

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
City Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 8, 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, Grant Bumgarner, Rick Floyd, 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. Absent were Brantly Vest and Harvey Choplin. 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 George made a motion to approve minutes from the Committee meeting held October 11, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- c. Public Works Director gave an overview of the Public Works report, discussed the sealant work being done by the Greenville County Recreation Department on a portion of the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and spoke on sewer rehabilitation being considered for areas in the City.
- d. Councilmember George made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers 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. Councilmember Choplin and Councilmember Vest were absent.
- b. Councilmember Byers made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held October 11, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember George and carried unanimously.
- c. Chair Floyd asked Fire Chief Robertson about the response times of the Greenville County EMS and its effects on the Fire Department. Chief Robertson stated the recent response times were not as long as in previous calls. Chief Robertson also gave an update on his staff's COVID status, stating he has one person just going in quarantine and one person returning from quarantine.

- d. Police Chief Ford stated the number of arrests at and service calls to WalMart are down compared to last year. Police Chief Ford referred to a website which ranks cities for their safety and gave Travelers Rest a ranking of two (a very low ranking regarding being the safest). Chief Ford stated the crimes which led to the ranking stem from WalMart, not neighborhoods.
- e. Administrator Vinson stated Municipal Court will have jury trials in the coming week.
- f. Administrator Vinson gave an overview of building permits and stated a portion of the Pinestone Development has been permitted.
- f. Councilmember Byers made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember George seconded the motion.
- g. Chief Ford added a recent gun and drug seizure netted 11 guns and 353 grams of methamphetamines and noted there is a death investigation taking place at the same residence.

(At this time, Councilmember Bumgarner entered the meeting.)

4. Planning and Development Committee

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

- a. Co-Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call. Councilmembers Choplin and Vest were absent.
- b. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on October 11, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- c. Director Williams provided an overview of the planning report including information about the permitting for the Pinestone Development. Councilmember Byers asked about the meeting being held at The Staytion. Director Williams said The Staytion is seeking input on the last part of its structure and stated it has to receive a final development approved for its mixed use building.
- d. Director Williams also discussed the Tree Preservation Standards and stated the Planning Commission will present its final version of the standards to Council. Mayor Amidon asked if these efforts would assist with the Travelers Rest's Tree City USA ranking and Director Williams said they would.
- e. Councilmember Criss 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. Councilmember Chopin was absent.
- b. Councilmember Bumgarner gave an overview of the Poinsett Corridor Master Plan and introduced the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Revenue Bond Ordinance. Councilmember Bumgarner also explained the funding process for the Poinsett Corridor Project as the City seeks to match the monies obtained from Greenville County for it. Administrator Vinson stated Council must decide to move forward with the Ordinance for the next Council meeting. Councilmember George asked for clarification for which portion of the project this funding would cover. Administrator Vinson stated this funding will cover the biggest part of the project. Councilmember Criss asked if there would still be funds available for the downtown sewer rehabilitation project. Administrator Vinson said yes, there will be enough funding because of the money coming in from the American Rescue Plan. Councilmember George made a motion to send the item to full Council. Councilmember Criss seconded the motion.
- c. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember George seconded the motion.

6. New Business

None

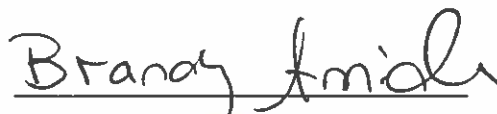
7. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Chief Ford introduced new police officer, Gerard Hildebrandt, to Council. Administrator Vinson thanked the staff in general for its work and the staff members and persons from Clearview Baptist Church involved in the Athens Community Event for their work. Administrator Vinson also discussed the new Business License Standardization process.

8. Adjournment

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

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:39 pm.



Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by 

Lori O. Sondov, CMC, City Clerk and Treasurer



Eric Vinson, City Administrator