

Council Meeting
August 8, 2016

Easley City Council met on August 8th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk, served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the public meeting to order. This was in reference to Presbyterian Communities of S.C. construction projects. City Attorney David Allison gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the hearing. There was a brief discussion and no public comments. The public hearing ended.

Mayor Bagwell called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Bagwell called on Rev. Scott Willis with Enon Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on department heads to introduce new employees. Jennifer Jennings introduced Gina Bergholm the new accounting clerk. She comes to the finance department with twenty years of experience. Gregg Powell introduced his new administrative assistant Tracy Kjean. She has already gotten the recreation department organized and is doing a great job. Chief Womack introduced Baily Campbell and new firefighter II. He came from the Piedmont Park Fire Department.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison - No report. Thanked Jon Humphrey and his staff, Gregg Powell, and all city employees for a successful BLWS.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes –After the shooting in Dallas, thanked the citizens of Easley for the kindness that has been shown to the Easley Police Dept. Hendrick Honda is having a meal for Police, Fire, and EMS personnel. Proud of our citizens and the relationship with those that serve and protect our community.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann – Commended Jon Humphrey and all the volunteers for a job well done. The BLWS gets better every year. It was good to see all the first responders out to be recognized. There will be a presentation from Blake Sanders for the Doodle Trail. We will be refining the plan and hope it will help and improve the Simpson Community.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore –The BLWS was great and the park look beautiful.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright - No report commended Jon Humphrey on the BLWS

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson – Amen to all the above.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. There is a meeting on Friday of the joint Doodle Trail Committee and Pickens County. On Aug. 16th from 12-2, at the gym there will be a committee meeting for the Parks and Rec Master Plan process. On that same day there is a pre-bid meeting for the Doodle Park at 2:00 at City Hall. The movies on the market will begin in Sept and run through Halloween. Our fiscal year is over but we have not closed out the books yet. It should be done in the next two weeks. We are waiting on State money to come in.

Citizens wishing to address council:

Jon Humphrey: BLWS Tournament Director. Thanked everyone for the support that the city provides. Hopes to build on the first responders' night. We had no issues, the support from the Police Department and the community outreach program was so good. Tim Mobley and that group did miracles making the grass grow and it showed up good on ESPN. There was 1300 people at the championship game. The support was great this year. There was even a group from Atlanta that came up to see the Chinese team play. The talk about our city and our program goes on after the games are over. The Delaware team had a resolution from the Governor that mentioned Easley in it. The Hawaii team wanted memorabilia from Easley. The volunteers and local sponsors were great. The Sr. VP from Little League was thrilled with the series and recognized all the improvements that had been made since he was last here.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ordinance No. 2016-10 to rezone 111 Hillcrest Dr. Easley, SC 29640 from GR-1 To Office and Institutional, Tax Map No. 5019-11-75-0861. Councilman Wright made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor asked Tommy Holcombe to explain. The Dream Center came to the Planning Commission for the rezoning request. A public hearing was held and was well attended. There was a lot of discussion. The planning commission felt the project would be better rezoned OI instead of being a PUD. There was no objection to the project. This is going to be tiny homes for the homeless to help them get back on their feet. Councilman Robinson asked about the size of the homes. Jim Wilson was in the audience to help answer questions. The homes will be approx. 150-240 square feet. The occupants will have to pass certain criteria, i.e. no drugs, alcohol, and participate in the Dream Center programs. The homes will be for an individual, couple or family. The homes will have a small bathroom with shower, a small kitchette but meals will be obtained at the Shine Soup Kitchen. There is a time limit on how long a person can stay in one of the houses. Mr. Wilson has also purchased ten homes down the street so he is invested in this project. There will be twenty units. It is the first step it gets them off the street and their basic needs met. Councilman Robinson asked if there were any community members at the public meeting. Mr. Holcombe stated no one called or came to the meeting. Councilman Wright said he got two calls about it one from a local pastor who thought it was a great idea. He also commented that the Dream Center was a beacon in the community. The other caller was concerned about traffic in the area. They also suggested that information be distributed in the community because a lot of the residents do not have access to the internet or read the paper. Mr. Holcombe stated it should make a positive impact on this community. Councilman Robinson said he hoped this is a successful project. Councilman Mann commented that the new plan for the Doodle Trail could have potential in that area also. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

New Resolutions: Resolution No. 2016-20 to demolish 12 houses throughout the City of Easley amount not to exceed \$52,150. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second

from Councilman Garrison. Mr. Steese explained the source of funding is from the hospitality bond that was passed a couple of months ago. This is the third phase of the homes on Booker T Circle. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2016-21 the asbestos and abatement project not to exceed \$115,020. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Wright. Mr. Holcombe explained that the removal of asbestos, per DHEC guidelines, is not cheap. Most of these houses have sheet rock, tile, siding, etc that is all asbestos based. Between all three phases we are pushing \$950,000 to date with a 1.5 million bond. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2016-22 to recognize August 13-20, 2016 as Farmers Market Week in the City of Easley. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Councilman Mann had a lot of good things to say about the farmers market and how much it has grown since 2009. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2016-23 to support the issuance by the South Carolina Jobs Economic Development Authority of its not exceeding \$75,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina) Series 2016 in one or more series pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 43, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Mann. Mr. Steese commented that we have no liability, just allowing them to go forward. If they get these funds they improve the community in Easley. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Presentations: Blake Sanders with Alta Planning gave a presentation for the Doodle Trail Extension. Wilbur Street will become a one way street. Councilman Dykes asked if the citizens on that street were asked for their input. Mr. Sanders stated that a public hearing would have to take place before any change. Councilman Mann stated that some of the residents had commented that it would slow down traffic in the area and found that to be positive. Mr. Steese commented that the City will be the majority property owner on Wilbur St and the other homes are mostly owner occupied properties. Councilman Garrison asked if the committee had any objections. Mr. Sanders stated that so everything had been positive for the community. So far it is a win win. Councilman Robinson asked about one idea that had the trail going over the railroad tracts. Mr. Sanders stated that coordination with the railroad was very lengthy and they never got back with us and it is not cost effective. The SCDOT would not let us widen the sidewalks on Hwy 8. Councilman Robinson asked what will happen when there are funeral in Westview Cemetery. Councilman Mann stated the trail would be closed and it would be the funeral directors responsibility to open and close the gate. The end point of the trail will be City Hall. This concluded the presentation.

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Councilman Mann made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk