

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST**  
**City Council Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 7 2022 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 safe social distancing 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, Rick Floyd, Mayor Pro Tem, Grant Bumgarner, Shaniece Criss, Kelly Byers, Brantly Vest, Lisa Lane, and Wayne McCall. Also present were Eric Vinson, City Administrator, Greg Robertson, Fire Chief, Mac McMakin, Assistant Fire Chief, Lori Sondov, City Clerk, Ben Ford, Police Chief, and Mike Forman, Planning Director. The media was also notified.

**OATH OF COUNCIL MEMBER**

**1. INDUCTION OF SHERRY MARRAH**

**By Daughters Megan Marrah Steele and Rachel Marrah**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Amidon called the meeting to order.

- 2. Addition of Item to Agenda**—Mayor Amidon asked for a two-thirds vote to add the following item to the agenda: selecting co-chairs of the committees.

At this point, Chief Ford introduced new Police Officer Michaela Cox and said she will be attending Police Academy in the upcoming weeks.

**3. Public Works Committee**

Committee members: Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, and Sherry Marrah

- a. Chair Criss called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve minutes from the Committee meeting held January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah and carried unanimously.
- c. Chair Criss asked Director Tate if the number of events listed on the report was a normal amount. Director Tate confirmed it is and added the snow was the most unusual event. Director Tate stated there are efforts underway to streamline the response to future snow events and noted the tree which went down on N. Poinsett Hwy. was down longer than anticipated because Duke Energy had to remove a guidewire before the tree could be removed. Director Tate said a group from North Greenville University recently did a litter pick up on Hwy. 25 and a homeschooled group is planning a litter pickup as well. Councilmember Lane asked how it was decided which roads are cleared first during a snow event. Director Tate said the City responds according to the recommendations of the Fire Department. Councilmember McCall asked if "Keep TR Beautiful" was still in existence and commented on its past success. Director Tate stated the City pays a

contractor to pick up twice monthly on Highway 25 and it is too dangerous a highway to have volunteers such as homeschooled kids picking up litter there.

- d. Chair Criss made a motion to nominate Councilmember Lane for Co-Chair of the Committee. Councilmember Marrah seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.
- e. Councilmember Lane made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Marrah seconded the motion.

#### 4. **Public Safety Committee**

Committee members: Kelly Byers, Brantly Vest, Shaniece Criss, Wayne McCall, and Grant Bumgarner

- a. Chair Byers called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vest and carried unanimously.
- c. Chief Robertson gave an update on the two new trucks anticipated to arrive at the Fire Department next week. Chief Robertson added the department has new COVID tests available for all City staff and family.
- d. Chief Ford stated the Police Department has received a grant from Palmetto Pride in the amount of \$6,500 for an electric bicycle to be used in enforcing litter control. Chief Ford noted the department had also received \$1,000 in December and \$2,500 today from the Phoenix Center/Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission for the Alcohol Enforcement Team which monitors businesses and restaurants for selling alcohol to minors. Chief Ford said the money would continue to be used for that purpose as well as additional educational awareness items such as vision goggles which give the wearer the experience of being under the influence.  
Councilmember Byers asked how often the department issues tickets for littering. Chief Ford said it is rarely done because the person must be seen in the act of littering by an officer. Chief Ford noted officers will be trained to be more vigilant in looking for persons littering.  
Councilmember McCall asked if all the police officers were trained to use Narcan on persons who have overdosed. Chief Ford stated all officers, unless they are still at the Academy, have been trained to use it. Chief Ford added the department uses it on a weekly basis, the officers know which symptoms require its usage, and the issues causing more overdoses include homemade pharmaceuticals.
- e. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to nominate Councilmember Criss for co-chair of the Committee. Councilmember Marrah seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- f. Councilmember Vest made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion.

## 5. Ways and Means

Committee members: Grant Bumgarner, Rick Floyd, Shaniece Criss, Brantly Vest, and Kelly Byers

- a. Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- c. Chair Bumgarner made a motion to nominate Councilmember Floyd to serve as co-chair of the committee. Councilmember Byers seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.
- d. Councilmember Byers made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

## 6. Planning and Development Committee

Committee members: Brantly Vest, Kelly Byers, Wayne McCall, Shaniece Criss, and Grant Bumgarner

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Criss and carried unanimously.
- c. Administrator Vinson introduced new Planning Director Mike Forman and discussed his background. Director Forman previously served as Zoning Director for the Greenville County, Planning Director for the County of Anderson, and as Facilities and Airport Environs Planner for the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport.
- d. Director Forman presented an item for review: a request to rezone 16 Walnut Lane from S-1, Service District, to C-2, Commercial District. Director Forman explained the differences between the two districts, stating S-1 is more intensive in usage than C-2. Councilmember Byers asked if the City would prefer the C-2 Zoning. Director Forman said he could not state the preference of Council. Administrator Vinson said he believes the owner's intent is to make the zoning consistent with the surrounding property and more restrictive with C-2. Council continued to discuss the property and the surrounding properties which are C-2. Councilmember Byers made a motion for the rezoning of 16 Walnut Lane from S-1, Service District, to C-2, Commercial District, to move to Committee. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Director Forman then provided an update on the Downtown Overlay District being done by Kendig Keast Collaborative: he will be meeting with Kelly McCormick from the firm to get an update on their progress and said the project is currently 13% complete. Administrator Vinson provided the following updates: he noted the five-year update on

the Comp Plan is a high priority for this year and will give the City an opportunity to have public input and involvement; the diagonal crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street, Center Street, and McElhanev Road has been slightly delayed but is still moving forward; the Planning Commission met in January and heard an item which was an expansion of the Pinestone Development Plan and will probably come back to the Committee in March; and a Zoning Update is being worked on with the Planning Commission and will be brought to Committee.

Administrator Vinson explained the review request for a text amendment to modify Tree Preservation and Street Trees Planting Standards (Sec. 6:19.9) and stated it addresses the tree preservation part of the Ordinance. Administrator Vinson also discussed a tree fund which would need to be established. Councilmember Vest asked if this fee is for a developer who cannot meet a minimum requirement (of trees) on their property. Administrator Vinson confirmed the meaning of the fee and noted it is not geared towards single-family residents. Councilmember Byers asked if a developer could opt for paying the fee instead of replacing trees. Administrator Vinson explained the fee is not designed to allow developers to avoid replacing trees but presents an option if the property does not have the topography to allow the planting of new trees. Councilmembers and Administrator Vinson continued to discuss the fee.

Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to send the text amendment to full Council with a possible revision at one of the two readings. Councilmember Byers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- e. Councilmember Criss nominated Councilmember Bumgarner to co-chair the Planning and Development Committee. Councilmember Byers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- f. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

## **7. New Business**

None


## **8. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. Administrative Update – Administrator Vinson discussed the following items:
  - 1. A tree giveaway will be held February 11 from noon to 3 p.m. at Trailblazer Park by Trees Upstate. Another tree giveaway will be held at the end of the month by Friends of the Reedy River.
  - 2. The City received a thank you letter from Furman University regarding the recent \$500 donation made in honor of retiring Councilmember Harvey Choplin.
  - 3. There was a meeting with Greenville County Redevelopment Authority, which will be giving a presentation on its annual action plan at the next City Council Meeting.
  - 4. The City will have approximately \$15,000 available in State ATAX grant funds and will soon be issuing a call for applications. Councilmember Byers asked if the person or group requesting the funds must be in city limits to receive it. Administrator Vinson stated the event must take place in city limits.

**9. Adjournment**

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

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

  
Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by  Lori O. Sondov, CMC, City Clerk and Treasurer

  
Eric Vinson, City Administrator