

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
City Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 6, 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 Tem, Grant Bumgarner, Rick Floyd, Shaniece Criss, Kelly Byers, Brantly Vest, 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, 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 November 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- c. Public Works Director Tate gave an overview of the Public Works report and said the City is prepared for the annual Christmas Parade this weekend.
- 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.
- b. Councilmember Choplin made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held November 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- c. Fire Chief Robertson said the department is on a record breaking year for calls and is just shy of 1,200 calls for the year. Chief Robertson stated that is to be expected with the growth of the City's population. Councilmember Choplin confirmed the fire department addresses winter safety with residents whenever the opportunity is presented.
- d. Councilmember Floyd asked about the calls to Wal-Mart. Police Chief Ford explained many of the calls were suspicious calls referring to suspicious vehicles or persons in the

parking lot. Chief Ford stated there are two staff positions being filled, which would make the department fully staffed.

- e. Administrator Vinson stated Municipal Court will be adding a third on-call judge option.
- f. Administrator Vinson gave an overview of building permits.
- g. Councilmember George made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers 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 November 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Kelli McCormick of Kendig Keast Collaborative provided a kick-off presentation for the Downtown Overlay District, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Ms. McCormick gave an overview of the company's plans for the City's new downtown overlay standards and referred to the EnCode system of drafting those standards. Councilmembers discussed the ramifications for the new standards on previous structures.
- d. Director Williams led a discussion of the street name for the frontage road located at US 25 and Little Texas Road. Councilmembers were given options for the road and selected Roy Reynolds Court in memory of his previous service as a Councilmember and former Mayor. Mr. Reynolds was noted for his work in bringing the YMCA to Travelers Rest and his work in the downtown plan.
Director Williams also noted at the November Planning Commission meeting, approval was given to two subdivisions, one called Dicey Crossing and the other Tigerville Road. Director Williams added that Parkside Village, a townhome development, was approved.
- e. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

At this point, Mayor Amidon recognized Councilmember Choplin for his 29 years of service to Council and stated that a donation will be made in his honor to the Bridges to a Brighter Future program. A reception was held prior to the meeting. Previous Mayors Garrett and McCall were in attendance. Councilmember Choplin noted Mayor Garrett is the reason he got involved in serving on City Council.

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. Councilmember Floyd made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on November 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Criss and carried unanimously.
- c. Administrator Vinson gave a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Councilmember Bumgarner gave a summary of the four projects which the City would like to do with the funding and noted the City has to file a report regarding how it is spending the funds. The four projects are a Sewer Rehabilitation Project; Poinsett Corridor Sewer and Stormwater Improvement Project; Premium Pay for Public Safety and Essential Employees; and a Façade Improvement Program. Administrator Vinson explained how the Premium Pay, which is designed for active employees still with the City and who worked during the COVID pandemic from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, is not considered bonus pay and will have to be taxed. Councilmembers discussed how the pay is a one-time payment and how the hours were determined. Mayor Amidon asked if the Façade Improvement Program could include beyond just Main St. Administrator Vinson said the process can include Poinsett and the downtown area. Councilmember Criss made a motion to send this item to Full Council and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Choplin.
- d. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Choplin seconded the motion.

6. New Business

None

7. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Administrative Update – None given

8. Executive Session

- a. Mayor Amidon made a motion to go into Executive Session under SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss contractual agreements related to sewer collections system. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion. With no further discussions, Councilmember Criss made a motion to go out of Executive Session. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

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

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Brandy Amidon

Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by Lori O. Sondov

Lori O. Sondov, CMC, City Clerk and Treasurer

Eric Vinson

Eric Vinson, City Administrator