

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers**

Please join us at City Hall in Council Chambers or on Facebook Live at
<http://www.Facebook.com/DiscoverTravelersRest>

Present: Brandy Amidon, Mayor; Rick Floyd, Mayor Pro Tempore; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Kelly Byers, Dr. Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, Wayne McCall, and Brantly Vest.

Also Present: Eric Vinson, City Administrator; Amanda Connolly, City Clerk; Greg Robertson, Fire Chief; Ben Ford, Police Chief; Philip Tate, Public Works Director; and Mike Forman, Planning Director.

The media was also notified.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brandy Amidon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Public Hearing

The Travelers Rest Council Committee held a public hearing to consider the Sewer Transfer Agreement with MetroConnects.

The following citizens addressed the Committee: Harvey Chopin

Councilmember Bumgarner outlined how the city sewer system currently works (subcontracted) and then outlined how it would work going forward with the following options:

Option 1: The City of Travelers Rest establish its own City Sewer Department with a startup cost of \$10,925,266.00.

Option 2: MetroConnects to assume the City's entire sewer system in its current condition, including the established rehabilitation projects, with a monthly residential fee of approximately \$18.31. MetroConnects does its own service calls and repairs, and all sewer payments would go to MetroConnects. Septic tanks would not be affected by the transfer and will not have a MetroConnects charge. The \$10 residential fee would also be removed from their water bill.

Councilmember McCall read a statement from our Legal Counsel and his support of the sewer transfer.

3. Public Participation

Representatives from Bike Walk Greenville, Greenville County Parks & Recreation and Prisma Health spoke about bringing a visual Eco-Counter along the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail in Travelers Rest. Mary McGowen, Board Chair of Bike Walk Greenville, Frank Mansbach, Executive Director & Treasurer of Bike Walk Greenville, Ty Houck, Greenville County Director of Greenways, and Robin Stelling, Community Relations Manager at Prisma Health, presented the Council Committee with a check in the amount of \$26,855.00. With the funds raised, Bike Walk Greenville was also able to secure a quote for a bike repair stand for the people using the trail. The data counter will be located along the Swamp Rabbit Trail and Main Street and is scheduled to be installed before year end.

4. Public Works Committee

Committee members: Dr. Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah

- a. Chair Criss called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Marrah made a motion to approve minutes from the Committee meeting held on September 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lane and carried unanimously.
- c. Director Tate noted two trees were removed on Main Street due to weather and will be replaced with 2 new trees in the same spots in a couple weeks.
- d. Fall seasonal décor is starting to be hung throughout downtown.
- e. Mr. Tate is in the process of adding a work base learning student from Enoree Career Center to the Public Works staff.
- f. Councilmember Marrah made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Lane seconded the motion.

5. Public Safety Committee

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

- a. Chair Byers called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Criss made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on September 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Fire Chief Robertson reported that the fire department is fully staffed. The most recent hire was a graduate from the fire program at Enoree.

- d. Police Chief Ford distributed and reviewed the Downtown Safety Initiative Plan. The purpose of the plan is to have more police presence downtown and to strengthen the partnerships with the downtown businesses.
- e. Chief Ford notified the Council of a grant in the amount of \$83,000 received from the Federal government for traffic enforcement. The grant pays for overtime salaries to enforce traffic safety and reduce traffic safety deaths. The grant requires the police department to conduct a traffic safety checkpoint once a month, which will be announced to residents on the website and via social media outlets. Data collected will consist of man hours, money spent, citations, warnings, DUIs, seatbelts, and speeding.

Councilmember McCall inquired whether we have reverse 911 capabilities? Chief Ford confirmed that we do not have these capabilities, but we are checking into getting reverse 911 capabilities.

- f. Chief Ford reported staffing progress: Rashaun Barksdale graduated from the Academy on Friday, and we have two new officers beginning on October 11th, which leaves one position open.
- g. Councilmember Byers inquired about why the motor vehicle incidents were up compared to last month. Chief Ford noted that it's mostly due to speeding, including one fatality.
- h. Chief Ford thanked the fire department for putting a solar panel on the police street trailer, allowing for additional charging.
- i. Councilmember Byers inquired about the Municipal Court report. Administrator Vinson noted there was no new business for the Municipal Court.
- j. Administrator Vinson informed the council that Pinestone is wrapping up its first phase of development, with one building currently being occupied.
- k. Councilmember Bumgarner inquired about the increase in code enforcement cases compared to last month. Chief Ford reported the code enforcement officer misunderstood the assignment. This will be corrected going forward.
- l. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Criss seconded the motion.

6. Planning and Development Committee

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

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember McCall made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held on September 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Criss and carried unanimously.
- c. Director Forman discussed the city becoming a bicycle friendly community. Part of the application process includes a survey. The survey will be posted on the website and Director Forman encouraged all to participate. The survey results will give us a snapshot of where we are in the process and will provide technical assistance toward becoming a bicycle friendly community.
- d. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Byers seconded the motion.

7. Ways & Means Committee

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

- a. Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Chair Bumgarner noted there are no minutes to approve.
- c. Administrator Vinson provided an overview of the Trailblazer Park playground. The council viewed renderings of the park which includes a jungle dome, zip line, obstacle course, and swing set. These facilities are appropriate for children ages 5 and up. The park will include ADA accessible elements for children ages 2 to 5.

Administrator Vinson reviewed the playground's expenses and the budget's allocated sources. Administrator Vinson noted that the city will not be able to begin the Gazebo Area Pocket Park this fiscal year and suggested a portion of that money be reallocated to the Trailblazer Park.

Councilmember Criss inquired about who will own the park and who will be responsible for the upkeep of the park. Administrator Vinson stated the park is located on county property and the County will own the park and be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the park.

A discussion ensued around different sponsorship opportunities, reaching out to different scout groups, and the type of mulch that will be used.

Councilmember Byers inquired about the delay of Pocket Park and whether it will happen this year. Administrator Vinson reported that we need to partner with the Historical Society and for that reason it won't be completed this year. It will be reallocated to next year's budget.

Councilmember Criss made a motion to move the item forward to full council. Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

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

8. New Business

- a. Mayor Amidon read and presented a Proclamation declaring October 23 – 31, 2022, Red Ribbon Week.

9. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Administrator Vinson introduced the new City Clerk, Amanda Connolly
- b. Administrator Vinson reminded the council that early voting begins on Monday, October 24th through November 8th.
- c. Administrator Vinson discussed the City's change of payroll companies. The new company is working closely with our accounting firm to make things more efficient.
- d. We received \$222,500.00 from the County Transportation Committee for two Mainstreet safety projects. This money will help offset our costs for the Mainstreet diagonal project and enable us to add an additional mid-block crossing project near the Gazebo with a signalized push button crossing. These projects will be completed along with the North Poinsett project.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council Committee, Councilmember Floyd made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Byers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Brandy Amidon

Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by *Amanda Connolly*

Amanda Connolly, City Clerk

Eric Vinson

Eric Vinson, City Administrator