

**Council Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 8, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Council Present:** Mayor Brandy Amidon; Councilmembers Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Rick Floyd, Lisa Lane, Wayne McCall, Sherry Marrah, and Brantly Vest

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

**Absent:** Grant Bumgarner, Councilmember

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Public Works Committee**

**Members: Shaniece Criss (Chair), Lisa Lane, and Sherry Marrah**

- a. Chair Criss called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Councilmember Lane made a motion to approve the minutes from the Committee meeting held on April 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah.
- c. The Committee reviewed the Public Works report for April. Public Works Director Tate noted the city received the Partner of the Year award from Enoree Career Center in addition to the cost saving report from Grace Church on the community service they did throughout the city.
- d. Director Tate also discussed that our landscape contractor, Sodfather, will be doing landscape work and planting new flowers along Main Street.
- e. The Committee discussed the discontinuation of the recycling program, and how the city will be transporting their own recycling.
- f. Additional shade options at Adventure Park were discussed between the Council and staff. Chair Criss sought clarification on who owns the Adventure Park and who will maintain the park. Administrator Vinson noted that the city is still in negotiations with the County on ownership of the park.
- g. Administrator Vinson will provide an update to Council regarding a partnership with Evergreen recycling during the Farmers Market and Browse & Stroll events.
- h. Councilmember Marrah made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Lane seconded the motion.

### **3. Public Safety Committee**

***Members: Kelly Byers (Chair), Shaniece Criss, Wayne McCall, and Brantly Vest***

***Absent: 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 on April 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vest.
- c. The Committee reviewed the Public Safety reports for April. Police Chief Ford noted that in his report, the data in the chart is correct, however, the data in the bar graph was incorrect. Discussion ensued regarding the visibility of the Police Reserve Officer on the bike and his positive interaction with the community, and the increased motor vehicle crashes due to speeding and aggressive driving.
- d. Fire Chief Robertson noted that there was nothing new to report for the Fire Department.
- e. Administrator Vinson noted that there was nothing new to report for the Building Department and Municipal Court.
- f. Administrator Vinson reviewed and discussed the Mutual Law Enforcement Aid Agreement with Furman University. This agreement is for the City of Travelers Rest Police Department to provide police aid to the Vinings Apartments on Duncan Chapel. Furman is looking to sell the complex and discontinuing police protection service to that area.
- g. Councilmember Criss made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Vest seconded the motion.

### **4. Planning & Development Committee**

***Members: Brantly Vest (Chair), Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, and Wayne McCall***

***Absent: 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 on April 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Byer.
- c. The committee reviewed the April Planning & Development report, noting the Swamp Rabbit Trail (SRT) counter data was added to the Planning & Development report. Director Foreman reviewed the SRT data for the past two months, noting different ways we can highlight the data within the report each month.
- d. Director Foreman informed the Council that the South Carolina Planning Association had their Spring Conference at City Hall, with approximately 87 attendees. He noted it was a successful conference with Mayor Amidon delivering a welcome message and Administrator Vinson delivering a presentation on how the SRT has impacted the city.
- e. The committee also discussed short term rentals and Wethington Place landscaping concerns.
- f. Director Foreman introduced Haley Hopkins, the Planning & Development Summer Fellow. Haley graduated recently from Furman University with a degree in Sustainability Science. She will begin her six-week internship on June 5 and will be assisting on several projects, including the Comp Plan.
- g. Councilmember Byers made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Councilmember Criss seconded the motion.

## **5. Ways & Means Committee**

**Members: Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Rick Floyd, and Brantly Vest**

**Absent: Grant Bumgarner (Chair)**

- a. In the absence of Chair Bumgarner, Mayor Amidon noted that the Ways & Means Committee will meet on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. She reminded members of the council that they are invited to attend. The the 2023-2024 budget will be discussed.

## **6. Old Business**

- a. None

## **7. New Business**

- a. Councilmember Byers made a motion to approve the Mutual Law Enforcement Aid Agreement with Furman University and Councilmember Vest seconded the motion. Councilmember Criss recused herself from the vote due to a conflict of interest. The motion otherwise carried unanimously.

## **8. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. Administrator Vinson acknowledged the Kite Festival that took place in the city over the weekend. He noted minor damage occurred to the pavilion roof and the organizer has agreed to have the roof repaired.
- b. Councilmember Lane inquired about recycling grants. Administrator Vinson noted we have previously received an SCVIA grant. This annual grant usually goes towards educational materials to give out at various events such as the Farmers Market.
- c. Greater Greenville Sanitation has agreed to pick up the blue recycling carts on the last day of recycling service.
- d. Mayor Amidon recognized David Garland and Abe Evans with the Public Works Department. They did a great job updating the bathrooms at Trailblazer Park.
- e. The 2023 Farmers Market grand opening occurred on Saturday. The Farmers Market celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- f. The Music In the Park Concert Series kicked-off on Saturday evening and was a huge success.
- g. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Amidon presented two Proclamations: one to Springbrook Behavior Health in honor of Nurses Week and one to Northwest Middle School Choir for their multiple awards at the Music In The Parks Festival at Dollywood.
- h. Councilmember Byers mentioned the Hills Family Resources Food Panty is dangerously low and most of the population they serve is the 29690 zip code.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

Mayor Amidon adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Brandy Amidon

Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by

Amanda Connolly

Amanda Connolly, City Clerk

Eric Vinson

Eric Vinson, City Administrator