

**Regular Council Meeting
November 7, 2016
Council Chamber, Clemson City Hall**

Call to Order: Mayor J.C. Cook, III at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Major J.C. Cook, III

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: November 3, 2016 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.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Tim Fowler presiding – Ms. Elaine Richardson, 301 Edgewood Ave., spoke of concerns for the new project at Rubin Square parking space reduction. She also spoke of concerns for granting the developer an easement that could take away the turn lane for Keith Street.

Mr. Scott Arbena, 109 College Ave. spoke of concerns for the continued delays with the railroad bridge project and the possibility of it happening with future projects of this nature.

Ms. Katie Healy, 140 Folger Street, spoke of concerns for the opposition that was expressed at Board of Architectural Review meeting for the potential Keowee Trail. She also spoke of concerns for another possible project for student housing across from the Post Office. She requested a moratorium on building.

Mr. Robert Lee, 113 Pressley Dr., spoke of concerns for dogs unleashed at Nettles Park around the playground area. Mr. Lee stated that he would write a letter to Parks & Recreation Director stating his concerns.

Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2016 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion Agenda:

Receive a Request from Mr. Frank Cortese, owner of Rubin Square commercial building, for City Council to abandon an easement that currently exists on the south side of the property – Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator presented this item with a rendering of the easement area. The property owner, Mr. Cortese stated that the easement was given for sidewalks and that it was agreed at that time that if he wanted to develop property the easement would be abandoned. The area of sidewalk and a few parking spaces will be lost with a new development. Mayor Cook and Council discussed a second easement on this same property. Mr. Cotton explained that the City had to replace a line that was underneath the property with a restricted easement. Council agreed to discuss both easements further with more information from the City Engineer and to settle both issues at once.

Discuss the potential expansion of the Municipal Court "Night Court" availability for court docket scheduling and the proposed change in weekly operation hours/schedule for Municipal Court

– Judge Daniel presented this item in reference to the current 5:00 p.m. night court on 2 Wednesdays a month. This allows officers to come in 2 hours early of their evening shift and Court staff work 2 hours late. Court staff do comp the 2 hours but each staff person cannot take the time off at the same time. Judge Daniel requested Council consider the expanding to 4 Wednesday nights a month and change regular hours to close on Friday 3:00 p.m. for the 4 weeks each month, instead of staff taking comp time. She stated that Friday afternoons are the least busy times in the Court and that there is an on-call judge for any needs. Mayor Cook suggested the Court expand the night court to every Wednesday so that there is no confusion for a 5th Wednesday and 5th Fridays of the month. He also expressed that he did not feel that Council needed to address hours of the Court as long as hours of operation meet the need. Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator stated that this discussion item was to make Council aware and to see if there were any concerns. There will be public notice on the City's website and other media that this is an option and it will be effective January 2017. Council recommended Court to proceed with changes.

Review the Proposed Agreement between the City of Clemson and the Center for Transportation & the Environment for services related to the Federal Transit Administration Low/No grant administration, bus procurement, deployment validation, and closeout assistance – Mr. Al Babinicz, CAT Director presented this item and stated that CAT had received the grant notification. The request was for \$5,813,000 and CAT will be awarded \$3,905,378 that will replace 10 diesel buses with all electric buses, 6 will be on campus. The total budget for the 10 buses will be \$8,132,378. The Lo/No grant requires project management to administer the specifications of the grant and CTE will provide this service at a cost of \$440,000. The agreement will be presented for formal vote at the next meeting.

Receive a presentation regarding proposed changes to the parking deck operations – Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator presented this item to convert parking meters to a payment option kiosk. There are 250 spaces and the current leased spaces have 42 people on a waiting list. He said people have complained because of not having change to feed the meters and you cannot add time without feeding the meter. He said the City's parking attendant makes multiple trips through the deck enforcing the meter times. There have also been issues moving the change in the safe from the meters to the bank. Mr. Blondeau presented the detail of the proposed equipment and said that IT had approved it. The cost is \$10,000 per solar kiosk and it will take 2 units. It will be more beneficial with reduced maintenance, payment for time used, and a phone app for payments and to add parking time as needed. He discussed the leased spaces and considering rate changes in the next budget year. It will take 8 weeks to get machines, there will be customer education, signage,

and software set-up. The budget is \$35,000 and the purchase would be this budget year with install the summer of 2017. Council discussed the removal of old meters and the additional 40 parking spaces the City will have at Earl Street parking deck.

Staff and Council Reports:

Mr. Rick Cotton, City Administrator reported that a Rental Housing Suspension Hearing is scheduled for December 5th at 5:30 p.m. before the regular Council meeting. He then presented an endorsement for land use litigation coverage from SCMIRF for Council's review and comments by November 22, 2016. Mr. Cotton also reported on the self-funded health insurance program and that it was still within limits to not increase premium next year. He reminded Council that the PCMA banquet is November 21st.

Ms. Beverly Coleman reported that the City had received a check from the estate of Lawrence Vincent Starkey for \$50,000 for downtown beautification.

Council Member Chapman reported on the JCUAB meeting and stated that the full report of the community survey will be forthcoming; Clemson University gave a presentation on student enrollment for next 10 years with a strategic plan and this presentation will be available in weeks to come.

Policy/Action Agenda:

Consider approving a non-profit's request to be included on the list of organizations authorized to advertise on the electronic message board – Mr. Andy Blondeau, Assistant City Administrator presented this item for the Holy Trinity Church bazaar on Dec 3rd. Council Member Oswald made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve the Holy Trinity Church request to be included on the list of organizations authorized to advertise on the electronic message board. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider a request from the Clemson Elementary PTA for permission to advertise on the City's digital message board. Also, PTA representative Jessica Dvergsten will discuss a future fundraising program to collect "gently worn" used and new shoes with the community – Mayor J.C. Cook, III presented this item for the fundraiser at Clemson Elementary School. The PTA President, Jessica Dvergsten presented details for the fundraiser and said they hope to collect 25,000 shoes. Council Member Cox made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve a request from the Clemson Elementary PTA for permission to advertise on the City's digital message board. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider a Resolution indicating formal support of the Green Crescent Trail Feasibility Study and of the ongoing efforts of the Friends of the Green Crescent to design, and build the Green Crescent

Trail, a pedestrian and biking trail network, within the City Limits of Clemson – Mayor J.C. Cook, III presented the Resolution for the Green Crescent Trail that included \$25,000 from the accommodations tax and local option hospitality tax. Council Member Fowler made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cox to approve a Resolution indicating formal support of the Green Crescent Trail Feasibility Study and of the ongoing efforts of the Friends of the Green Crescent to design, and build the Green Crescent Trail, a pedestrian and biking trail network, within the City Limits of Clemson. Vote on this motion was unanimous. (*See attached.*)

Consider sending a request to the Planning Commission to consider a Zoning Text Amendment related to the City's sign code that regulates electronic/digital display message boards. Specifically, Council would like to have the length of display time that a message is presented prior to changing to a new message studied for effectiveness and driver safety – Mayor J.C. Cook, III presented this item and recommended changing from 30 second display to 12 or 15 second display. Council discussed the options and the impact on all electronic signs in the City. Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cox for a request to the Planning Commission to consider a Zoning Text Amendment related to the City's sign code that regulates electronic/digital display message boards. Specifically, change the length of display time to 15 seconds that a message is presented prior to changing to a new message and study for effectiveness / driver safety. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approving the rescheduling of the City Council regular meeting of November 21, 2016 to Tuesday, November 22, 2016 so that City Council members may attend the Pickens County Municipal Association banquet that is scheduled for the evening of November 21st at Southern Wesleyan University – Mayor J.C. Cook, III presented this item to change the regular scheduled Council meeting. Council Member Oswald made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to change the regular Council meeting from November 21st to November 22nd. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Executive Session:

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cox to enter into Executive Session to consider a personnel issue: Section 30-4-70 (a) (1), State Code of Laws; discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion of an employee regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body. Vote on this motion was unanimous. Council Member Fowler then made a motion, seconded by Council Member Oswald to exit Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Following Executive Session, Council Member Cox made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve the recommendation to appoint Mr. Todd Steadman as the City Planning & Codes Director. Vote in favor of this motion was Mayor Cook, Council Members Cox, Ducworth, Fowler and Oswald. Vote in opposition of this motion was Council Members Chapman and Hay. Motion passes 5-2 vote.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

By: _____

Beverly A. Coleman, CMC

J.C. Cook III, Mayor