

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers**

Present: Brandy Amidon, Mayor, Rick Floyd, Mayor Pro Tempore; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Sherry Marrah, and Wayne McCall

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

Absent: Councilmembers Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, and Brantly Vest

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Mayor Amidon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Council and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Invocation

- a. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Marrah

3. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Councilmember Floyd made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on April 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah and carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Participation

- a. None

5. Ordinances for Second Reading

- a. Councilmember Marrah moved second reading of Ordinance O-01-23 before Council to approve recommended revision/repeals of City Code Chapter 4.04 Sewerage System, amending Article III, Section 4.04.150 Owner Must Operate in a Sanitary Manner. If requested, at no time will a septic tank homeowner be reimbursed more than \$425 for a pump-out in a three-year cycle. A sunset clause of 6 years or change in homeownership, whichever comes first, has been implemented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

- b. Councilmember Bumgarner moved second reading of Ordinance O-03-23 before Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement relating to South Carolina New Local Revenue Services. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

- a. In the absence of Chair Criss, Councilmember Byers provided a summary of the Public Works Committee report from May 8, 2023.
- b. Chair Byers provided a summary of the Public Safety Committee report from May 8, 2023.
- c. In the absence of Chair Vest, Councilmember Bumgarner provided a summary of the Planning & Development Committee report from May 8, 2023.
- d. Chair Bumgarner provided a summary of the Ways & Means Committee report from May 15, 2023. Chair Bumgarner made a motion to approve the April financial report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

7. Ordinances & Resolutions for First Reading

- a. Councilmember Bumgarner moved first reading of Ordinance **O-04-23** before Council relating to the City of Travelers Rest FY 2024 General Fund Budget by making appropriations, therefore, and levying taxes and fees for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024; to provide for budget control of said appropriations by the Travelers Rest City Council and such other matters related thereto effective July 1, 2023. There is hereby levied upon the taxable property within the City limits of Travelers Rest, South Carolina for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, an ad valorem tax of 83.9 on every dollar assessed valuation combine with other anticipated revenue accruing to the City of Travelers Rest shall be sufficient to produce \$7,968,589 in revenues. In addition, the incorporated Rate Fee Schedule is approved and fully set forth as part of the Ordinance unless otherwise amended by City Council; and the incorporated Capital Improvement Plan is approved and set forth verbatim as part of the Ordinance unless otherwise amended by the City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- b. Councilmember Bumgarner moved first reading of Ordinance **O-05-23** before Council relating to the City of Travelers Rest FY 2024 Local Hospitality and Local Accommodations Tax Funds, making appropriations therefore, and to provide the budget control of said appropriations by the Travelers Rest City Council and

such other matters related therefore effectively July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.

- c. Councilmember Bumgarner moved first reading of Ordinance **O-06-23** before Council relating to the City of Travelers Rest FY 2024 Victims Advocate Fund, making appropriations therefore, and to provide the budget control of said appropriations by the Travelers Rest City Council and such other matters related therefore effectively July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.
- d. Councilmember Bumgarner moved first reading of Ordinance **O-07-23** before Council to adopt the City of Travelers Rest FY 2024 Tree Mitigation Fund, making appropriations therefore, and to provide the budget control of said appropriations by the Travelers Rest City Council and such other matters related therefore effectively July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd and carried unanimously.
- e. Councilmember Bumgarner moved first reading of Ordinance **O-08-23** before Council to adopt the City of Travelers Rest FY 2024 General Obligation Bond, making appropriations therefore, and not to exceed \$126,000 on behalf of the Travelers Rest City Council and such other matters related therefore effectively July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byers and carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

- a. None

9. New Business

- a. Councilmember Bumgarner moved to approve the 2023-2024 State Accommodations Tax funding request for each event as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McCall and carried unanimously.
- b. Todd Highsmith of Highsmith & Highsmith, LLC CPA presented an overview of the City's annual audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Mr. Highsmith stated the City has received a clean opinion of its financial records and standing. Mr. Highsmith said the City had total assets of \$25,751,876. Mr. Highsmith then referred to the total fund balance of \$9,237,781, an increase of \$3,054,839 and stated \$5,480,581 of that amount is unassigned. Mayor Amidon asked Mr. Highsmith to explain the unassigned amount. Discussions continued regarding the change to our new accounting firm and the favorable position of the City.

Councilmember Bumgarner thanked all Mr. Highsmith and all the department heads for their hard work in achieving the City's good standing.

10. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. Administrator Vinson noted that Director Forman applied for and secured a grant from the U.S. Forestry in the amount of \$18,000. This will go towards tree inventory and help fund tree maintenance activities.
- b. Administrator Vinson updated the Council on the Adventure Playground, with a completion date in approximately 3 weeks, noting all three shade structures will be installed at the same time. A ribbon-cutting date will be forthcoming.
- c. Administrator Vinson stated the TR Adventure guide is complete, has been printed, and will be distributed to local businesses. It provides a tourism resource for things to do within the city and its surrounding communities.
- d. The Municipal Election Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 24th at 5:00 p.m. for orientation.
- e. Mayor Amidon noted that the city is working on several communication resources for our residents regarding the recycling transition. She also noted that Ever Green will be at every Farmers Market throughout the month of June.
- f. Mayor Amidon recognized Phillip Tate as the new inductee into the Enoree Career Center Hall of Fame.
- g. Councilmember Byers reminded the council of a trash pickup event hosted by the TR Chamber on Saturday, May 20th.

11. Adjournment

- a. There being no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Floyd. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Brandy Amidon Brandy Amidon, Mayor
Completed by Amanda Connolly Amanda Connolly, City Clerk
Eric Vinson Eric Vinson, City Administrator