abernathy Award was announced and will be presented to Weber State University in Ogden, UTAH at the upcoming ITGA Conference. She then reported that the Regatta is back on the books.

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Council Member Oswald reported that Ms. Almeda Jacks, Clemson University has requested a half-day or a full-day summit with City Council and the University to discuss ways to bridge the gaps of the town and gown relationship. Mr. Cotton stated that a meeting has been scheduled for next week with Council members, City staff and Ms. Jacks' staff about CAT issues.

Mayor Cook announced that the annual Shred Day is on Saturday, May 2nd at City Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Policy/Action Agenda:

Consider 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to deny the proposed text amendment to Article 7 Signs Section 19-706.D.7 and Section 19-706.C.8. for Electronic Reader Board Standards – Ms. Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director presented this item and stated that the Ordinance was rewritten to be an affirmative action to accept the standards. Council Member Oswald made a motion, seconded by Council Member Chapman to approve the proposed text amendment to Article 7 Signs Section 19-706.D.7 and Section 19-706.C.8. to “allow” Electronic Reader Board Standards. Vote on this motion was unanimous. (*See attached.*)

Consider a Request by Michael Sherrill on behalf of Steve and Kathy Cawood, owners of 105 Houston Street, on the corner of Houston Street and Sunset Avenue, tax map #4044-18-42-3176 for the City to reclassify the unopened street-end of Sunset Avenue from a road right-of-way to a pedestrian/utility access – Ms. Sharon Richardson, Planning & Codes Director presented this item with a rendering showing the area used as a pedestrian access. The request will allow a decrease in the setbacks so the owner can build a house on the property. Council Member Cox made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve a request by Michael Sherrill on behalf of Steve and Kathy Cawood, owners of 105 Houston Street, on the corner of Houston Street and Sunset Avenue, tax map #4044-18-42-3176 for the City to reclassify the unopened street-end of Sunset Avenue from a road right-of-way to a pedestrian/utility access. Vote on this motion was unanimous. (*See attached.*)

Consider Bids for the Highway 123 retaining wall construction project – Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator received three bids and only one could be accepted. He said SCDOT understands that the construction has to be done this summer but they have to approve the negotiation with one bid. The qualified bid was \$330,000.00 with Town & Country and the budgeted amount is \$287,000.00. Mr. Blondeau said that Town & Country had included several additional items in the bid that are not required but have said they can build what is required in the budgeted amount of \$287,000.00. The bid award would be conditional to SCDOT's approval in order to not have to rebid. Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cox to approve a bid award to Town & Country in an amount not to exceed \$287,000.00 pending approval of Auditors, SCDOT, and any other entity necessary. Vote on this motion was unanimous. (*See attached.*)

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There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

Beverly A. Coleman, CMC

By: _____
J.C. Cook III, Mayor