



MINUTES

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023 – 10:00 AM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Mayor/Council:

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

Executive Staff:

City Manager Moore
Assistant City Manager/CFO Caulder
City Clerk Crenshaw
Special Projects Director Skipper
Fire Chief Burr
Parks and Recreation Director Robinson
Public Service Director Bethea
Business Services Director Brown
Tourism & Communications Dir Brown
Human Resources Director Jones
Parks and Recreation Director Robinson
Police Chief Snellgrove

Attorney – None

Press – Stephan Drew, News & Press

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CODE SECTION 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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 10:01am and asked Councilmember McGee to lead in the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Civility Pledge.

DISCUSSIONS

House of Hope Project Update – City Manager Moore gave a follow-up on House of Hope’s September presentation on relocation of FEMA mobile units to Hartsville for use as an emergency shelter.

Mayor Hancock is working with the Pastoral Alliance to help spearhead this initiative. They have identified some possible sites, and Brian Braddock, with House of Hope, is coordinating that effort including speaking with the Catholic diocese about potential donation of the abandoned Saint Joseph’s school at 305 Washington St. Other potential locations include Sixth Street, Washington Street and Society Drive. Again, this would not be a true homeless shelter but more of a House of Hope Business center that offers various services, including some emergency housing for vetted individuals in the event of an event. The City’s contribution would be to pay for the delivery and set-up of the building, estimated at \$125,000. The expense would be paid using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. House of Hope needs to know if we intend to contribute by the end of the year.

Splashpad Renovation – City Manager Moore reminded Council in the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget up to \$600,000 of waterpark improvements through a capital lease improvement was approved. In response to an RFQ, the City received three proposals for the project outlining their experience and services; no local companies responded. After careful review, staff requesting authorization to utilize Water Technology, Inc. (WTI) at the November regular City Council meeting. This engineering firm will coordinate the project and utilize equipment from Water Pools, Inc. While at the WWA conference, staff had the opportunity to sit down with the designers for Water Pools and were highly impressed with the system and its capabilities. The proposed renovations make the splashpad ADA accessible for inclusive play. Renovations will upgrade the ten-year-old splashpad, install a closeable partition between it and the waterpark, and add cabanas. This will allow

the splashpad to open outside of waterpark season staffed with dispatchers, which will increase revenue. The 2023 season saw a record attendance of 91,000. Staff hope renovations contribute to continuing this trend.

Brownfields Assessment Grant Update – City Manager Moore updated Council on the partnership with PPM Consulting. PPM Consulting is working with staff to finalize a grant application for an EPA Brownfield Community-wide Assessment Grant in the amount of \$500,000. An analysis of possible brownfield sites identified sites such as the Thornwell School, Armory Building, the former gas station at Sixth Street and Carolina Avenue, and the Coker Cotton Gin. This is a no-match grant that allows us to receive funding to fully assess brownfield sites and allow the City to assist (through additional grants) in the remediation of these inhibitors to development in conjunction with the property owners/developers of the sites.

MANAGER UPDATE

Staff completed a permitting study which found that Hartsville has one of the lowest cost building permits in the state. We are very competitive. As a comparison, building permit costs for Darlington County are three times higher. Staff is preparing an ordinance to amend the permitting structure as a further incentive to builders.

In the Post and Courier’s recent Pee Dee Reader’s Choice Awards and Hartsville won first place in six categories. At the November 15th award ceremony, we will receive first place awards in the following categories: Best Family Attraction for Neptune Island Water Park, Best Local Instagram for Visit Hartsville SC, Best Art Gallery for Hartsville Museum, Best Special Event Venue for The Edition, and in Best Use of Public Funds the City of Hartsville tied with the City of Dillon. In addition, many Hartsville businesses and their employees won “the best of” in their areas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SC CODE FOIA SECTION 30-4- 70(a)(2) FOR RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE FOR MATTERS COVERED UNDER ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE – BUSINESS LICENSE APPEAL – APPROVED.

Motion: Caldwell; Second: Andrews; 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: Andrews; Second: McGee; Carried: All ayes.

UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE ADJOURNMENT without objection at 10:50am.

Casey Hancock, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Andrea D. Crenshaw, CMC, City Clerk