



MINUTES

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEARINGS AND REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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

Attorney – None

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

Executive Staff:

City Manager Moore
Assistant City Manager/CFO Caulder
City Clerk Crenshaw
Public Services Director Bethea
Dir of Tourism & Communications Brown
Business Services Director Brown
Fire Chief Burr
Planning & Zoning Manager Kelley
Special Projects Director Skipper
Police Chief Snellgrove
Parks and Recreation Director Robinson

PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CODE SECTION 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON FRIDAY, MAY 10, 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 5:32pm and asked Councilmember Mack to lead in the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and Civility Pledge.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Clayton Richardson, he was for many years a very active advocate for open dialogue, positive race relations and the residents of South Hartsville.

MOTION TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – APPROVED.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamations

Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring Battens Disease Awareness Day on June 9, 2024 to Jordan and Kolby Stockton and their infant son, Sam.

Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring May as Water Safety Month to the staff of Neptune Island Water Park. Assistant City Manager Caulder reminded everyone that Neptune Island Water Park opens this coming weekend, May 18th.

Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring May as Building Safety Month to Building and Codes Enforcement staff of the Hartsville Fire Department, Christopher Morgan, Codes Enforcement Officer, and Byron Hayden, Fire Marshall.

Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring Public Works Week on May 19-26, 2024 to staff of the City Public Works division, Philip Bethea, Public Services Director, and John LaCosse, Utilities Manager.

Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 and National Police Week as May 10-16, 2024 to staff of the Hartsville Police Department.

On behalf of the City, Mayor Hancock signed proclamations declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month and National Cities, Towns & Villages Month.

Public Comments

Marva Serrano, 222 Wilkes Circle, spoke regarding several ongoing issues. She will still be advocating for recognition for Ms. Mildred Burno. Ongoing issues on Wilkes Circle include water puddling in the street and a property infringement by SCDOT when attempting to repair the street. City Manager Moore let her know SCDOT will have to respond regarding the property infringement. She reminded Council the St. Joseph's School historical marker is still incorrect. City Manager Moore will request an update from Darlington County Historical Commission; once they approve the change to the sign the City will pay for a new historical marker. Mrs. Serrano voiced concerns over the upkeep needed at the Marion Avenue Cemetery. City Manager Moore explained the City received a grant to protect and upkeep the cemetery but is currently going through the legal process to take over an abandoned cemetery.

Jerome Wright, 436 Logan Avenue, spoke about dogs running loose. City Manager Moore explained this is an issue not seen before in the City but staff have removed seven animals. There are many dogs running loose but ownership is hard to prove. Please have your pets spayed or neutered. Please remember with the Fourth of July holiday approaching, some pets escape their enclosures when spooked by fireworks; please call animal control to report any loose dogs.

MANAGER UPDATE

The MASC Annual Meeting is July 17-21 in Greenville, SC. Council received meeting agenda and registration information today. Councils from across the state attend the annual meeting for education and updates on legislation. Please return your meeting registration and hotel preferences to the City Clerk by the June 4, 2024 Worksession.

CONSENT AGENDA - Received as Information Only

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4469: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE CODE BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 58 ARTICLE I "IN GENERAL" SECTION 56-6 "HATE INTIMIDATION" – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained that South Carolina is one of two states with no hate crime laws. There is an initiative encouraging cities to adopt a hate intimidation ordinance.

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4470: TO AMEND THE RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE USER'S FEE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 70 "SOLID WASTE" ARTICLE I "IN GENERAL" SECTION 70-2 "RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE USER'S FEE" – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained this increases the monthly fee by \$2 a month to cover increased cost to operate and allows the City to continue excellent service.

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4471: TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND AMENDMENT OF FEES AND RATES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE – APPROVED. City Manager Moore explained this is the annual review and update of the Master Fee Schedule during the budget process.

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4472: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained this adopts the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, 2024.

Councilmember Caldwell commended staff for their hard work.

Mayor Hancock noted business license revenue is up fifteen percent over last year.

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4473: AMENDING THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGETS – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained this amends the current fiscal year budget due to unexpected costs and special projects approved by Council. This will true up the budget for a balanced budget as required by SC law.

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

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4474: AN ORDINANCE TO REAFFIRM PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE INSURANCE BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR COUNCILMEMBER COVERAGE AND TO AMEND HARTSVILLE CODE CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION”, ARTICLE 2 “COUNCIL”, DIVISION I “GENERALLY”, SECTION 2-40(b) “COMPENSATION OF COUNCILMEMBERS” – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) is requiring all cities to reaffirm if Mayor and Councilmembers are allowed to participate in their health insurance coverage. This ordinance affirms Councils eligibility to participate and updates the language in city code to be in line with PEBA requirements for members who wish to continue to health insurance coverage after retirement. Currently City Council participates and members have the option to be covered under the City’s health insurance through PEBA. If Council does not reaffirm participation, this is an irrevocable decision to exclude Council from participation.

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

RESOLUTION 05-24-01: APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR POTENTIAL WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECT – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained this is reconsideration of resolution from April after presentation by KCG Development at the work session. The resolution approves a letter of support for a tax credit program for a new workforce housing project. If the project is funded, the City infrastructure improvements will be needed.

Motion: Mack; Second: Caldwell; Carried: All ayes with the exception of Councilmember Braddock who voted nay.

RESOLUTION 05-24-02: DESIGNATION OF AUDITING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEARS JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024, AND THREE (3) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS – APPROVED.

City Manager Moore explained a financial audit is required annually. The City put out a bid request for auditor firm service and received proposals from two certified public accounting firms. Staff recommends bid award to Sheheen, Hancock, & Godwin LLP.

Mayor Hancock stated for the record he is no relation and has no relationship with the Hancock at Sheheen, Hancock & Godwin LLP.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SC CODE FOIA SECTION 30-4- 70(a)(1) FOR DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE CITY JUDGE'S CONTRACT – 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 7:35pm.

Casey Hancock, Mayor

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