

**CITY OF TRAVELERS REST**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m.  
City Hall Council Chambers**

**Present:** Mayor Brandy Amidon; Councilmembers Grant Bumgarner, Kelly Byers, Shaniece Criss, Catherine James, 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 McCall

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

- a. Mayor Amidon called a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on January 18, 2024. Councilmember McCall made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Criss and carried unanimously.
- b. Mayor Amidon called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on January 18, 2024. Councilmember Marrah motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilmember James and carried unanimously.

**4. Citizen Recognition**

- a. Proclamation Heritage Elementary Shark Tank Day Student Finalists  
Finalists for Shark Tank Day at Heritage Elementary were honored for their work. Each student gave a brief description of their project.

**5. Citizen Participation**

- a. None

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

- a. None

**7. Committee Reports**

- a. Chair Lane provided a summary of the Public Works Committee report from February 5, 2024.
- b. Chair Byers provided a summary of the Public Safety Committee report from February 5, 2024.
- c. Chair Vest provided a summary of the Planning & Development Committee report from February 5, 2024.
- d. Councilmember Bumgarner provided a summary of the Ways and Means Committee report from February 5, 2023.

**8. Ordinances and Resolutions for First Reading**

- a. Athens Street Rezoning  
Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve, Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion. Councilmember Vest stated that the motion needed a supermajority, 7 out of 9, to approve. Mayor Amidon and Councilmember Criss met with the community and listened to their reasons for opposing the rezoning. The community in attendance wanted a more permanent tenant. There was an understanding that taxes could go up. Mayor Amidon stated that she is voting yes because she is leaning on the comprehensive plan which includes more affordable housing for residents. It fits the master plan of being bikeable and walkable. Councilmember Bumgarner agreed with the Mayor, but also stated that he doesn't believe government should be in housing. Because of the rezoning, he must make a decision and he believes that it fits with the master plan and will be voting yes. Councilmember Marrah wanted to confirm that if the rezoning didn't go through, there would only be one home on the lot. Councilmember Byers is grateful that the developer came forward with the plan and encouraged others to do the same. The vote was 3-6 against rezoning. The

motion did not carry.

**b. Bowers Road Annexation**

Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve the annexation. Councilmember Marrah seconded the motion. Councilmember Byers wanted to reiterate that the vote was only for the annexation, not for the site plans. Final details would still need to go through the City and County. The Bunched Arrowhead will be reviewed by the County during the subdivision process. Councilmember Criss wondered if they could recommend additional provisions to the approval process. Director Forman stated that they could during the Rezoning Ordinance approval. Councilmember McCall noted that going forward that the Greenville County Subdivision Review board would deal with many of the issues discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

**c. Bowers Road Zoning Map Amendment (O-04-24)**

Councilmember Vest made a motion to approve the annexation. Councilmember Bumgarner seconded the motion. Director Forman noted the five additional conditions added to the Amendment along with what's allowed with the FRD zoning. Both the Planning Commission and staff recommended approval. Councilmember McCall wanted an update on what a flexible review district is. Director Forman described that FRD allows the City to ask for all the information on the front end of the project. Councilmember James wanted to know if they are also voting on the number of units along with the zoning. Director Forman confirmed that they will be voting on the number of units with the zoning. Councilmember Bumgarner wanted to confirm that the added conditions are a part of the motion to approve. Director Forman confirmed that they were. Councilmember Byers wanted to add that the developer requested FRD which is notable because it is stricter. Councilmember Lane wondered if Council could lower the number of approved houses if needed. Director Forman stated that the ceiling is 87, but the number could be lowered by the Planning Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Amidon noted that there are other items with the development that are important to the community that the Planning Commission and Council is aware of.

**9. Old Business**

- a. None

**10. New Business**

- a. None

**11. Miscellaneous Matters**

- a. Mayor Amidon announced that the new City Administrator, Shannon Herman, will start February 26<sup>th</sup>. She comes from Greenville County where she was an Assistant Administrator.

**12. Adjournment**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Brandy Amidon, Mayor

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