**COUNCIL MEETING**

January 13, 2014

The Easley City Council met on January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center. All members were present. Lisa Garrett served as the recording secretary.

The news media is notified in case of a called meeting. All regular meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and all of the media has been so notified.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the installation of new city council members, Jim Robinson Ward 6, and Kent Dykes Ward 2. Also installed was the new commissioner for Easley Combined Utility, Eric Goodwin. After the installation Mayor Bagwell recessed the meeting for refreshments and greeting the new council.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting back to order at 7:30.

Rev. Gary Edwards of Landmark Baptist Church gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes and they stand approved.

Mayor Bagwell called for reports from Council Members:

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison: Welcomed the new council members. After talking with wrecker companies a motion to amend the upcoming resolution will be made.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: As a citizen of Ward 2, I appreciate the work Libby did for the City. I also appreciate the work my committee did and the voters of Ward 2.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Welcomed new council members.

Ward 4: Seat Vacant

Ward 5: Councilman Wright: Welcomed new council members.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson: Thanked everyone for being here and looks forward to working with everyone to make Easley a better place.

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Fox Simons, City Administrator for his report. Congratulations to Jim and Kent, it is good to see people willing to serve. Ward 4 will be vacant until the special election on April 1st. The filing period is over. We have two candidates, Terry Moore and Chad Roach.

The Brushy Creek Greenway bid opened Thursday with the bids coming in as we hoped. There may be a special called meeting in order to get work started. There is a bid opening on Thursday for the Couch Lane Lights. Oak Creek Subdivision projects continues. We are getting easements signed for the property we need to do the work. Eighteen residents are cooperating fully with our needs.

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Citizens wishing to address council:

Dr. John Adams wanted to make council aware of an opportunity available at Easley First Baptist. It is a wellness program run by Tim Wiles with Well2Win. Our state is currently 43rd in overall health, 44th in diabetes. People are not eating enough vegetables and fruits. The cost of the program is $100 which includes blood work, but First Baptist is subsidizing the program $50. They can accommodate 50 people per session. The next session begins January 26th and runs 7 weeks at Easley First Baptist. Dr. Adams put out a challenge to all of council, Mayor, City Administrator and any city employees to join.

Stansel Towing: He had a question regarding the Wrecker Co. agreement. #23 states no wrecker company can mingle with other companies. Mayor called on Chief Traber to comment, companies can help each other out but they can’t mingle equipment on each other’s property. Mr. Stansel had another question on fees. If the wreck is very involved and more work than normal is needed can they add to the price that is on the ticket? Per Chief Traber no they cannot.

Chris Merck, Merck Towing: His question is why is the insurance so high? His insurance carrier recommends 250/1mil general liability. Most wreckers are Class A with general liability at 600. Councilman Garrison stated there will be some recommended changes when the resolution comes up for discussion and the companies will have one year grace period to get proper insurance coverage. Mayor Bagwell commented that there has to be some give and take from both sides.

Buddy Phillips, Buddy’s Towing: Is the insurance requirement per truck or an umbrella policy? City Administrator, Fox Simons answered, an umbrella policy.

Wheelers Body Shop and Towing: Can the tow report at the scene have the lien holder information on the form? This helps them get vehicles in and out. Chief Traber stated the form is going to have to be redone so he can add that to the form with no problem.

Presentations: None

Second Reading of Ordinances: Ordinance No. 2013-07 To appropriate $65,000 dollars in FY2013-14 State Accommodations Tax monies and amend the FY2013-14 City of Easley State Accommodations Tax operating budget accordingly. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mayor Bagwell asked them to remove their motion and asked Councilmen Robinson and Dykes to make the motions. Councilman Robinson made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 6-0, Ward 4 is vacant.

First reading of Ordinances: No. 2014-01 To authorize the conveyance of property by quitclaim deed to BRM properties, LLC and Biltcom, LLC, respectively.

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Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Wright. Mr. Simons explained this is property that was donated for a fire station behind Outback Steak House. We had until 2011 to build but due to financial reasons were unable to accomplish this. We have to give the property back. Councilman Robinson stated his law firm had been involved in the preparation of the deed for this property so he was removing himself from the vote. Councilman Garrison called for the question the motion passed 5-0.

Resolutions: Resolution No. 2014-01 To accept and establish regulations for wrecker service agreements for companies wishing to tow for the City of Easley Police Department. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion, with a second from Councilman Dykes. Councilman Garrison made the motion to amend the service agreement. Strike through #2 the part in parenthesis, change #3 from $2000 to $1750, and change 1A under requirements from $1,000,000 to $600,000. Councilman Mann 2nd all the amendments. Councilman Robinson commented that the committee had done a good job on the agreements. Councilman Mann stated that this is not a perfect document and it can be revisited and amended if something is not working. Councilman Mann then called for the question and the amendment passed 6-0. Councilman Garrison then called for the question on the resolution, the motion passed 6-0.

Mayor called for the vote for Mayor Pro Tem an opened the floor for nominations. Councilman Garrison nominated Councilman Wright with a second from Councilman Robinson. There were no other nominations. Councilman Wright was voted in as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Garrison then made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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Mayor Larry Bagwell

Attest:

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Jonathan F. Simons, Jr. City Administrator