Council Meeting

June 8, 2015

Easley City Council met on June 8th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC.  All members were present except for Councilman Dykes who was on vacation.  The press was notified.

Council met in executive session prior to the meeting for a legal update on Oak Creek subdivision and the TIF settlement with Pickens County, no action taken.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.. Rev. Danny Parton with Arial Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Mayor Bagwell showed a video clip for the Doodle Trail.

Minutes were approved as written.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison announced about the Farmers Market Dinner. He congratulated Tim Tollison on being selected police chief. Fantastic start to the Doodle Trail, nothing but great feedback.

Ward 2: Absent

Ward 3: The attendance at the Doodle Trail ribbon cutting blew him away. All positive feedback on the trail. Shout out to Rep. Neil Collins who took on a beautification project for the trail. It really looks nice. There was a meeting at Dream Center on May 26th to discuss how to bring the trail downtown. The meeting went well, there was good feedback. The committee will be getting back together to discuss the feedback and options. This past Friday Councilman Dykes, Mayor Bagwell and myself, met with Sandy Handbrack? with the American Disabilities Act Tour, we did some photo opts on the Doodle Trail, it is equipped to do Paralympic time trials.  Congratulations to Tim Tollison on being named Police Chief. We have three fire fighters retiring this month, Tim Rowland, Barry Bridges, and Scott Searcy, many thanks to them for their loyalty and hard work to the City of Easley.

Ward 4: The Doodle Trail is a big topic in Ward 4. It is full all times of day, every day.  I have walked it, and it is a good flat place to walk. A good family place. Congratulations to Tim Tollison on being named Police Chief. Larry Pritchett emailed him about his yard. (Mayor postponed this topic until citizens wishing to address council).

Ward 5: Good positive response on Doodle Trail. Congratulations to Tim Tollison for his promotion to Police Chief.

Ward 6: The statement about Judge McFarlin and Police department explained the city's response very well. The feedback has been has been good and this should be a sufficient resolution to the issue.

Mayor Bagwell congratulated Tim Tollison on his promotion and recognized Scott McClain being elected 2nd VP to the Fire Marshall Association.

Citizens: Larry Pritchett: His family has used the Doodle Trail and they were very happy with it. He lives at 205 W 2nd Ave. beside the Pecan Terrace. Councilmen Moore, Mann and Wright

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have all been by his house. Tommy Holcombe has been involved. He wants something to be done. Councilman Moore commented that rats are coming out from under the house. They are getting in his house tearing up his insulation. The lead paint is coming off the house and getting

into his yard and pool. The floor on the 2nd floor has fallen through. The owner is from Asheville. Rain is getting into property, and owner putting "stuff" in there that could cause a fire hazard. Mayor Bagwell referred to Tommy Holcombe for discussion. He has talked to the owner, he wants to fix it up, however the target date keeps moving. House is condemned now because there is no power. We have $50,000 in the budget for demo but this will that all that money. The Council needs to decide if you want to do one or multiple demolitions. A letter went out Friday about the building behind the Starving Artist Cafe it also needs to come down.

The Police Department has a commercial building that needs torn down Councilman Mann said that Mr. Pritchett and Vicki have come to council several time and something needs to be done.  Councilman Mann suggested Council empower Mr. Steese to find some money to do both projects by increasing Tommy's budget.

Councilman Garrison said it was a reasonable request.  Mayor Bagwell said he liked Councilman Mann’s idea to help both. Mayor Bagwell said it is not two it is more like twenty that need to come down. We will do our best to remedy the situation.

Mr. Clarence Orr, 107 Mayfair Circle. A neighbor’s tree fell on his property, he has had to pay to have it cut. The house is abandoned. He has tried to find the owner to get reimbursed for the work but no replies. What can be done? Mayor Bagwell said Tommy Holcombe could look into it.  It is a fairly new house, Yeargin Construction built it.  Tommy Holcombe said we we cannot mandate for trees to come down. The tree was struck by lightning, it just set there no one did anything now dead. Mayor said we will get Tim Tollison to do a search and see if he can find the owner.

Mr. Jon Humphrey: BLWS is July 28-Aug. 4th, there are eleven teams from around the world. He is in the process of getting volunteers together. On July 28th at 7:30 he would like Council and Mayor to come out, this will be COE day all city employees get in free. He is still in negotiation on fan fest, not sure what is going to happen. Championship game will be on August 4th live on ESPN. This year’s series goes from Tues to Tues. There is a new format modified double limitation. He will come back in July with more information.  Congressman Jeff Duncan will be throwing out the first pitch. No one in Columbia available to come up.

Kate Williams: She lives on Mayfair Circle the power tower in front of her house has all kinds of growth which is causing snakes, rats, foxes, etc. There is also a vacant lot beside it and there is some of everything in there. Tommy Holcombe stated it is Duke Power’s tower. Mayor Bagwell said he will send David Lappin out there tomorrow to look into it.

Vicki Ciplickas: The feedback businesses have gotten on the Doodle Trail opening is completely positive. How fast will the next phase happen? People are anxious to see what is going to

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happen. Thank you for the bike rack in front of her business. There were lots of people downtown over the weekend. Thank you to the administration for realizing that downtown needs to be part of this plan. What are the priorities in the budget? Councilman Garrison gave Ms.

Ciplickas some written detailed information from our former administrator, Fox Simons explaining her questions.

Ordinance No. 2015-04: To provide for the adoption of a city operating budget, its execution and effect, for the fiscal period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Councilman Mann motion to approve with a, second from Councilman Wright. Councilman Robinson motion to amend the budget to give City Council a 2% pay increase, second from Councilman Mann. Councilman Garrison said he doesn't know about that, however there are times when he feels they need a raise. He has doubts about implementing that right now without some more time to think it through.  Mayor stated we are elected officials and doesn’t think a raise is necessary at this time. Councilman Mann stated that it would not go into effect until the next budget year. It can't take effect until the next council is seated, which would be January 2016 at the earliest. Councilman Mann asked to table the motion until research is done because the budget would need to be amended. Mayor Bagwell said there are too many uncertainties and he can't vote for it. It is not about money for me. Councilman Garrison called for the question for the amendment, the motion did not pass, 3-3. Councilman Garrison called for the question on the ordinance, the motion passed 6-0. Councilman Dykes was absent.

Ordinance No. 2015-05: To annex certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying situate and being in the State of SC, County of Pickens, being shown and designated as Tax map Number 5038-19-51-8957 and lying on the Southwest side of Crestview Road and to provide a zoning designation of Residential 7.5. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. There was no discussion, Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0. Councilman Dykes was absent.

Ordinance. 2015-06: To rezone certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying situate and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Pickens, being shown and designated as Tax Map Nos. 5019-08-89-2681 and 5019-08-89-0671 and lying on Stone Ave and to provide a zoning designation from Medical to GR-2. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore, Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 5-0. Councilman Dykes was absent and Councilman Robinson abstained from voting for the 2nd reading due to the fact that the seller Kay Powers has been a client of Robinson Law Firm.

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Ordinance No. 2015-07: To rezone approximately 18.8 acres of real property located at N/W Corner of Cherish Drive and Anderson Hwy from Residential -10 to Residential 7.5, Tax Map Number 5018-11-65-8502. Councilman Garrison made the motion to bring to the floor to discuss, Councilman Robinson abstained due to

Robinson law firm representing the seller of the property. Zoning commission voted unanimously for this. Danny Youngblood is the developer. This is for a smaller lot size, same as Cherish ridge. The residents that came to the meeting were concerned about multifamily, Councilman Garrison called for the question and the

motion passed 5-0 with Councilman Robinson abstaining and Councilman Dykes absent.

Ordinance No. 2015-08: To Annex the property 1.461 acres located at 4867 Calhoun Memorial Hwy, Tax Map No. 5039-19-61-2410 owned by Freeman 123

Limited Partnership of Dorothy Freeman. Councilman Wright made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. This is the property by QT bringing in 1 to 2 acres at a time. No opposition from the planning commission or neighborhood. Councilman Garrison called for the question, the motion passed 6-0. Councilman Dykes was absent.

Ordinance No. 2015-09: To amend ordinance no. 2015-03 to authorize

the sale of a parcel of land located at 136 Glenwood Road, Easley, South Carolina.

Tax map Nos. 5029-10-37-2250 and 5029-10-37-2203.

Councilman Moore excused himself because of his wife is buying the property. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. City Attorney David Allison explained about the addition tax map number being left off of the previous ordinance. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 5-0, Councilman Moore did not vote and Councilman Dykes was absent.

Resolution. 2015-10: Authorizing the approval, execution and delivery of a settlement agreement between the City of Easley and Pickens County relating to a dispute concerning Tax Increment Financing Bonds (“TIF Bonds”) issued by the City of Easley in connection with the City of Easley’s Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Robinson.

Mayor Bagwell stated the City has decided to settle situation with the county and get on with something else. It was the opinion of our lawyer. Councilman Mann stated by us settling it is not us admitting to breaking any of the TIF district guidelines. Sometimes it is cheaper to settle than go to court and fight. We are doing this to avoid court cost, Councilman Robinson agreed. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0, Councilman Dykes was absent.

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Councilman Garrison made the motion to adjourn at 8:10.

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 Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk