

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
August 20, 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 Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82038251036?pwd=Si9vY3UxMTBDOWswajlLZThQREk4UT09>  
Meeting ID: 820 3825 1036 Passcode 694793

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, Robbie Childs, City Attorney, Charlene Carter, Ben Ford, Police Chief, Greg Robertson, Fire Chief, Mac McMakin and Phillip Tate, PW Director. The media were notified and did not attend the meeting and we had 8 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 Councilmember Vest.

**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 July 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

**D. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute max)**

Brian and Denise Chase 30 Montford Court Travelers Rest, SC (in person)

Mayor Amidon welcomed and introduced and received a packet of information from the Chase's.

Mr. Brian Chase addressed City Council regarding the need for clear guidelines and ordinance for short-term rentals.

Mr. Chase thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and addressed the following points to Council:

- People would rather stay in a home instead of a hotel
- During our process of moving here, we encountered a lack of homes available for rent
- We provide a home away from home for families including pets
- There is a vagueness in the ordinance/law in the City
- We have a high standard and believe that setting guidelines provides for a better-quality B&B
- The process currently is complaint and report driven
- Guidelines should be clearly defined and adhered to by everyone
- It should not depend on one person's preference to not have a short-term rental in their neighborhood which leads to a specific group and discretionary use of power
- We were informed by the City recently that short term rentals are considered commercial use occupancy and transient similar to hotels
- The adopted Building Code lists Commercial Districts less than 30 days and short terms are only allowed this district
- Long-term rentals are considered greater than 30 days and allowed in Residential Zoning
- Current rules of the city also show a homeowner can rent out ADU which is again a different set of rules and can also create an increase of in & out of a neighborhood
- We have received 5 stars as B&B
- The properties neighbors have our phone numbers to call with any issues and they know we live within 15 minutes of the location and we keep the properties nicer than some homeowners
- We also have an agreement in place with renters
- Long-term renters can cause more issues including an eviction process and affect the neighborhood more
- We provide & bring in additional revenue to TR in Accommodations taxes, sales tax and Air BB/RBO
- We are requesting a moratorium from the City to allow for continuation while the City works to address guidelines and short-term rentals

Mayor Amidon stated the Council would not specifically respond at this time but is working through the process and appreciates all of their efforts.

## **F. ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING**

None

## **G. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Byers provided the following summary of the monthly Public Works Reports and discussion points included: Approval of monthly minutes and award the SCDHEC grant.

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 mask discussions and responses to public and that he will likely have an officer candidate in the next few weeks. Chief Robertson gave an update of Radio Communications Grant Award \$120,000 with the City's matching funds. Building permits remained steady for July and Municipal Court is meeting twice per month.

Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve the July financial report. Councilmember George made the second and carried unanimously.

The Personnel Committee met with full Council met on August 10, 2020 to receive an overview of the updates to City of Travelers Rest Personnel Handbook. The handbook was last updated in 2007. Administrator Vinson and Ms. Shelley Haroski from Find Great People provided the information. After some discussion and questions, the handbook was motioned to full City Council meeting.

Administrator Vinson also provided a power point of Employee Survey results completed in April. He also stated he is working with Chief Robertson and Chief Ford for improvements to those staff comments.

## **H. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING**

None.

## **I. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **J. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Pro Tempore Choplin made a motion to approve the changes and updates to the City of Travelers Rest Personnel Handbook dated September 2020 and revocation of any policy's or handbook prior to this date. Councilmember Floyd made the second and carried unanimously.

## **2. Discussion & applications for BZA & Planning Commission**

two vacancies on our Boards and Commissions

### **Board of Zoning Appeals:**

Mr. Lamar McCarrell, member of the Board of Zoning Appeals has resigned.

Applicants:

1. Tony Rackley
2. Leslee Alexander

Councilmember Vest made a motion we select the applicant to appoint by ballot provided to each Councilmember.

Ms. Leslee Alexander is appointed to the Board of Zoning appeals to complete the Term vacancy of ending on December 31, 2020.

Councilmember Byers made the second. The Council voted 8 yes and 1 no (Bumgarner).

### **Planning Commission:**

Mr. Murray Dodd, member of the Planning Commission has resigned

Applicants:

1. Tony Rackley
2. Evan Cantrell

Councilmember Vest made a motion we select the applicant to appoint by ballot provided to each Councilmember.

Mr. Tony Rackley is appointed by ballot count to complete the term of the vacancy from August 20, 2020 to December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Floyd seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

## K. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mayor Amidon made a motion to enter in Executive Session to discuss Contractual and Legal matters related to the provision of Solid Waste. Councilmember Choplin made the second and carried unanimously.

Councilmember Byers made the motion to return from Executive Session and affirm the City of Travelers Rest the rejection of mitigation of services with Ace Environmental. Councilmember Choplin seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

## 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