

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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

Also Present: Carson Ruffrage, City Clerk; Ben Ford, Police Chief; Mike Forman, Planning Director; Phillip Tate, Public Works Director; Mac McMakin, Asst. Fire Chief, and Greg Robertson, Fire Chief

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 James

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 December 21, 2023. Councilmember Criss motioned to approve, The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marrah and carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Recognition

- a. Proclamation Caroline Creel
Ms. Creel was honored for her work as a mentor with Momentum Bike Clubs.
- b. Proclamation Craig Nowokunski
Mr. Nowokunski was honored for his work as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

5. Citizen Participation

- a. Sharon Klompus spoke about instant runoff voting and rank choice voting as a representative of Better Ballot SC. She presented a packet to Council to highlight

instant runoff voting. Ms. Klompus noted that it can increase the number of people who vote and decrease the cost of elections. Travelers Rest votes by a plurality, so it would not affect our city. She requested that councilmembers talk with other cities and SC legislators about the benefits of rank choice voting. She also requested that they vote to adopt the resolution she provided.

- b. Alecia Brewster with Greenville Mentoring Collaborative spoke about how they provide a central mentoring structure in Greenville County. She noted the many benefits that mentoring has on young people and on their community. Less than 2% of Greenville County youth are being mentored. If you are interested in mentoring, please visit www.gvlmentoring.org

6. Election of Mayor Pro Tem

- a. Mayor Amidon opened the floor for Mayor ProTem. Councilmember Vest nominated Councilmember Bumgarner. Councilmember Lane nominated Councilmember Byers. Mayor Amidon closed the nominations.
- b. After all ballots were counted, Councilmember Bumgarner was elected as Mayor Pro Tem.

7. Appointment of Committee Chairs

- a. Mayor Amidon made a motion to approve the Committee Chairs as presented in the packet. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

8. Ordinances & Resolutions for Second Reading

- a. Ordinance TR O-09-23
 - i. Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- b. Ordinance TR O-10-23
 - i. Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve. Councilmember Byers seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- c. Ordinance TR O-01-24
 - i. Councilmember Bumgarner made a motion to approve. Councilmember Lane seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Chair Lane provided a summary of the Public Works Committee report from January 8, 2024.
- b. Chair Byers provided a summary of the Public Safety Committee report from January 8, 2024.
- c. Chair Vest provided a summary of the Planning & Development Committee report from January 8, 2024.
- d. Councilmember Bumgarner provided a summary of the Ways and Means Committee report from January 8, 2023.

10. Ordinances and Resolutions for First Reading

- a. None

11. Old Business

- a. None

12. New Business

- a. **None**

13. Miscellaneous Matters

- a. For the Good of Council
 - i. Councilmember McCall recognized the Royal Devildog Steppers of Travelers Rest High School who won the HBCU Step-up show at Bon Secours.
- b. Director Tate gave a brief report on the litter pick up during the MLK Jr day of service.
- c. Councilmember Bumgarner thanked Council for the election of Mayor Pro Tem.

14. Adjournment