

**CITY OF
TRAVELERS REST
City Council Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 8, 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, Kelly Byers, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, Wayne McCall, and Brantly Vest. Also present were Eric Vinson, City Administrator, Greg Robertson, Fire Chief, Mac McMakin, Assistant Fire Chief, Beth Sicignano, Acting City Clerk, Ben Ford, Police Chief, and Mike Forman, Planning Director. The media was also notified.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

- a. Mayor Amidon made a motion to make a change to the Committee Meeting agenda, moving d., e., and f. from the Public Safety Committee to item 2, the Public Works Committee. Mayor Brandy requested a motion to approve. Councilmember McCall made a motion, Councilmember Floyd seconded which carried unanimously.

2. Public Works Committee

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

- a. Vice-Chair Lane called the meeting to order by roll call. Councilmember. Criss was absent.
- b. Vice-Chair Lane made a motion to approve minutes from the Committee meeting held July 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah.
- c. The Public Works report was reviewed with the following comments: Director Tate stated that golf carts are in service and working out great; the sinkhole on Hilltop Drive is on private property and is possibly an old septic tank. Mayor Amidon inquired about pressure washing the brick on the trail. Councilmember Lane inquired about sidewalk connectivity on Newkirk Way and Wildgoose Way. Director Tate stated that it is a curb cut for a drive. They are in process of notifying contractor and will notify property owner that they plan to make the connection.
- d. Administrator Vinson presented an update on the Sewer System Transfer Agreement with Metropolitan Sewer (Metro). A more formal agreement was negotiated with Metro and presented to Council Committee. The City's attorney, Rob Childs reviewed the agreement and signed off on it from a legal perspective. Councilmember Lane inquired about the costs. Administrator Vinson explained that with ReWa's recent change to regulations, the city would be responsible for maintaining lateral lines which would raise the city's sewer budget substantially. A discussion about the annexation process ensued. Councilmember Bumgarner

asked for clarification of the city's responsibility under ReWa's new regulations. Administrator Vinson explained that it would require the city to establish a sewer department and purchase equipment. Those expenses would have to be passed on to residents. Metro's Rates are controlled by Greenville County and apply to all districts. Administrator Vinson stated that the city currently has \$150,000 in sewer debt service. Part of the agreement includes the understanding that the city would pay off that debt and in turn maintain the remaining sewer funds more than 1.5 million. Councilmember Lane inquired about Metro's ability to prioritize Travelers Rest given they oversee a large area. Administrator Vinson stated that the city's sewer system is comparatively newer than most so any rehab projects would not be prioritized however, Metro operates on a worst first system however, emergency calls would be a priority. In the event of a capital improvement project, the City would work hand in hand with Metro. Mayor Amidon asked Director Tate what his thoughts were. He responded saying that transferring services to Metro would be his recommendation. Councilmember Bumgarner asked about Metro's ability to respond in an emergency. Administrator Vinson stated that Metro will respond quickly and added that their capability to do so would be faster than the City's current ability. Councilmember McCall inquired about the pump station consolidation project. Administrator Vinson explained the project in detail.

- e. Vice-Chair Lane asked for a motion to send the sewer transfer resolution to full council. Councilmember Marrah motioned, Vice-Chair Lane seconded which carried unanimously.
- f. Councilmember Lane moved on to the resolution to transfer ownership of Center Street from SCDOT to the City of Travelers Rest and asked Administrator Vinson to explain. Vinson explained that based on conversations with SCDOT, the city would not have the flexibility needed to move forward with the Poinsett Center Street Improvement plan while under SCDOT ownership. Councilmember Lane asked for a motion to send the resolution to council, Councilmember Marrah motioned, Councilmember Lane seconded which carried unanimously.
- g. Director Tate presented PowerPoint slides outlining changes to rules at Trailblazer Park. Director Tate recommended that the city adopt similar rules to Greenville County's Park rules. Special Event rules would be established and differ from general park rules to prohibit dogs and alcohol brought in by individuals. Firearms other than CWP would be prohibited as well as fireworks and the release of balloons under general rules. Amphitheater will have signs posted restricting skateboards and pets.
- h. Councilmember Lane requested a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Marrah made 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. Criss was absent.

- b. Chair Byers made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held July 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Fire Chief Robertson introduced new employee, Stefan Berkowitz. Berkowitz spoke and thanked Chief Robertson. Council welcomed him.
- d. Chair Byers thanked Police Chief Ford for a successful National Night out event. Chief Ford reported that one new hire is currently in the academy, and he is working on filling several open positions including a school resource officer. Councilmember McCall inquired about the extensive reports from the police and fires departments packets. Mayor Amidon commented that this is nice for transparency. Chair Byers stated that the reports were more for each department. Chief Ford and Chief Robertson will continue to complete and submit the reports. Chief Ford met with Walmart's assistant manager to keep the line of communications open.
- e. There were no questions about the Municipal Court or the Building Department report. Administrator Vinson noted that the Pinestone development is moving into phase two.
- f. Chair Byers made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

4. 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. Criss was absent.
- b. Chair Vest made a motion to approve minutes from Committee meeting held July 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bumgarner and carried unanimously.
- c. Director Forman reviewed the development report. There were no questions.
- d. Item d., Request to Rezone 4 Peterson St. from R-10 to C-2 was discussed. It was determined that the adjoining properties belonged to the applicant and were zoned commercial.
- e. Chair Vest moved to send the item to full council. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion and carried unanimously.
- f. Chair Vest made a motion to adjourn, Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

5. New Business

- a. MOU; Bikewalk Greenville proposed to place a counter on the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Frank Mansbach presented the plan. A discussion ensued including the benefits the data would give the city.
- b. Mayor Amidon made a motion to approve MOU for Bikewalk Greenville. Councilmember McCall motioned. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- c. MOU for Keep Greenville County Beautiful (KGCB). They are funding a task force to address litter. Director Tate introduced Summer Gagnon with Keep Greenville County who outlined the intention of the program to unify representatives from all Greenville County municipalities, as well as Palmetto Pride, and police departments to form a comprehensive committee. By doing so, KGCB would have access to more funding and improve results. Mayor Amidon made a motion to approve. Councilmember McCall motioned. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion.
- d. Mayor Amidon made a motion to approve MOU for Keep Greenville Beautiful. Councilmember McCall made a motion. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion to approve which carried unanimously.

6. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. There were no miscellaneous matters.

9. Adjournment

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

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.


_____ Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by 
_____ Beth Sicignano, Acting City Clerk and Treasurer


_____ Eric Vinson, City Administrator