

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**Present:** Mayor Brandy Amidon; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Lisa Lane, Sherry Marrah, and Wayne McCall

**Also Present:** Eric Vinson, City Administrator; Carson Ruffrage, City Clerk; Ben Ford, Police Chief; Mike Forman, Planning Director; Mac McMakin, Asst. Fire Chief, and Greg Robertson, Fire Chief

**Absent:** Councilmember Brantley 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 Criss.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a. Mayor Amidon called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on September 21, 2023. Councilmember Bumgarner motioned to approve, motion was seconded by Councilmember Lane and carried unanimously.

**4. Citizen Participation**

- a. Jennifer Taylor, Director for Philanthropy for Shriners Greenville discussed the Turkey Trot and Roll that occurs November 11, 2023. Ms. Taylor also wanted to make everyone aware of what the Shriners do in Greenville County. Shriners is here for children no matter their insurance or ability to pay.

**5. Ordinances & Resolutions for Second Reading**

- a. None

**6. Committee Reports**

- a. Chair Criss provided a summary of the Public Works Committee report from October 9, 2023.
- b. Chair Byers provided a summary of the Public Safety Committee report from October 9, 2023.
- c. Vice Chair Bumgarner provided a summary of the Planning & Development Committee report from October 9, 2023.
- d. Chair Bumgarner provided a summary of the Ways and Means Committee report from October 9, 2023.

Chair Bumgarner made a motion to accept the September financial report as presented. Councilmember Criss seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Ordinances and Resolutions for First Reading**

- a. Ordinance to Establish Fire Service Fee
  - i. The few adjustments discussed during committee are included: non-profits can enter into an agreement with the city; any agreement includes an inflationary adjustment or increase because of call volume; lastly, can address delinquent payments through the SC Debt Collection Act.
  - ii. Bumgarner accepted the motion as presented in our packet, Criss seconded. The discussion was opened to the council.
  - iii. Bumgarner noted that amendments can be made by the Administrator and approved by Council.
  - iv. The open discussion included how the fining and waiving of fines are handled, adding language to allow the Administrator to waive up to one call per year so that it doesn't clog Council, and emphasizing that it is a fee for service. Call volume for churches is low, so they shouldn't be greatly affected.
  - v. The city's lawyer has reached out to the Attorney General about only applying to non-profits that have overnight stay, but that opinion letter hasn't come back yet. Councilmember McCall wanted to wait until Attorney Childs received a response from the Attorney General. Administrator Vinson noted that even when the city receives a response, the calculation method will be difficult. By passing the ordinance, Council simplifies the process and gives them immediate leverage.
  - vi. Mayor Amidon with Councilmembers Byers, Bumgarner, and Criss voted in favor of moving the ordinance to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmembers Lane, Marrah, and McCall opposed.

**8. Old Business**

- a. None.

**9. New Business**

- a. None.

**10. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. The Board of the Farmer's Market is hosting Council for dinner immediately after the meeting.
- b. Councilmember Byers talked about how a member of the community praised Chief Ford's creativity and department.

**11. Adjournment**

- a. There being no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Lane seconded.

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Brandy Amidon, Mayor

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Carson Ruffrage, City Clerk

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Eric Vinson, City Administrator