

**Council Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 10, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Council Present:** Mayor, Brandy Amidon; Mayor Pro Tempore, Rick Floyd; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, Wayne McCall, 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

**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. Committee member Lane made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Works Committee meeting held on June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Committee member Marrah.
- c. The Committee reviewed the Public Works Report for June. Discussions included blue bin recycling pickup, sunshades installation at Adventure Park, installing cameras at Athens Park, pressure washing sidewalks on Main Street, the septic tank letters mailed to the appropriate residents, and David Garland becoming a full-time employee. Director Tate will report back with an update on the number of residents who have signed up for Ever Green recycling.
- d. Committee member Marrah made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Lane seconded the motion.

**3. Public Safety Committee**

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

- a. Chair Byers 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 June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Committee member Vest.
- c. The Committee reviewed the Public Safety Report for June. Police Chief Ford noted that the motor vehicle collisions with injury are down from last year and the department is trying to fulfill two full-time police officer positions. Fire Chief Robertson welcomed back Captain Mac from leave, the department retained the Fire Safe Community Certification, and new fire gear was purchased with the V-Safe Grant received earlier in the year. The Building Department and Municipal Court had no further business to report.
- d. Administrator Vinson presented the Thirteenth Circuit Public Defender Agreement to the Committee. This agreement allows for cities within Greenville County to have a dedicated public defender. Discussions included the fee, opting in/out of the agreement, the average number of cases in a year, and how the agreement will benefit the city. The City Administrator recommended the city's participation in the program.  
  
Committee member Vest made a motion to move the agreement forward to full Council. Committee member Bumgarner seconded the motion.
- e. Committee member Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Vest seconded the motion.

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

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

- a. Chair Vest called the meeting to order by roll call.
- b. Committee member Bumgarner made a motion to approve minutes from Planning & Development Committee meeting held on June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Committee member Criss.
- c. The Committee reviewed the Planning & Development Report for June. Director Forman noted the increased usage of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. He also reviewed the population and housing data from the Comp Plan, highlighting the increased population, which includes Furman University. Committee member Criss requested the data be presented without the Furman numbers. Committee member McCall questioned the business model of the Hawkins Park subdivision. An explanation was given by Administrator Vinson.
- d. Committee member Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Byers seconded the motion.

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

***Members: Grant Bumgarner (Chair), Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Rick Floyd, and Brantly Vest***

- a. Chair Bumgarner called the meeting to order by roll call.

- b. Committee member Floyd made a motion to approve minutes from Ways & Means Committee meeting held on June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Committee member Vest.
- c. There being no business to discuss, Committee member Floyd made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Committee member Byers seconded the motion.

**6. Old Business**

- a. None

**7. New Business**

- a. None

**8. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. The city has a follow-up meeting at the beginning of August with Furman University regarding the Fire Services Agreement.
- b. The TRHS billboard on Main Street is scheduled for removal.
- c. Administrator Vinson welcomed back Captain Mac from his leave.
- d. The Public Works department is waiting on picnic tables for Adventure Park. We will finalize the additional equipment order in the coming week.
- e. David Garland has joined the Public Works department as a full-time employee and our intern Abe Evans has joined the department as a part-time employee.
- f. Municipal Election filing opens at noon on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> for Travelers Rest city council seats and will close at noon on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Floyd asked that the election sign policy be given to candidates when they submit their Notice of Filing.
- g. City of Fort Oglethorpe, GA will be visiting TR on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> to acquire ideas for revitalizing their town.

**9. Executive Session**

- a. Mayor Amidon made a motion to go into Executive Session under S.C. Code §30-4-70, subsection (a)(1) to discuss the Administrator Review. Councilmember Floyd seconded the motion.

With no further discussions, Councilmember Lane made the motion to return from Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Councilmember Marrah seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

**10. Adjournment**

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

Mayor Amidon adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Brandy Amidon Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by Beth Jones ~~Amanda Connelly, City Clerk~~

Eric Vinson Eric Vinson, City Administrator