

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
City Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 7 2022 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers

We will meet in Council Chambers but we also invite the public to join us on Facebook live: <http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverTravelersRest>.

The following members were present: Brandy Amidon, Mayor, Rick Floyd, Mayor Pro Tem, Grant Bumgarner, Dr. Shaniece Criss, Kelly Byers, Brantly Vest, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amidon introduced Northwest Middle School student and Student Body President Noah Poole, who called the meeting to order. Noah shadowed Mayor Amidon the previous Friday.

At this time, Mayor Amidon made a motion to table the Executive Session scheduled for this meeting until the City Council Meeting on March 17. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McCall and carried unanimously.

2. Public Works Committee

Committee members: Dr. 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 February 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah and carried unanimously.
- c. Chair Criss asked about how most of the Public Works' complaints are handled. Director Tate stated he responds to nearly 95 percent of the department's complaints. Director Tate also provided an update on the City's recycling program, stating recycling is being done by approximately 51 percent of the residents and noting this number is a tremendous improvement over previous usage. Director Tate added there are more litter pick-ups being scheduled. Councilmember Lane asked why more people are choosing to recycle in the City. Director Tate said the promotion of recycling as the City made its move to Greater Greenville Sanitation has helped. Director Tate confirmed the City provides one cart for commercial usage.
Mayor Amidon commented on a homeschooled group which has been picking up litter for the past three weeks.
- d. Councilmember Marrah made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Lane seconded the motion.

3. Public Safety Committee

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

Bumgarner

- a. Chair Byers called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held February 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McCall and carried unanimously.
- c. Chief Robertson gave an update on the number of medical calls the Fire Department is running in relation to Greenville County EMS calls and said he thinks EMS will be improving its times with COVID restrictions lessening and time spent releasing patients into someone else's care is reducing as a result. Chief Robertson said the department has already responded to 250 total calls since the beginning of 2022. Chief Robertson said the priority of the calls is being realigned. Councilmember McCall asked the percentage of calls that are strictly EMS assistance calls. Chief Robertson gave an estimate of 85 percent and said the department does have two certified EMTs. Councilmember McCall also asked about the number of false alarms the department receives. Councilmember McCall stated he would like to go on record saying he wants to work with Chief Robertson and Chief Ford about the faulty fire alarms and possibly having fees assessed for those. Chair Byers stated the issue is one that can be looked at for the next committee meeting. Councilmember Vest asked about three alarm malfunctions which were listed on the report. Councilmember Floyd asked if the department receives any compensation from the County for going on the EMS calls. Chief Robertson stated no, but the County dispatches for the department at no cost. Assistant Chief McMakin commented on the issues regarding staffing in hospitals and its effects on the wait time for EMS to drop off patients and answer other calls, and he noted the issue is the same in surrounding counties. Mayor Amidon stated she and Chair Byers would find a contact at the County to speak with regarding the situation. Assistant Chief McMakin said he would provide names for them.
- d. Chief Ford stated the Police Department will be kicking off its K-9 Program on April 2, and he hopes to operate it through donations and grants without using any money from the City's budget. Chief Ford said he would like to have two dogs for the program and have the operation up and going in approximately one year. Chair Byers asked if increased drug usage in the City is an impetus for restarting the program. Chief Ford said yes, noting he looked at statistics from when the program was previously in place especially when there were City events where a dog would be a visible deterrent. Chief Ford stated the plan is for the dogs to be used for both narcotics and tracking.
- e. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

4. Ways and Means

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

- 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 February 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vest and carried unanimously.
- c. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

5. Planning and Development Committee

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

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held February 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Administrator Vinson spoke on the progress being made by the design consultant on the downtown overlay district design and said the Poinsett Corridor project is on track to begin in late Spring.
- d. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion.

6. Personnel Committee

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

- a. Chair Floyd called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Administrator Vinson gave a presentation on the Workplace Survey recently conducted. Administrator Vinson stated the results earned the City the certification of being "A Great Place to Work" and were higher than the 2020 results. Councilmember Criss asked if sessions planned to engage employees would include just their supervisors or possibly an outside facilitator. Administrator Vinson said the talks would probably begin with immediate supervisors but could include an outside facilitator if necessary. Council continued discussion of employees' participation level.
- c. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

7. Executive Session – Tabled to the March 17 Council Meeting

8. Miscellaneous Matters

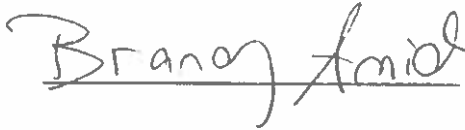
None

Prior to adjournment, Councilmember Vest confirmed the Executive Session will be discussed at the March 17 City Council Meeting.

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 5:55 p.m.



Brandy Amidon, Mayor

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



Eric Vinson, City Administrator