



MINUTES

FORMAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

City Hall, 206 S. Main Street, Council Chambers

Monday, March 28, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Lillian B. Flemming

2. **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Ken Gibson

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Boy Scouts Pack 833, Advent Methodist Church

4. **ROLL CALL**

The following members of City Council were in attendance: John DeWorken, Lillian Flemming, Ken Gibson, Wil Brasington, Russell Stall, and Dorothy Dowe

Absent: Mayor Knox White

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

March 14, 2022; Approved as submitted

6. **COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

None

7. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Alan Ethridge, Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC), provided a brief update on the 2021 MAC Annual Report. Mr. Ethridge stated that MAC raised over \$2.26 million, their endowment passed the \$2 million mark, total assets surpassed over \$3.4 million, and Greenville Open Studios had record high sales at \$439,565. Mr. Ethridge also stated that TD Bank renewed its five-year commitment to the arts education programs in collaboration with the Greenville County Schools for \$200,000. Mr. Ethridge thanked City Council for their continued support.

8. **PRESENTATION**

- a. Conestee Nature Preserve
(Presented by Executive Director Michael Corley)

Executive Director Michael Corley provided a presentation on Conestee Nature Preserve and referred to the variety of wildlife within the city limits and the 640 acres which cover more than 13 miles of trails. Mr. Corley advised that the Swamp Rabbit Trail boardwalks will be replaced in 2022 and a playscape area for kids and a mountain bike only trail will be added to the Preserve. Mr. Corley commented on increased community collaboration which will open resources up to the citizens to accentuate the mission of the organization.

Councilmember Brasington asked how many miles of trails are in the Preserve, and Mr. Corley responded over 13 miles currently and with the mountain bike trails included, it will increase to over 15 miles.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Proposed Abandonment of Douthit Circle (AB-1-2022)
(Presented by Interim City Engineer Paul Dow)

Interim City Engineer Paul Dow presented a request for a proposed abandonment of Douthit Circle for the purpose of a proposed development. Mr. Dow stated all utilities and abutting property owners have been notified and no opposition has been expressed except from one resident concerned about traffic increase due to the proposed development. No one spoke in support or opposition to the proposed abandonment.

10. APPOINTMENTS – Boards and Commissions

None

CONSENT AGENDA

There will be no discussion of Consent Agenda items unless a Council member so requests in which event the item in question will be considered separately.

Councilmember Brasington moved, seconded by Councilmember DeWorken, to approve second and final reading of agenda item 11a of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (Ordinances – Second and Final Reading)

- a. Ordinance to convey surplus city property located on Jenkins Street to Habitat for Humanity for purposes of affordable house
(Presented by Community Development Manager Rebecca Edwards)

12. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinance – First Reading)

None

13. NEW BUSINESS – (Resolutions – First and Final Reading)

None

REGULAR AGENDA

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (Ordinances – Second and Final Reading)

None

15. NEW BUSINESS – (Ordinances – First Reading)

- a. Ordinance to abandon Douthit Circle (AB-1-2022)
(Presented by Interim City Engineer Paul Dow)

Councilmember Dowe moved, seconded by Councilmember Stall, to approve first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

16. NEW BUSINESS – (Resolution – First and Final Reading)

- a. Resolution to request the removal of an approximately 0.25-mile section of Haynie Street (S-23-494) from the State Highway System
(Presented by Public Works Director Clint Link)

Councilmember Gibson moved, seconded by Councilmember Dowe, to approve first and final reading.

Public Works Director Clint Link referred to working with the residents and the South Carolina Department of Transportation as part of the south downtown traffic assessment. Mr. Link advised that the speed limit was reduced to 25 miles per hour by SCDOT prior to this request.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

17. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Augusta Street Road Diet Update
(Presented by Public Works Director Clint Link)

Mr. Link provided an update on the first phase of work performed on the Augusta Street Road Diet. Mr. Link stated that traffic is flowing well, and he has not seen any major traffic issues. Mr. Link also stated staff will continue to monitor the traffic following the reopening of schools after spring break. Mr. Link advised that a final field assessment will be done by Stantec this coming Wednesday.

Councilmember Dowe asked about the no right turn on red from Byrd Boulevard to Augusta Street. Mr. Link responded that he would like to review it further with the traffic engineers later this week. Councilmember Stall asked how much of the congestion is attributable to Crystal Avenue and the lane change. Mr. Link responded that he did not believe it was an issue and that Police provided assisted in that area along with message boards. Council members expressed their gratitude towards the departments and staff involved in the project and the improved safety for the residents.

- b. Pedestrian Safety Study Update
(Presented by Public Works Director Clint Link)

Mr. Link provided an update on the Pedestrian Safety Study advising that the kickoff meeting was on Monday, March 4, and the project is currently in the data collection

and analysis phase which will last for a couple of months. Mr. Link also advised there will be four series of workshops planned around the end of May. Mr. Link stated they have nine months to complete the study which will include 64 roads consisting of heavy traffic. Mr. Link also stated that there were 36 roads identified in the RFP, however, Stantec recommended 10 additional roads be considered based on their research.

Councilmember Flemming suggested contacting the Greenville County School District to let them know about the 18 roads in school zones and to advise when they will be studied. Councilmember DeWorken expressed his excitement about the pedestrian study as a part of a growing and active city.

- c. City Manager John McDonough provided the following updates:
1. Development Code. Assistant City Manager Shannon Lavrin stated that three open houses are scheduled for next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. throughout the City to review proposed Code amendments.
 2. City Manager John McDonough congratulated Michael Frixen on his tenure as Assistant to the City Manager and on his new position in the Planning Department. Mr. McDonough welcomed Megan Young as the new Assistant to the City Manager.

18. ADJOURN. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

MAYOR PRO TEM

CAMILLA G. PITMAN, MMC, Certified PLS
CITY CLERK

MEETING NOTICE POSTED AND MEDIA NOTIFIED ON MARCH 25, 2022.