

Easley City Council Meeting
Minutes May 14, 2018

Easley City Council met on Monday, May 14th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. All members were present, the press was notified. Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Brian Corn from Cannon Memorial Baptist Church gave the invocation followed by the pledge.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes from the April regular meeting, the budget workshop or the May work session they stand approved.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison: No report

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: No report

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Only report is from the food truck committee and he will save that until the ordinance comes up.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore: Would like to see some sort of shade at Doodle Park to cover the playground equipment.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright No report

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson No report

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese, City Administrator for his report. The next branding meeting is Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the training room of the LEC. The ones going to the summer conference with the MASC needs to get forms into Lisa by Friday. The Farmers Market is going on weekly. There is another chance of rain this Friday for Music at the Market.

Mayor Bagwell called on Terri Garrison to introduce the area queens. Miss Greater Easley, Alyx Farkas is 16 yrs old and lives in Travelers Rest. Her platform is HOBIE a leadership seminar for high school sophomores. It focuses on community service and leadership.

Miss Greater Easley Teen, Caroline Strickland, her platform is dyslexia. She enjoys going around to schools and speaking on the subject. Miss Powdersville, Christina McCoy her platform is the courage to be someone's hero. A platform for young women to inspire one another.

Citizens wishing to address council: JB Kelly thanked council for the job they do. Speaking on behalf of the merchants' downtown. Please look at all aspects of the food truck ordinance and how it will affect the downtown merchants. He is all for free enterprise but merchants hire people, pay taxes, etc.

Judy Kemp. Would like for council to revisit the animal ordinance to allow residence to have laying hens, no roosters. Gave out copies of surrounding towns ordinances.

Mayor Bagwell recognized Tommy Holcombe, Building Official, for being named SC Building Official of the Year.

Second reading of ordinances: Ordinance 2018-06 to enact a new City ordinance to create a pilot program on regulating mobile food vendors operating inside the City of Easley. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Moore. Councilman Mann stated that the committee had met twice and that most of the committee was in the audience. The proposed ordinance will be a six month pilot program that will run from May 15th, 2018 to November 30, 2018. There is also a stipulation that the ordinance can be revisited at any time and the committee will meet every two months to review how things are going. The ordinance will allow for two spaces in city hall parking lot to be used for the downtown TIF district. In the rest of the city it can be on private property but cannot be within 200 feet of an existing restaurant. If a truck wants to be on city property like Old Market Square or the Complex it has to be for a city sponsored event. Councilman Garrison stated it appears to be the same ordinance as before but with a few tweaks. He thinks we need something in place to address any issues that may come up and he will vote for it. Councilman Moore asked what would happen to violators. Mr. Steese commented that the enforcement is outlined in the ordinance. Councilman Robinson asked if the committee considered extending designated spaces into Old Market Square. Councilman Mann stated that City Hall parking lot is the only area inside the TIF that is at least 200 feet from an existing restaurant, or a facility that serves food. Councilman Robinson asked if the 200 feet requirement applied to Old Market Square. Mr. Steese stated it does not. Councilman Robinson asked if there would be any exceptions to the 200 foot rule for private property or churches. Councilman Mann stated that there would be no exemption. Councilman Dykes asked about the Shaved Ice vendors. Councilman Mann stated they can be outside of the TIF district and on private property. The vendors that are exempt are the ones that are exempt from DHEC approval. Councilman Dykes thought it was wise to run this program for six months to see how it is going. Councilman Mann stated that the ordinance expires on November 30th and council will need to revisit this before it expires. Any complaints need to be registered at city hall. Councilman Robinson asked if Cindy Hopkins with the Chamber of Commerce would like to comment on this issue. She stated that there was nothing from the Chamber but as a committee member she feels like they came up with the best solution for now. We are all for new innovative businesses but we also took into consideration the concerns of the business owners. Councilman Robinson asked Tara McMullen, President of the Downtown Business Association for her opinion. She agreed with Ms. Hopkins that there are opinions on both sides but they want to protect the current business owners as well as offer new opportunities. Councilman Robinson stated that it concerns him that a business owner, investing in the downtown, checked with the City Ordinances for regulations and put in his business plan to have a food truck and now we are putting an ordinance in place that will into allow that. Councilman Mann stated Ms. Corso was the only no vote at the committee meeting. Mayor Bagwell commented that is what democracy is all about and that everyone has the City's best interest at heart. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

First reading of ordinance 2018-07 an ordinance to provide for the adoption of a City Operating Budget, its execution and effect, for the fiscal period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mr.

Steese highlighted a few items. The budget is balanced with an approximate \$280,000 increase from last year. The increase is due to a recommendation to buy a new fire truck. There is a one percent cost of living raise for employees, an implementation for a pay scale for the fire department, a lease option for police vehicles, and an increase in City property taxes. The increase in taxes should be offset by the increase in local option sales tax. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

First reading of ordinance 2018-08 an ordinance authorizing the transfer of eighteen (18) lots to Quinn Satterfield, Inc. for the purpose of constructing affordable owner-occupied single-family housing units and adopting covenants for the development of the related properties. Councilman Wright made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Mann. Mr. Steese stated this is to allow the City to transfer the lots to Quinn Satterfield to build affordable housing. The properties are to be owner occupied, cannot be rentals or purchased with the intention of flipping. If construction is not started within a certain time the property will revert back to the City. Councilman Moore asked how many total lots there were. Mr. Steese stated twenty but one is a path and areas around the Doodle Trail. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

First reading of ordinance 2018-09 an ordinance to amend 4.19 (mailboxes) in the City of Easley's land development regulations to address recommendation from the United States Postal Service. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Moore. Blake Sanders explained the post office recently called and a few of the mailboxes in a subdivision did not meet their requirements. It was cluster boxes for a multifamily area. This is to clarify what the USPS wants. Councilman Robinson asked if we had a choice in the matter. Councilman Moore asked is it at our expense. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

New resolution 2018-10 to recognize National Police Week 2018 and to honor the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. There was no discussion and the motion passed 7-0. At that time Mayor Bagwell present Chief Tollison and members of the Easley police force with a proclamation and thanked them for their service to the citizens of Easley.

Councilman Garrison made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk