



MINUTES

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 – 10:00 AM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Mayor/Council:

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

Attorney – Danny Crowe, Lawrence Flynn
Press – Stephan Drew, News & Press

Executive Staff:

City Manager Moore
City Clerk Skipper
Deputy City Clerk Crenshaw
Parks & Recreation Director Bedard
Public Services Director Bethea
Business Services Director Brown
Fire Chief Burr
HR Director Jones
Planning & Zoning Manager Kelley
Police Captain Privette

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CODE SECTION 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023, 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 Hancock called the meeting to order at 10:02am and asked Councilmember Mack to lead in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – APPROVED.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2020 Census Redistricting Report - SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) Staff, Allyn Anderson, Kathryn Kelley and Adam Demars made a virtual presentation to Council of the 2020 Census results for the City of Hartsville. Total population decreased from 7,764 to 7,446. As a result, the ideal population for each Council district is 1,241. Redistricting is a complex process to meet core criteria of deviation range less than 10% (RFA recommends a 5% deviation), Equal Protection Clause of 14th Amendment for “one person, one vote”, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to protect racial minority populations, and geographically compact and contiguous districts. Currently districts one (1) and three (3) need to gain people while minimizing the number of people moved and trying to get lowest deviation range as possible. SC RFA is a neutral policy agency with no involvement in local politics and needs the input of Council regarding local communities of interests during the redistricting process. The RFA proposal is a draft, staff is here to work with Council for what’s best for the City of Hartsville. At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of Mayor and Council to pass the redistricting amendments through an ordinance requiring two readings and a public hearing.

Councilmember Andrews asked about Department of Justice (DOJ) clearance, the required deviation range and if District 3 moving from NH DOJ Black at 67% to 61% is acceptable.

Allyn Anderson, SC RFA, in 2014 DOJ pre-clearance was ruled unconstitutional, DOJ review is no longer required. Federal and State law require a deviation range of less than 10% between Council districts but

RFA recommends less than 5%. RFA Staff ensured those districts with majority of NH DOJ Black kept a majority of minority population.

Mayor Hancock thanked staff for their presentation for work to get districts so even.

Proclamations

- Black History Month – Reverend Blue, Adlena Graham and Barbara Carroway received a proclamation declaring February as Black History Month in Hartsville from Mayor Hancock.
- Random Acts of Kindness Month – Reverend Blue, Adlena Graham and Barbara Carroway received a proclamation on behalf of People to People and Clayton Richardson declaring February as Random Acts of Kindness in Hartsville from Mayor Hancock.

Public Comments

None.

Year End 6-30-22 Audit Report

Mayor Hancock stated for the record he has no relationship with Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin. Shane Kirkley, CPA, Partner from Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin, LLP, presented the annual audit report to Council and reviewed the executive audit summary. The city received an unmodified opinion with no audit findings, highest level opinion auditors able to give. The city has increased the reserves to 29% with a healthy fund balance. The city continues to financially move in the right direction and has a wonderful staff to work with in regard to finances.

MANAGER UPDATE

1. Annual Statement of Economic Interests are due by March 30, 2023 at noon.
2. Erick Knackstedt was introduced as the new General Manager at Neptune Island Water Park.
3. City Manager Moore updated Council on the new yard debris program. Under the previous yard debris program the knuckle boom equipment damaged surrounding ground and meter boxes under debris piles. City Manager presented pictures and videos of collection of loose leaves and bagged leaves by staff. Currently there is 95% compliance with the new yard debris program. Under the new program crews are finishing earlier and now able to clean up dumping sites across the city.
4. City staff is working with financial partners to discuss options for repayment to The Byerly Foundation of the mortgages on HPDC Owned Properties.
5. City Manager Moore reminded Council of upcoming events:
 - Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 from 9am to 2pm at The Edition
 - State of the City on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6pm at Watson Theater at Coker University
 - Budget preparation meetings coming soon after the Strategic Planning Session.

CONSENT AGENDA - Received as Information Only

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 02-23-01: - APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) - APPROVED.

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

City Manager Moore informed Council staff is applying in the second round of grant applications for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).

RESOLUTION 02-23-02: APPROVAL FOR HARTSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AGREEMENT WITH THE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM USAGE– APPROVED.

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

City Manager Moore this approves an agreement to work together with the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office to get everyone on the 800 MHz radio system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SC CODE FOIA SECTION 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) FOR DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYMENT REGARDING POLICE CHIEF POSITION AND FOR RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE RELATING TO PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIMS - BUSINESS LICENSES AND INFORMAL AGREEMENTS THEREUNDER – APPROVED.

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

MOTION: TO EXIT AND VERIFY THAT ONLY THE ITEMS STATED IN THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROVED.

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

UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4447: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE II, SECTION 14-31 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO ITS BUSINESS LICENSE PROGRAM TO REVOKE AND RESCIND ANY PURPORTED INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND ANY TAXPAYER REGARDING BUSINESS LICENSING IN THE CITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO – APPROVED.

Motion: Mack; Second: Andrews; Carried: All voting aye, except McGee voting nay.

INFORMATION ONLY

a. Calendars and Other Items

ADJOURNMENT without objection at 12:08pm.

Casey Hancock, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sherron L. Skipper, City Clerk