

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

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, Lori Sondov, City Clerk, Phillip Tate, PW Director, Ben Ford, Police Chief, Mac McMakin, Assistant Fire Chief, and Brennan Williams, Planning Director. The media were notified. There were three members of the public and three employees who attended.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Mayor Amidon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Council and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance

B. INVOCATION

1. The invocation was given by Councilmember Choplin

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on August 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Choplin and carried unanimously.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

None

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute max)

None

F. ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

None

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to the September Committee meeting not having a quorum, Committee Reports will be presented tonight.

Chair Byers called the Public Works Committee to order. Public Works Director Tate presented the Public Works report and provided the summary for the Public Works

committee meeting. Public Works Director Tate reported the following: Swamp Rabbit Trail widening is complete; the grant from Duke has been closed out; picnic tables have been installed in Trailblazer park, on the trail, and at the History Museum; a clean-up day was held at the Athens Park and Public Works Maintenance Technician David Garland was thanked for his assistance in organizing the effort; a second day will be held at Athens Park this weekend and a Community Day will be held at the park in October; and pruning was held on Hwy. 25.

Councilmember Choplin also thanked Public Works Director Tate for his efforts in the clean-up of Athens Park.

Councilmember Gilstrap made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember George seconded the motion.

Chair Floyd called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order. Assistant Fire Chief McMakin provided information from the Fire Department: the Department continues to have longer wait times at scenes due to waiting for Greenville County EMS to arrive. Police Chief Ford introduced employees newly hired within the past few months to Council: Thomas Light, Lauren Huffman, Jordan Weems, Matt Sewell, and Alyssa Durham.

Councilmember Floyd asked about the crime level at WalMart. Chief Ford stated, prior to this meeting, he had a conversation with the new manager at WalMart regarding the store's efforts to combat crime.

Councilmember Byers made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Choplin seconded the motion.

Chair Bumgarner stated the Ways and Means Committee has not met, but he made a motion to accept the financial reports for the months of July and August. Councilmember Criss seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Vest called the Planning and Development Committee to order. Planning Director Williams reported on the following: proposals from consultants for the Downtown Overlay District have been received, interviews will be scheduled with them soon, and there is anticipation of seeing progress being made in six to nine months on this project.

Councilmember Bumgarner asked Planning Director Williams to explain the Overlay Project. Planning Director Williams stated the consultants will assist the City in overlaying a zoning that would help maintain the character of Main Street and neighboring streets.

Mayor Amidon asked for clarification regarding the date of the five year plan and Planning Director Williams stated it is due next year.

Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Criss seconded the motion.

H. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

None

I. OLD BUSINESS

None

J. NEW BUSINESS

None

K. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Administrator Vinson discussed the following: upcoming events at Trailblazer Park will include this Saturday being the last for the Saturday's Farmer Market for the season and a Car Show Fundraiser for Veterans' Last Patrol; the Athens Park clean-up will be held this Saturday and appreciation was given to Public Works Director Tate and Maintenance Technician David Garland; visits from several other cities have been held including groups from Newberry and North Augusta; the funding from the American Rescue Plan is expected to arrive this month as it is allocated to all cities throughout the state; thanks were given to Steve Borklund and David Waddell for hosting the 9-11 Barbecue in the Park; the United Way Campaign will kick off in October for two weeks; Furman Weekend will be held October 16, which will showcase the City at the football game; Browse and Stroll Market resumes on September 16; and a concert will be held this Saturday night.

Assistant Fire Chief McMakin presented awards given by Greenville County, Prisma Health System, and Bon Secours Health System in recognition of first responders who have performed CPR on individuals who go to the hospital and survive their health scare. Due to COVID, these awards were not presented last year, thus they cover 2019 and 2020. Recognized were the following: Larry Hermin, Brad McCarson, Adam Little, James McMakin, Lee Perkins, Chris Smith, Jake Shupe, Josh Lollis (from the Police Department), and Assistant Fire Chief McMakin.

Also, the Fire Department and South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster recognized four employees for having saved the lives of individuals in need by administering Narcan to reverse the life-threatening effects of a known opioid overdose: Lee Perkins, Matthew Gilstrap, Josh Almeida, and James McMakin. Investigator Kobler of the Police Department recognized police officers who have assisted with providing Narcan in opioid overdose cases: Cpl. Rob Lewis and Josh Lollis. Investigator Kobler also recognized Officer Lollis as a candidate for the Russ Sorrow Award for his many attributes including feeding the homeless and even persons he has arrested; performing successful CPR three times in two days; administering Narcan to several opioid overdose cases; and applying a tourniquet to a shooting victim to save his life. Chief Ford acknowledged Officer Lollis has also received an honorable mention as Officer of the Year from the Crimestoppers organization.

Councilmember Bumgarner thanked Chief Ford, Chief Robertson, and Assistant Chief McMakin for their leadership in making successful employees.

Assistant Chief McMakin also stated the Fire Department had gone through an ISO Audit and

noted the City's last best rating was a three. After this year's audit, the new rating is a class two with one being the best possible ISO rating.

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 Vest and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Brandy Amidon

Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by Lori O. Sondov

Lori O. Sondov, CMC, City Clerk and Treasurer

Eric Vinson

Eric Vinson, City Administrator