



MINUTES
CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 – 5:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Mayor/Council:

Mayor Hancock - Absent
Mayor Pro-Tem Andrews
Councilmember Braddock
Councilmember Caldwell
Councilmember DeLaine
Councilmember Mack
Councilmember McGee

Executive Staff:

City Manager Moore
City Clerk Skipper
Deputy City Clerk Crenshaw
Parks & Recreation Director Bedard
Public Services Director Bethea
Business Services Director Brown
Tourism & Communications Dir Brown
Fire Chief Burr

Attorney - Absent

Press - Absent

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CODE SECTION 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022, AND DULY POSTED AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE AND ON HARTSVILLESC.GOV. CITY HALL IS AN ACCESSIBLE FACILITY, FOR ASSISTANCE CALL 843-383-3018.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrews called the meeting to order at 5:32pm and asked Councilmember Mack to lead in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – APPROVED.

Motion: Caldwell; Second: DeLaine; Carried: All ayes.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation – Mayor Pro Tem Andrews presented a proclamation declaring December 2, 2022 as Arbor Day to Public Services Director Bethea. Hartsville has been a Tree City for decades.

Public Comments

Grady Weaver, 551 Lakeshore Drive, thanked Council and staff for assistance on McLeod Road.

Sheila Mullis, 613 West College Avenue: expressed concerns related to trees planted in right-of-way causing safety issues due to leaves in storm water drains and roots pushing up areas in sidewalks. Asked City's responsibilities in relation to trees in the right-of-way, benefits of change to yard debris process and penalties for non-compliance. Asked Council to please reconsider changes to yard debris program.

Alan Norwood, 619 West College Avenue: questioned what the change to yard debris program accomplishes and would like to see actual numbers on savings. Requested removal of a tree in the right-of-way of his property. Suggested reducing the amount of yard debris tonnage removed by City through tougher enforcement of penalties on non-compliant lawn care contractors who are not hauling off debris.

Tony Tornovich, 809 West Home Avenue: questioned if change for yard debris program resulted in any cost savings as costs are still incurred to pick up bags and brown rollcars. Loves Hartsville and feels the change negatively impacts quality of life in Hartsville.

Drew Hamilton, 305 Dahoon Lane: lives in a neighborhood with many trees. Several years ago, Clemson recommended not mulching leaves but bagging them. During a recent trip to his hometown, he noticed yards looked as if owners didn't care how bad they looked. This change makes it more difficult to deal with leaves and yards will look like uncared for as his hometown looks. Suggested raising taxes or fees if more money is needed to run the yard debris program and doing away with bagging the leaves.

Kim Northcutt, 911 Hannah Avenue: suggested more yard debris rollcars are needed and each home needs more than one rollcart.

Seth Lowe, 131 Loring Drive: expressed concern for elderly citizens unable to afford to hire lawn care companies or who do their own yard work.

Randy Lowe, 1111 West Carolina Avenue: willing to pay more for the service to not deal with the brown rollcars and bagging leaves. Encouraged Council to find another way to deal with the issue.

Yard Debris Discussion

City Manager Moore provided information and background on the recent changes to the yard debris service. The brown rollcart pilot program received positive feedback, so we moved forward. The amount of yard debris City picks up far exceeds the garbage tonnage. The program is time consuming and equipment is tearing up. Many options discussed to continue offering a good level of service. Staff currently has a waiting list for free rollcars and is giving out bags for free for one year. There is a one-year grace period with no penalties while the changes are implemented. We are hopeful changes to the yard debris program will keep leaves out of storm drains and allow the City to continue providing this service to citizens.

Councilmember DeLaine encouraged citizens look at overall issue, how it impacts the community and to give the new program a chance. Other cities have been bagging leaves for many years. We can re-evaluate the program in the future. Reminded everyone there is no penalty for not raking leaves.

Councilmember Caldwell reminded everyone the yard debris program can be revisited in the future.

Councilmember McGee hopes the change acts as a catalyst for citizens thinking how we can use leaves as mulch or other alternatives to sending them to the landfill.

Mayor Pro Tem Andrews thanked everyone for their input. Councilmembers live in the community and rake leaves too. Democracy is not dead in Hartsville. All councilmembers will be looking to see how implementation goes.

MANAGER UPDATE

Dr. T. James Bell, Jr. Retirement Celebration – Wednesday, December 14th at 4:30pm at Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, Education Classroom. Council is invited to attend.

MASC & Main Street SC to provide Design Review Training - Monday, December 19th from 10am – 1pm at The Edition – Council is invited to attend. Light snacks will be provided.

Arbor Day Celebration – Tuesday, December 20th at 11am at Pond at the Vista. Tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day.

City Offices closed for holidays –

- a. Annual Employee Luncheon – Wednesday, December 14 from noon to 2pm
- b. Christmas Holidays - Friday, December 23 through Tuesday, December 27
- c. New Year's Holiday - Monday, January 2, 2023

Deadline for bids for Canal District – Wednesday, December 14th at 5pm.

CONSENT AGENDA - Received as Information Only

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4446: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX A -ZONING ARTICLE VI (A) - CLUSTER HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS SECTION 7. MINIMUM SPACE BETWEEN PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS – APPROVED.

Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: McGee; Second: Braddock;

Carried: All voting aye, except DeLaine voting Nay.

City Manager Moore explained this change allows smaller distance between homes in cluster housing developments.

RESOLUTION12-22-01: APPROVAL OF CITY OF HARTSVILLE'S LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNORS SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (GSSM) ACQUISITION OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES FOR GROWTH AND PROGRAM EXPANSION.

Motion: Caldwell; Second: Mack; Carried: All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:09pm.

Motion: Braddock; Second: Delaine; Carried: All ayes.

Casey Hancock, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sherron L. Skipper, City Clerk