

**Council Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 7, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Council Present:** Mayor, Brandy Amidon; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, and Brantly Vest

**Absent:** Kelly Byers, Wayne McCall

**Staff Present:** Eric Vinson, City Administrator; Beth Sicignano, Communications; Mac McMakin, Assistant Fire Chief; Ben Ford, Police Chief; Mike Forman, Planning Director; and Phillip Tate, Public Works Director

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Citizen Participation**

- a. Mayor Amidon welcomed Cindy Murphy-Orr to the meeting. Nancy Duncan, a Travelers Rest Historical Society member, read Ms. Murphy-Orr's accomplishments including an induction into the South Carolina Entertainment and Music Hall of Fame. The mayor read a proclamation recognizing her achievements.

**3. Public Works Committee**

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

- a. Chair Criss called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Chair Criss made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Works Committee meeting held on July 10, 2023. The motion was approved by Councilmember Lane and seconded by Councilmember Marrah.
- c. Director Tate updated the Committee on recycling sign-ups, the location of the Food Lion recycling containers, a grant to support litter pick-up, and the addition of a new truck and dump trailer. Chair Criss suggested continuing messaging re. the recycling program as well as the new location of the Food Lion recycling container. Councilmember Vest suggested another pickup of the recycling bins for those who missed the first one.

- d. Committee member Marrah noted there were no crosswalks at Roe Road and Hwy 25. Administrator Vinson noted it would be a joint project with DOT and that he would investigate the cost of adding infrastructure to either side of 25 on Roe Road.
- e. Chair Criss made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Lane seconded the motion.

#### **4. Public Safety Committee**

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

- a. Chair Criss called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Committee member Criss made a motion to approve minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting held on July 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Committee member Bumgarner. Committee member Bumgarner made a motion to note that the only members present were Committee member Criss, Committee member Vest, and Committee member Bumgarner. Committee member Vest seconded the motion.
- c. Police Chief Ford noted that the National Night Out event was a success. They are hiring for 2 open positions. Officer Hunter Eden is being deployed to Texas and then overseas for a year. The department did receive the SRO grant for Gateway Elementary School.
- d. Assistant Fire Chief, McMakin said that there are four new fire academy instructors and three new fire officer graduates. Classes are run in-house, which is both cost-effective and convenient.
- e. The Building Department's permitting is below average but expected to increase next month.
- f. The Municipal Court added a part-time, rotating judge, Johnathan Smith.
- g. Committee member Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Vest seconded the motion.

#### **5. Planning & Development Committee**

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

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Chair Vest made a motion to approve the Planning and Development minutes from the July 10, 2023 committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee member Criss.
- c. Director Forman noted that the new mixed-use project by the Hampton Inn has been cleared to begin. Director Forman also noted that the housing project by Spring Park is continuing grading which should be completed in the next month. White Hawk Meadows by the YMCA is in the process of grading. Gateway Village on Hawkins is

grading and the roads are down. Chair Criss asked about community meetings relating to these projects. Administrator Vinson noted that community meetings for all three took place in 2021. Director Forman noted the July numbers from the trail counter on the SWT are the highest count for pedestrians and bikes to date. The temporary counter by the high school counted 13,000 which is one-third that of the counter in Downtown.

- d. Mayor Amidon inquired about the affordable housing project on 6 West Street. Administrator Vinson said the project will be put on the September Committee agenda. Mayor Amidon requested that we put together a list of properties that the City owns and become more intentional with our land use. Chair Criss inquired about a pickleball event at Athens Park.
- e. Director Forman thanked Hailey, the intern from Furman for her work as she has accepted a new position.
- f. Chair Vest made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Criss seconded.

**6. Ways and Means Committee**

***Members: Chair Bumgarner, Councilmember Criss, Councilmember Vest, Councilmember Byers (absent). Councilmember Floyd is no longer a member.***

- a. Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Chair Bumgarner made a motion to approve the Ways and Means minutes from the July 10, 2023 meeting. Councilmember Vest motioned, and Councilmember Criss seconded.
- c. There being no further business, Chair Bumgarner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Vest motioned, and Councilmember Criss seconded.

**7. Old business**

- a. None

**8. New Business**

- a. None

**9. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. New marketing ad in the DiscoversSouthCarolina publication.
- b. Added a photographer contracted to take pics of events and seasonal photos for marketing materials.
- c. Administrator Vinson recognized officers for the success of National Night Out.
- d. Downtown merchants meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023.
- e. Phillip Tate and David Garland have taken the initiative to schedule first aid training

for administration in City Hall. Also, additional AED devices in city hall.

- f. Mayor Amidon noted that movies in the park are happening Saturdays in August.
- g. Mayor Amidon is working on a certification from Caregivers of Mother Earth. The first year focus is monarch butterflies. Kindergarten teachers at both Heritage and Gateway Elementary schools are participating.
- h. Mayor Amidon thanked officers for a successful National Night Out.

### 10. Adjournment

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

Mayor Amidon adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Brandy Amidon Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by Beth Sicignano Beth Sicignano, Acting Clerk

Eric Vinson Eric Vinson, City Administrator