



MINUTES

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 – 5:30 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 100 EAST CAROLINA AVENUE

Mayor/Council:

Mayor Hancock
Mayor Pro-Tem Caldwell
Councilmember Braddock
Councilmember DeLaine
Councilmember Hungerpillar
Councilmember Mack
Councilmember Meadows - Absent

Attorney – None

Press – Stephan Drew, News & Press
Bob Sloan, The Messenger

Executive Staff:

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

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CODE SECTION 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024, 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 5:30pm and asked Councilmember Mack to lead in the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Civility Pledge.

MOTION TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE FEBRUARY 21, 2024 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – APPROVED.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamations

- Women’s History Month Proclamation – Mayor Hancock presented to all women in attendance a proclamation declaring March as Women’s History Month in Hartsville.
- Girl Scout Week Proclamation - Mayor Hancock presented representatives of Girl Scout Troop 207 a proclamation declaring the week of March 10-16, 2024 as Girl Scout Week in Hartsville. Each Girl Scout was presented with a City of Hartsville badge for their local government badge.
- Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation – Mayor Hancock presented to Darlington County Disabilities and Special Needs Board representatives a proclamation declaring March as Disabilities Awareness Month.

PDRTA Transit Update

Will Johnson, Outreach Coordinator of PDRTA, commended the Hartsville community for the large turn-out for Council meeting. He presented the annual transit update report to Council and requested a funding increase for fiscal year 2024-2025 to \$19,000. The transit service to Hartsville is on track with tremendous growth in fiscal year 2024 with current numbers reflecting six hundred (600) more trips per month to date over fiscal year 2023. The new demand response service is designed for those who are unable to access

the fixed routes independently and safely. Demand response service picks up riders at their door and transports them to their destination. Service in Hartsville began in November 2023 with 694 trips to date.

PDRTA is currently partnering with employers in the Florence area for workforce transportation services. Employers with high employee turnover rates due to transportation issues have seen these rates drastically reduced after partnering with PDRTA; the savings in turnover costs allowed employers to increase employee wages.

PDRTA is partnering with Darlington County School District on two programs. PDRTA provides transport for the “Key to Career” student internship program. In addition, Hartsville is a pilot program for new bus shelters at combined PDRTA and school bus stops. The shelters not only provide shelter but are Wi-Fi capable with charging ports.

Public Comments

Marva Serrano, 222 Wilkes Circle, thanked Council and City Manager Moore for their help in getting SCDOT to work at Wilkes Circle. SCDOT made repairs but unfortunately water still stands in the street when it rains and SCDOT bulldozed on private property during the repairs. Requested help to communicate issues to SCDOT.

MANAGER UPDATE

Recognition of Employees – City Manager Moore and Police Chief Snellgrove recognized staff of the Hartsville Police Department. Recently a fifteen-year-old girl left Hartsville High School and there were concerns for potential sexual trafficking. Thanks to the work of staff tracked her from Hartsville to areas in the upstate including Traveler’s Rest, Newberry, Laurens and Gray Court. Thanks to the work of staff she was located within 48 hours and returned to Hartsville; a very small number of runaway children are found. Officers were very diligent in finding her and getting her back to safety. Officers and staff were commended and presented each with a certificate of recognition and a ribbon for dress uniform. Staff and officers recognized were Kelly Woodham, Janice Woodham, April Tyner, Shannon Hoffman, Krissy Jeffords and Johnny Winburn.

The SC Statement of Economic Interests Filing deadline is March 30, 2024 at Noon by filing at <https://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home>. City Manager Moore reminded Council to file their statement of economic interests before the deadline. This is a requirement for those holding public office. There is a fine for late filing.

CONSENT AGENDA - Received as Information Only

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4468: AN ORDINANCE TO LEASE THE PROPERTY AT 149 WEST CAROLINA AVENUE TO DARLINGTON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager Moore advised this is a renewal of the lease for the ReTail Therapy building.

Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Mack; Second: Caldwell; Carried: All ayes.

RESOLUTION 03-24-01: ADOPTING THE 2023 PEE DEE REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – APPROVED. City Manager Moore approval keep the mitigation plan up-to-date and makes Hartsville eligible for FEMA grants.

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

RESOLUTION 03-24-02: TO AUTHORIZE ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THE REMAINING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained the ARPA funds remaining must be obligated by December 2024. The HartsVision 2025 strategic planning session identified projects for funding such as parks, Sixth Street revitalization, Fourth and Railroad property and security cameras. Approval allows staff to begin work on the identified projects.

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

RESOLUTION 03-24-03: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR SC FORESTRY COMMISSION GRANT – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained the grant allows staff to look at downtown trees and lighting to ensure the trees are an asset to the City.

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

RESOLUTION 03-24-04: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (SCDPS) GRANT – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained due to upgrades to the statewide system the HPD radios need to be upgraded to continue to communicate. The upgrade is an expensive cost of approximately \$100,000. The grant will allow us to upgrade sixty-five radios.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SC CODE FOIA SECTION 30-4- 70(a)(1) FOR DISCUSSION OF OF THE CITY MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – APPROVED.

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

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

INFORMATION ONLY

Calendars and Other Items

ADJOURNMENT without objection at 7:40pm.

Casey Hancock, Mayor

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