

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 16, 2020 6:00 P.M. MINUTES**

The City has implemented changes to our Public Meetings due to COVID-19. We invite the public to join us by way of Zoom. You may connect by smart phone, tablet or computer and use this weblink: View on Facebook live <http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverTravelersRest> or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83411392363> Meeting ID: 834 1139 2363

The following members were present at City Hall: Brandy Amidon, Mayor, Harvey Choplin, Mayor Pro-Tempore, Grant Bumgarner, Shaniece Criss, Kelly Byers, Rick Floyd, Jeff George, Sara Gilstrap and Brantly Vest. Also present were: Eric Vinson, City Administrator, Charlene Carter, Ben Ford, Police Chief, Greg Robertson, Fire Chief, Mac McMakin and Patrea St John Planning Director. The media were notified and did not attend the meeting and we had 4 attendees through Zoom.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Mayor Amidon called the meeting to order
2. Council and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tempore Choplin

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on June 18, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

None

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

F. ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

1. Councilmember Vest made a motion to allow Ordinance O-13-20 rezoning of 230 Main Street. Councilmember Choplin made the second and carried unanimously.

2. Councilmember Byers made a motion to approve Ordinance O-14-20 Agreement of Temporary Construction Easement and Driveway Closure with Pinestone Opportunity Fund, LLC. Councilmember Gilstrap made the second and carried unanimously.
3. Councilmember Byers made the motion to approve Ordinance O-15-20 Contractual Agreement for Sanitation Services with Greater Greenville Sanitation. Councilmember Floyd made the second and carried unanimously.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Councilmember Byers provided the following summary of the monthly Public Works Reports and discussion points included: SCDHEC grant application was submitted, an executive session with the committee and full Council was completed to discuss Contractual and Legal matters to include Solid Waste. A motion was made to bring before Full Council as an Ordinance and First reading of the Ordinance O-15-20 Contractual Agreement with Greater Greenville for the provision of Solid Waste. First reading of the ordinance passed unanimously.
 2. Councilmember Floyd provided the following summary of the monthly Public Safety Reports: The Public Safety Committee inquired on staff Health and safety during COVID-19. Chief Ford provided information on the plans, route and discussions for Saturday's Unity March, Building permits remained steady for June, Municipal Court will resume on July 9, discussion of current COVID-19 numbers, impacts on the community and options to address the rising cases
 3. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve the June financial report for year end. Councilmember George made the second and carried unanimously.
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H. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST Reading

1. Mayor Amidon introduced and made a motion to approve the Emergency Ordinance O-16-20 Face Mask Coverings and stated the following: This ordinance is in response to the increasing numbers of Covid cases and introduced to preserve our community while taking the public's health as paramount. This ordinance will includes the following establishments: Foodservice Establishments, Grocery stores, Pharmacy, and Retail Establishments as defined by the ordinance. This Ordinance will be effective from July 18 at 6pm through Monday September 7, 2020. Mayor Amidon also read the first 2 pages of the ordinance to introduce into the record and include the establishments impacted.

Councilmember Floyd made the second.

Ordinance discussion included the following comments from Councilmembers:

Councilmember George asked for clarification on the food workers and penalty's to businesses. Councilmember Vest commented that the intent of the ordinance is to keep us safe, keep businesses open and while keeping the economy going and keep people visiting TR. He also stated the ordinance was consistent with the City of Greenville. Councilmember Byers commented she was glad the proposed resolution was changed to an ordinance since committee discussion and that it shows as a Council taking a stand and leadership for the community. Councilmember Bumgarner commented he believes it is wrong to make businesses and employees to wear mask. Councilmember Choplin stated as an older citizen he wants employees he encounters to be wearing a mask and gave an example of proactive measures taken while he was at the doctor's office that day. Councilmember Criss provided insight as a Public Health Professional and the love she feels for TR. She believes the ordinance is representative of being a good neighbor, wants social interaction with our community and the importance thereof, all the while keeping the community safe. She stated the current COVID numbers of 64,000 in SC and 1,000 deaths. She stated we all need to remain hopeful, willing to make changes and to pray. Councilmember Vest stated agreement and that the rapid pace changes on case numbers required a reassessment of the landscape and implementing the change to an ordinance. Councilmember Floyd stated the change from a resolution to an ordinance was imperative to keep folks safe. Mayor Amidon stated she was sad to see local businesses suffer when they were shut down and believes this is a positive alternative to help keep them open. She also stated it was significant to see major retailers implementing mask requirements and policies and Governor McMaster encouraging local governments to make the local decisions. Councilmember George stated he did not agree with passing an ordinance.

The vote carried 7 yes and Councilmembers Bumgarner and George voting no.

Mayor Amidon stated she was thankful for the discussion and thought Councilmember George was thoughtful in the discussion. Councilmember Choplin thanked Councilmember Criss for being TR's very own Public Health professional.

I. OLD BUSINESS

None

J. NEW BUSINESS

None

K. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mayor Amidon opened the floor for comments and discussion. City Administrator Vinson provided City update and praised the Public Safety departments for their Covid responsiveness. Mayor Amidon mentioned the Census challenge and encouraged all to be counted. Congratulations offered to

Mayor Amidon for 2020 Women of Influence and Dr. Criss for Greenville County Schools Hall of Fame honor.

L. Adjournment

1. There being no other business to come before the Council, Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember George and carried unanimously.


Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by


Charlene Carter, City Clerk & Treasurer

Reviewed by


Eric Vinson, City Administrator