

Council Meeting
April 10, 2017

Easley City Council met on April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members were present. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk, served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Rev. David Shorter Pastor of Calvary Hill Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on council for their reports.

Ward 1: Great job Lisa on the Spring Fling it was awesome. Thanks to everyone that made the Family Unity Parade a success.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: Gave floor to David Lappin to talk about Easley Pride Cleanup Day which coincides with Earth Day April 22nd. This year two locations have changed, locations will be out by Wednesday. Last year about 15 tons of garbage was collected. The shred truck will be at farmers market from 8-12.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Last Saturday as part of Spring Fling, we had the ribbon cutting on Doodle Trail Extension, it was a great event with a lot of good comments. It is an exciting time in the city. A couple of weeks ago had the privilege of delivering meals for Meal on Wheels with Brook Steese. I encouraged people to help with this worthwhile organization. There is a high school baseball tournament that will be using our fields. Sixteen teams from Virginia, Georgia, around the south will be playing. EHS team is ranked 2nd in the State.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore: It has been a good month. Councilmen Dykes, Wright and myself packed meals for Meals on Wheels and then delivered meals. It is a great way to meet people and visit with the elderly. The farmers market was huge on opening day. It was an amazing morning. The parade this past Saturday was great. I won first place for my antique car.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright: The committee for the Family Unity Festival thanked everyone for participating and for all the help from city departments. Thanks to Lindsay Cunningham for working with the committee.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson: Enjoyed participating in the parade riding in a 1957 Bel Air. It was a lot of fun.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. Opening bids for the Doodle Park will be at 2:00 tomorrow. The first budget work session will be Monday, April 17th at 5:30 in the council chambers of City Hall. If needed we will have another one on April 20th at 5:30 in the same location. May will be the first reading of the proposed budget. The Pickens County Municipal Association will meet on Monday April 24th in Liberty at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Robinson asked for an update on finances. Mr. Steese commented we are a head of where we were last year. We have received more in local option sales tax however, property taxes were lower. This is an indication that people are out buying. Our expenses are good. The department heads are staying within or under budget. Councilman Robinson stated he saw where the general assembly passed a pension bill, are there any details on that? Mr. Steese stated that over the next six years retirement will go up 6%. It has been sent to conference committee.

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Councilman Moore asked why they are penalizing the employees and cities. Why can't they take it out of the state budget? There are still a lot of unknowns at this point.

Citizens wishing to address council: None

Presentations: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Second Reading: Ordinance No. 2017- 04 To amend code 94.33 (prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places) and 94.37 (where smoking not regulated) in the City of Easley's Code of Ordinances. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to floor for discussion, with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese to explain. We have received letters from business owners of pubs that went private when the first ordinance went into effect. They are asking the city to revisit this so they can prohibit in their business. Our attorney David Allison has been consulted. Private establishments are referenced. This will be taking that section out. They asked for us to bring to Council for a recommendation. Mr. Steese asked Mr. Holcombe to comment. Two establishments that have inquired are the largest ones and are restaurants. We passed this to make community healthier. There are a total of five businesses this would effect. We have not heard of any objections. If we are going to have a healthy Easley this is just another step. Councilman Mann asked if it is a private club can't they set their own rules. Are we over reaching on a private club? Councilman Moore asked how you would enforce this ordinance. Councilman Mann stated the same way as it is enforced now. Councilman Robinson asked Mr. Holcombe if he could identify the establishments. Can they be notified if we pass on first reading? Councilman Mann asked if we pass on 1st reading, I would like to hear the feedback from all the clubs. There would also be a public hearing before 2nd reading, Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolutions: Resolutions: 2017-03 to designate April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Easley. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mr. Steese explained this is to recognize fair housing, and it is required for CD grant funds. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution: 2017-04 to support cancer awareness with Paint the Town Purple during April. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Wright there was no discussion. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Bagwell presented the proclamation for Relay for Life.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 by Councilman Garrison.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk