

Council Meeting
January 19, 2016

Easley City Council met on January 19th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members were present. The press was notified.

Before the regular meeting began Councilman Garrison, Ward 1; Councilman Mann, Ward 3; Councilman Wright, Ward 5; Mayor, Larry Bagwell, and Easley Combined Utility Commissioner Jeff Fogle were sworn in for new term in office.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Councilman Garrison made a motion to amend the agenda to elect a Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Mann second the motion. Councilman Robinson called for the question and the motion carried 7-0. Mayor Bagwell turned the election over to Councilman Wright, outgoing Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Wright asked for nominations. Councilman Robinson nominated Councilman Dykes with a second from Councilman Mann, the motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Bagwell called on Chris Jordan with the Piedmont Baptist Association to give the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as written.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison: No Report

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: The Police Committee met on Jan. 5th. The department will be getting body cameras once their policy and training have been put into effect. They are starting a community outreach program called Senior Welfare Check. Seniors will be checked on by phone call or visit. This program is voluntary.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Looks forward to serving another term with all of council. There was a meeting of the Joint Doodle Trail Committee, some guidelines were set.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore: People are looking forward to the Doodle Trail and Park.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright: The delegation for the Family Unity Parade met and the event will be April 9th, if rain the following Saturday.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson: No Report

Mayor Bagwell stated that the council standing committees will remain the same as last year.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. We are moving forward with the Doodle Park. We are waiting on an environmental report. We are in the process of bidding out for auditor services, February 1st is the deadline. The budget process has started and we will be setting the date for the council retreat.

Presentations: None

Citizens wishing to address council: Pastor Tracy Gantt – no present.

James Breazeale: The 2016 Family Unity Parade is the 14th anniversary of the parade. The theme for this year is Uniting and Creating a Spirit of Community. The parade will be April 9th. He

thanked the Mayor for participating in years past. He extending an invitation for all of council to participate this year. They will begin lining up at 11 and start at 12. There will be events in Old Market Square.

Amy Plummer: Councilman Wright is her councilman, thanked him for his service. There has been an issue with trash on Ellenburg St at her house. She said in the past when she has called Public Works has been right out. She would like something done about people littering on her street. She also commented that the Police Department was awesome.

Old business: Ordinance No. 2015-17: To re-zone approximately 9.6 acres of real property located at 1218 S. 5th Street from R-10 to PUD (Tax map No. 5018-08-88-5108) Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Wright. Councilman Mann asked Mr. Holcombe for any updates. The Planning Commission is in favor of this project. About 25 citizens showed up for the public meeting. The developer is ready to move forward and has talked to the Mayor about getting a letter of support for the project. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2015-18: To re-zone approximately 61.69 acres of real property located at 395 Adger Rd from R-10 to R-7.7 (Tax Map No. 5018-14-44-4562) Councilman Robinson abstained from the vote on this ordinance due to a conflict of interest. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Councilman Moore asked Mr. Holcombe how many houses would be built in this project and what would it do to West End. Mr. Holcombe said the developer has not given any drawings for the number of houses only for a retention pond and the streets and driveways. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0 with Councilman Robinson abstaining.

New Business: Ordinance No. 2016-01: To appropriate \$75,000 dollars in FY2015-16 State Accommodations tax monies and amend the FY2015-16 City of Easley State Accommodations tax operating budget accordingly. Councilman Dykes made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mr. Steese explained this is a certain portion of money that is given to tourism. \$32,500 is to be distributed. The Accommodations Tax Committee made the recommendations. Two proposals did not get funded. The Easley Area Museum, Big League World Series, Easley Downtown Business Association, Foothills Playhouse, Promote Easley Committee and the Easley Farmers Market will receive funds. The budget has to be amended to reflect this distribution of funds. Councilman Robinson stated he was glad the Museum got funds. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2016-02: A fourth supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding \$1,700,000 City of Easley, South Carolina hospitality tax revenue bond, series 2016; and other matters relating thereto.

Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese to explain. This is for the Doodle Park. This is the city's match. We are currently looking at different options and pricing to get the trail downtown. It is going to be expensive with possible purchase of land and demolition. This is the needed funds in case additional items are needed. Brad Love was present along with the financial advisor. We want to make sure funds are in place to cover our cost. Councilman Dykes ask how long the bond was for. Mr. Love stated it is a 14 yr. bond so it will expire along with the first bond that was issued. Interest rates have gone up that is why the two bonds were not combined. Councilman Robinson asked if it would be appropriate to vote on the project itself before we vote on the funding. Mayor Bagwell stated we do not have all of the final plans. We have three years to spend the funds. We are only responsible for the amount that is spent. Councilman Robinson asked when the final plans are complete will it be on the agenda for vote? Mayor Bagwell said yes. Councilman Garrison asked Mr. Love to give an overview of the bond. Five percent of the money has to be spent with the first six months, you can get reimbursed for money already spent within the last sixty days. This does not count against your revenue, it comes from hospitality money. Councilman Robinson asked what the status of the committee to bring the trail downtown. Councilman Mann said the members were notified that they are still an active committee and would be getting together soon. Councilman Robinson asked if council would get a report from the committee, Councilman Mann said they will be making recommendations to council and it would be on the agenda. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolutions: Resolution 2016-01: To accept ownership of certain roads in the Linden Hall Subdivision. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Holcombe to explain. This subdivision, after many years, is finally getting finished. The original developer went bankrupt. The new developer has redone the road bed and it meets our specs. Councilman Robinson asked if accepting ownership includes stormwater drainage. Mr. Holcombe said it includes up to the right of way that is ours. The stormwater system was inspected and approved. The sidewalks that are within 50' of the right of way will be ours also. Councilman Mann asked where this subdivision was. Mr. Holcombe stated it is in Ward 4 off Mary Ann St, near McKissick School. Councilman Moore stated they have done a really good job with this subdivision. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Bagwell thanked everyone for coming out. Councilman Garrison made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk