

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
City Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 11, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.

The City has implemented changes to our Public Meetings due to COVID-19. We will meet in Council Chambers and suggest a maximum of 12 guests for this meeting. We invite the public to join us on Facebook live <http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverTravelersRest> also.

The following members were present: Brandy Amidon, Mayor, Harvey Choplin, Mayor Pro Tempore, Grant Bumgarner, Rick Floyd, Brantly Vest, Shaniece Criss, Kelly Byers, Sara Gilstrap and Jeff George. Also present were Eric Vinson, City Administrator, Greg Robertson, Fire Chief, Mac McMakin, Assistant Fire Chief, Lori Sondov, City Clerk, Ben Ford, Police Chief, Phillip Tate, PW Director, and Brennan Williams, Planning Director. The media was also notified.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amidon called the meeting to order.

2. Public Works Committee

Committee members: Kelly Byers, Sara Gilstrap, Jeff George

- a. Chair Byers called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Gilstrap made a motion to approve minutes from the Committee meeting held August 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember George and carried unanimously.
- c. Councilmember George asked about the entrance into the Travelers Rest Historical Society. Public Works Director Tate stated the ramp will be added back at the top on the trailside of the entrance.
- d. Mayor Amidon asked about the new sewer fee and when it will be added to water bills. Director Tate explained Greenville Water is interfacing their list with the City's list and updating its own list at this time, so there is not a definitive time on the fees being added. Councilmember Choplin asked if the fee is retroactive from the time the Ordinance regarding the fee was approved. Administrator Vinson said it is not.
- e. Councilmember Byers asked about the Athens Community Night. Director Tate stated it will be like the National Night Out held recently by the Police Department and said Clearview Baptist Church will be partnering with the City to host it. Councilmember Criss asked if the event will be advertised on social media.
- f. Director Tate also provided an update on the picnic tables and their locations.
- g. Councilmember Gilstrap made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember George seconded the motion.

3. Public Safety Committee

Committee members: Rick Floyd, Harvey Choplin, Jeff George, Kelly Byers, and Brantly Vest

- a. Chair Floyd called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Choplin made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held August 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vest and carried unanimously.
- c. Fire Chief Robertson stated he was out of town during recent weather events but did not believe there were many reports of major flooding. Chief Robertson also addressed the continuing issue of delayed arrival of Greenville County EMS and said he had a WebEx meeting with them to discuss their efforts to increase staffing. Councilmember Floyd asked if the situation was interfering with the City's response to incidents. Chief Robertson said once contact has been made with a patient, there is no leaving the scene until someone else providing emergency assistance responds.
- d. Police Chief Ford referred to an incident from the weekend which was posted on social Media about a dollar bill being placed on a windshield as a possible sign of kidnapping. Chief Ford said there was video showing a juvenile putting the bill on someone's window and there was no evidence of criminal activity. The Police Department posted an update on Facebook. Chief Ford also stated a young male had been arrested and charged with breach of peace after following young ladies on the campus of Furman University.
- e. Administrator Vinson stated Municipal Court is still following the prescribed protocols for COVID and continuing to work through its backlog of cases. Administrator Vinson added building permits are remaining consistent and said there will be more activity as the Pinestone Development gets underway.
- f. Chair Floyd introduced State Farm Insurance representatives Steve Borklund and David Waddell, who presented the Fire Department with booklets and information to present to children during October, which is Fire Prevention Month. Assistant Chief McMakin stated community involvement with companies such as State Farm is among the reasons the City was able to attain its new ISO Rating.
- f. Councilmember Byers made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Choplin seconded the motion.

4. Planning and Development Committee

Committee members: Brantly Vest, Grant Bumgarner, Kelly Byers, Harvey Choplin and Shaniece Criss

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on August 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Director Williams provided an overview of the planning report including information about a developer-led neighborhood meeting for Parkside Village to be held on October 18 at 6 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church and the finalization of the consultant for the

downtown overlay design plan. Director Williams also discussed holding a kick-off meeting in January, 2022 as next year marks the fifth year since the adoption of the comprehensive plan.

- d. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

5. Ways and Means

Committee members: Grant Bumgarner, Harvey Choplin, Rick Floyd, Jeff George, and Shaniece Criss

- a. Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Introduction of an Ordinance to repeal and replace the Business License Standardization Ordinance. Chair Bumgarner explained there is a need for a new Ordinance because the state of South Carolina has passed a law to make a standard business license fee and presented an overview of the new Ordinance. Administrator Vinson confirmed the City will notify all businesses of the new Business License Standardization Act, the business license portal, and the new Ordinance at the beginning of 2022, when businesses would be receiving their regular letter regarding business license renewal. Administrator Vinson recognized the efforts of Business License and Permitting Specialist Renee Smouse, who has been working with the Municipal Association of South Carolina on this issue. Councilmember Criss made a motion to send the item to full Council. Councilmember Floyd seconded the motion.
- c. Councilmember Choplin made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Floyd seconded the motion.

6. New Business

None

7. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Mayor Amidon introduced and swore in the new administrative judge, Annetta Allen-Mayes.
- b. Administrator Vinson reminded Council of the Employee Appreciation Picnic tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at Trailblazer Park hosted by the Travelers Rest Area Chamber of Commerce and discussed the series of free financial well-being seminars which Edward D. Jones will offer to employees. Administrator Vinson also discussed Furman Weekend being held with several events planned; Harvest Market kicking off beginning this Thursday evening; utilizing Find Great People to do an employee survey; and hiring a consultant to assist with doing a salary survey. City Clerk Sondov stated the United Way Fund Drive kicked off today and will run through October 25 and the City's Christmas Toy Drive Committee met and has begun promoting the event, which begins taking applications October 18.

8. Executive Session

- a. Boards and Commissions

Mayor Amidon asked for a motion to go into Executive Session under SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss appointments to the City's Boards and Commissions or employment matters. Councilmember Bumgarner moved and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

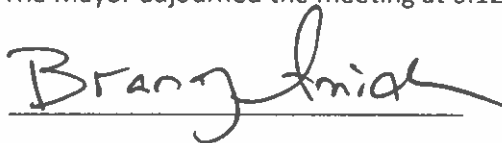
With no further discussions, Councilmember Bumgarner voted to go out of Executive Session. Councilmember George seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No action was taken.

Following return to the regular Committee Meeting, Councilmember Criss made a motion to appoint Rebecca Cooper to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Byers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business before Council and/or Committee, Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember George and carried unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.



Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by 

Lori O. Sondov, CMC, City Clerk and Treasurer



Eric Vinson, City Administrator