

Council Meeting  
July 11, 2016

Easley City Council met on July 11th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members, with the exception of Councilman Mann were present. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk, served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Bagwell called on Wayne Dickard with Rock Springs Baptist Church gave the invocation. Followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on department heads to introduce new employees. Chief Womack introduced Aaron Paris. He started as an explorer, then a volunteer, and went fulltime in June 2016.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison - No report. The Parks and Rec Master Plan is moving forward and by August a meeting is planned to see what direction we are going.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes – Commended Lindsay Cunningham on the July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival, very good job.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann –Absent

Ward 4: Councilman Moore – He attended the downtown events over the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Police Chief missed his calling, his BBQ was excellent. Great event, well attended.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright - No report commended Lindsay Cunningham on job well done on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson – Thanked Councilman Garrison for donating his track section to the museum. His Father (Bill Robinson) celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday at Pauley's Island surround by family.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. The July 4<sup>th</sup> festival went well. It was highly attended on Monday. We are already working on how to make it better next year. We will be transitioning into movies, the dates will be coming out soon. We will begin treating for mosquitos the first week. We are following the example of Mauldin and using the briquettes in the storm drains. It doesn't kill the good bugs or bees. It attacks the larva. The tablets treat for 150 days. Hopefully this will get us through the summer and fall. The company will be giving our employees training on the treatment. Our auditors were onsite last week. They will be back the week of Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> and hopefully have a report for council in August. This is a new audit group and they are asking a lot of questions and trying to learn our system. Our numbers are looking fine but we are waiting to see what comes in to be posted in June. We plan to close out the year the first week of August. Councilman Robinson asked if we had procedures in place for credit card usage. Mr. Steese state we only have one card. In order to use it you have to get approval and turn in all the receipts. We have a credit policy for Lowes, Sam's, Staples, etc. Councilman Moore asked about a regional baseball game being relocated to Easley. Mr. Steese stated the games were to be played in Tennessee but it fell through and we helped out the

BLWS in a pinch. There will be six states in the tournament. The winner will be the Southeast representative in the BLWS.

Citizens wishing to address council:

Cindy Hopkins with the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce. The chamber is in support of the ordinance for Sunday alcohol sales. From an economic growth stand point our members would benefit from the additional revenue. It will have a positive impact on Easley and our economy. The citizens should be allowed to vote on this.

Amy Plumber: She is worried about the shootings across the country and our local law enforcement. Our young men and women are important. Does the police department have what they need to be safe? Are they being taken care of? Mayor Bagwell stated it was discussed at the last staff meeting. Everything is not covered under our current ordinances and Chief Tollison suggested they be revisited and updated. We are proud of our police department. What is happening around the world is disturbing and I don't know all the answers, accept keep the dialog open with our community.

Jeff Cooper: As a citizen and a Christian I am against the Sunday alcohol sales. Wanted to publically thank Terry Moore for his stance. Alcohol is the devil in a bottle, and would ask council to please reconsider their vote.

Bob Feddar: The Easley Museum opened over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Thanks for the all the city's help. A lot of people came through. There will be regular operating hours soon. Thanked the city for the work on the parking lot.

Jon Humphrey: BLWS Tournament Director. Make sure you mark your calendars for July 26 – August 2 for the tournament. The championship game will be live on ESPN with the whole world watching Easley. Eleven teams are coming, five international and six US teams. Gregg Powell has taken on a lot with the SC District One team and this regional tournament. The Little League appreciates us stepping in for this regional tournament. Thanks to the city for all the support, we can't run without you. All the departments help out along with 100 plus volunteers. Mr. Humphrey gave all of council and Mayor hats.

John Deworken: Representing the SC Retail Association asking council to give the voters an opportunity to vote on the Sunday alcohol sales.

Old Business: Ordinance No. 2016-09: an ordinance calling for a referendum to determine whether the South Carolina Department of Revenue may issue temporary permits in the City of Easley to allow for the possession, sale, and consumption of alcoholic liquors by the drink to bona fide nonprofit organizations and business establishments authorized to be licensed for consumption-on-premises sales and to allow the sale of beer and wine at permitted off-premises

locations without regard to the days or hours of sales. Councilman Garrison made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Moore. Councilman Robinson stated that last month we had letters from several businesses in support of this ordinance. This month we have a national grocery store chain, the SC Retail Association supporting this ordinance. This matter should be put to the voters. Councilman Moore stated he had gotten many emails opposing this ordinance. As a lifelong resident and a former police officer you hear a lot of talk about family, sports, etc. Do those things go together with alcohol? For example look at Perry Noble and how it has ruined his life. Why make it on Sunday? Can't a Christian not have one day? What I am hearing from the city is greed not need. Mayor Bagwell sated we all realize this is going to be a controversial issue, we know your stance. We can't regulate morality. As the Mayor I have sworn to look after Easley, and I don't want our city to lose out on economic development. Councilman Dykes stated he respects the positions that are opposed to this. We want a lot of input from the public. We are allowing this to be on the ballot so the citizens of Easley can vote on this. It has to come from the citizens. Mayor Bagwell stated he ask the City Administrator Stephen Steese to look into the surrounding cities and Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville, Travelers Rest, Anderson, Greenville, and Clemson have all passed this type of ordinance. If we sit still we are going to die, they are closing in on us. We better get out and get busy. Councilman Moore asked, do we want to be like Greenville? They pay police to stand on the street to keep order, kids are told to go home by 10:00, etc. Mayor Bagwell commented it is not an easy situation but it is a way for citizens to express themselves. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 5-1 with Councilman Moore voting no and Councilman Mann being absent.

New Business: None

Mayor Bagwell made the motion to adjourn with a second from Councilman Garrison at 7:50 p.m.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk