



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

City of Greenville, South Carolina

Agenda Item No.

16b

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: John F. McDonough, City Manager

Ordinance/First Reading Ordinance/Second & Final Reading Resolution/First & Final Reading Information Only

AGENDA DATE REQUESTED: May 23, 2022

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION CAPTION:

Resolution creating the honorary position of City of Greenville Poet Laureate

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

This Resolution creates the honorary position of "City of Greenville Poet Laureate" to encourage the appreciation of poetry in the City and to make a significant contribution to the vibrant cultural life of the City.

IMPACT IF DENIED:

The position will not be created.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Department Director

DocuSigned by:
Angie Prosser
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OMB Director

City Attorney

DocuSigned by:
Leigh Paolletti

City Manager

DocuSigned by:
John McDonough
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A RESOLUTION

CREATING THE HONORARY POSITION OF CITY OF GREENVILLE POET LAUREATE

WHEREAS, the literary arts have long been a part of the rich culture of the city of Greenville (the “City”); and

WHEREAS, poetry as a literary art form transcends time and culture, conveying a sense of history while also articulating a vision for the future; and

WHEREAS, the City’s poetic traditions are reflective of our shared community; and

WHEREAS, poetry should therefore be available and accessible to people in their everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that the creation of a position of Poet Laureate will encourage the appreciation of poetry in the City and will make a significant contribution to the vibrant cultural life of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA:

1. Honorary Position. The honorary position of Poet Laureate is hereby created and acknowledged by the city of Greenville, is voluntary in nature and shall not be considered as being an employee or elected official, and as such cannot legally bind or obligate the City in transactions with others.
2. Selection and Duties of the Poet Laureate. The selection and duties of the Poet Laureate shall be governed by the policies and procedures set forth in Attachment A hereto.
3. Appointment of Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by Resolution of City Council.

RESOLVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

MAYOR

Attest:

CITY CLERK

ATTACHMENT A

City of Greenville Poet Laureate

PURPOSE: The purpose of establishing the honorary position of City of Greenville Poet Laureate (“Poet Laureate”) is to foster an appreciation of reading and writing poetry, enhance literary arts education, increase literacy, develop increased access to literature, enrich the City’s artistic community, and promote the literary arts throughout the City.

RECOMMENDATION AND APPOINTMENT: The Arts in Public Places Commission (“AIPPC”) shall evaluate candidates for Poet Laureate according to the criteria established herein. The City Council will appoint the Poet Laureate to a two (2) year term following the recommendation of the AIPPC.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA: In order to be eligible for consideration, an applicant must be (i) a resident of Greenville County, (ii) 18 years of age or older, (iii) an active poet with a well-established body of published and/or unpublished work, (iv) comfortable with public speaking, and (v) having a demonstrated history of involvement in the community.

All applicants must submit a complete application, including the following information and/or documentation:

1. Contact information and confirmation of residency in Greenville County, South Carolina;
2. Current employment;
3. Resume/CV;
4. Writing samples;
5. Evidence of body of work; and
6. A statement of availability for the two (2) year term.

DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS: The Poet Laureate shall be appointed for a term of two years.

The Poet Laureate will be required to:

1. Participate in a minimum of five (5) City of Greenville supported events per year;
2. Participate in a minimum of four (4) community center afterschool or summer camp programs to enlighten, educate, and inspire emerging generations through the art of poetry (one (1) at each community center);
3. Compose a minimum of one (1) commemorative poem per year related to a theme or topic integral to the City of Greenville;
4. Demonstrate a commitment to assuming a public role promoting increased awareness of poetry; and
5. Mentor the City of Greenville Youth Poet Laureate.

TERMS OF SERVICE: The appointed Poet Laureate shall be subject to the following terms of service:

1. The Poet Laureate will receive a \$1000 stipend per year, which will be paid in a total of four (4) installments of \$500 every six (6) months of the term beginning the sixth month of the term.
2. The Poet Laureate must maintain Greenville County residency during the term.
3. The City reserves the right to review and approve in advance any work the Poet Laureate proposes to read publicly in the capacity of Poet Laureate.

4. The City, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke the appointment of the Poet Laureate and/or withhold stipend payments if the Poet Laureate:
 - a. Relocates outside of Greenville County, South Carolina;
 - b. Fails to fulfill the duties and requirements of the Poet Laureate;
 - c. Fails to conduct himself or herself with due respect for social conventions and decency;
 - d. Willfully engages in any act or conduct or becomes involved in situations, which in the City's sole judgement, reflects unfavorably upon the City, or which result in the person being convicted of a crime, or otherwise coming into public disrepute.

INAUGURAL TERM: For the inaugural appointment, the term shall be October 2022 to February 2024.