

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

The City has implemented changes to our Public Meetings due to COVID-19. We invite the public to join us by way of Facebook or in person. Please note we have a limited capacity in chambers of 15 additional attendees. You may connect by smart phone, tablet or computer and use this weblink: View on Facebook live <http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverTravelersRest> (did not stream due technical issue)

The following members were present: Brandy Amidon, Mayor, Harvey Choplin, Mayor Pro Tempore, Grant Bumgarner, Rick Floyd, Jeff George, Kelly Byers, Brantly Vest, Shaniece Criss, and Sara Gilstrap. Also, present were: Eric Vinson, City Administrator, Charlene Carter, Phillip Tate, PW Director, Ben Ford, Police Chief, Greg Robertson, Brennan Williams, Planning Director and Beth Sicignano. The media were notified and did not attend. There were 10 members of the public who attended.

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 Byers

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Councilmember Byers made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Criss and carried unanimously.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

None

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute max)

None

F. ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Byers provided the summary for the Public Works committee meeting and approved minutes for the prior month. The meeting included Director Tate's update on trail widening and increase in residential recycling customers from 550 to 768.

Chair Floyd provided the summary for the Public Safety Committee meeting and approved the minutes for the prior month. The meeting included information on fire multi-jurisdictional training. Chief Ford advised Kayla Campbell passed the Police Academy and police is fully staffed.

Chair Vest called on Director Williams for the Planning and Development report. Director Williams provided an update of Trailview Townhomes completion. He advised Council of the requested rezoning for 409 Old Buncombe Rd.

Chair Bumgarner stated the Ways and Means Committee did meet twice in May and Council did receive the April financial report. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve the April 2021 financial report. Councilmember Criss seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

H. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

1. Councilmember Vest made a motion to consider Ordinance O-11-21 to rezone 409 Old Buncombe Road from R-M, Multi-Family District to C-2, Commercial Development District. This property is a partial re-zone of .66 of the total 4.17 parcel and listed as tax map number 0486000103801. This rezoning was recommended by the Planning Commission and Staff. Councilmember Floyd made the second and carried unanimously.
2. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to consider Ordinance O-13-21 to adopt FY 22 General Fund Budget to include the Rate Fee Schedule and CIP Plan. Councilmember Byers requested the discussion, Councilmember George made the second and a lengthy discussion ensued. Administrator Vinson provided details to include monthly billing option with Greenville Water for the sanitation fee, costs, and the option of adding on County tax bills. Administrator Vinson stated the City is the second highest in millage rates and said we do not have as much commercial industry revenue to influence the City's revenues. He also advised a mill is valued as \$23,000. Councilmember Criss and Vest asked why the growth revenue could not cover the expenses of new personnel? Councilmember Vest asked if the City could function with option 1 and stated he was not willing to impose the fee. Administrator Vinson advised option 2 included the addition of 4 new FTE positions including 2 Police Officers, 1 Permit licensing clerk and a Fire Marshall. Mayor Pro Tempore asked what are Greenville Water's cut off procedures because fixed income residents may not be able to pay the increasing bill? Councilmember Byers stated although she had some concerns, she believed administration had been creative with the options and she

avored the option for monthly billing to the residential addresses as opposed to the property tax holder. The discussion also included that 12 % of the tax bill for property owners is applied to pay for sanitation fees. Administrator Vinson stated option 2 was necessary to keep up with the demands of the City and the lack of police officers according to national poll. Councilmember Criss asked and motioned for an option to be explored of an incremental increase over the next 3 years. She also requested for billing amount to be reflective and adjusted with actual costs billed from Greater Greenville. Councilmember Bumgarner also requested the Ways and Means Committee meet again before second reading of the ordinance.

Councilmember George called the question. The motion of option two carried with Mayor Amidon, Mayor Pro Tempore Choplin, Councilmember's Bumgarner, Byers, George and Criss. Councilmembers Floyd, Vest and Gilstrap opposed the Ordinance. Motion passed 6 to 3.

3. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to consider Ordinance O-14-21 to adopt FY 22 Local Hospitality and Local Accommodations Budget. Councilmember George seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
4. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to consider Ordinance O-15-21 to adopt FY 22 Sewer Fund Budget. Councilmember George seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
5. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to consider Ordinance O-16-21 to adopt FY 22 Victims Advocate Budget. Councilmember Criss seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
6. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to consider Ordinance O-17-21 to adopt General Obligation Bond Series 2021A and Series 2021B not to exceed \$125,000. Councilmember Criss seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
7. Councilmember made the motion to consider Ordinance O-18-21 to adopt a Collection Fee for Solid Waste. Councilmember Byers made the second. Councilmember Criss again requested a possible amendment for second reading. The ordinance as presented tonight in favor with Mayor Amidon, Mayor Pro Tempore Choplin, Councilmember's Bumgarner, Byers, George and Criss. Councilmembers Floyd, Vest and Gilstrap opposed the Ordinance. Motion passed 6 to 3.

I. OLD BUSINESS

None

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Todd Highsmith from Highsmith & Highsmith , LLC CPA presented the City's annual audit for year ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Highsmith stated the overall function and

operations of the city financial process without issue and records provided. He also stated the City incurred a surplus of \$1,048,919 in governmental funds. The total debt for the City decreased by \$222,979. The City's governmental activities increased the City's net position by \$791, 067. He also provided analysis of Sewer system funds, retirement funds and employee compensated absences is estimated at \$377,034.

K. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Administrator Vinson updated Council on the Summer concert series and movies returning to Trailblazer Park.

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 Councilman George and carried unanimously.

Brandy Amidon Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by Charlene Carter Charlene Carter, City Clerk & Treasurer

Eric Vinson Eric Vinson, City Administrator