

Council Meeting  
September 12, 2016

Easley City Council met on September 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members. 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. Mitch Huff with Corinth Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the August meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on council for their reports.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison - No report.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes – Request to yield his time to Chief Tollison to talk about the police department’s community outreach. Citizens Police Academy will begin tomorrow, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00. It will run seven weeks. It is the, who, what, and why we do our job. We hope to offer this two times a year. We are nervous and excited to begin this program.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann –Received a couple of calls after the presentation on the Doodle Trail Ext. Some of the news reports were that we had approved the extension but we have not approved anything yet. As we approach the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 and how united we were as a country, but now we are so divided as a country. Thankful that our community has a sense of unity.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore – Attended an education meeting in Mauldin with Councilmen Dykes and Wright that was about new Supreme Court rulings. One thing was the Mayor has to say “who would like to participate” before we have our invocation.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright - No report

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson –There was a good article in the Saturday paper about the Green Wave football with a picture of Mayor Bagwell and Bill Robinson.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. Tomorrow the Pickens and Easley Rotary Clubs will have a dedication of a pocket park on the Doodle Trail. It will be at 5: 30 p.m. at the site. The movies have started with a good turnout. The next meeting of the joint Doodle Trail Committee will be this Wednesday at 12:00 in Pickens. The asbestos removal is underway on the last section on Wilbur St. The demolition will start in a couple of weeks. We have advertised for a Stormwater Manager and hope to start interviewing soon. The Main St. Challenge has closed. There were nine good applications. The committee has narrowed it down to six and will meet again on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> to review the six business proposals and schedule their interviews.

Citizens wishing to address council: Bob Fedder – The Trains on Main project that the Promote Easley Committee has been working on is almost complete. It is similar to the Mice on Main in Greenville. There will be eight freight cars, an engine, and caboose. There is a story that will go along with it. This is not a cheap project. It cost almost \$6000 for molds to make the cars. There are made of bronze. The EDBA has donated money for the project. The Chamber and Hospital are also contributing. The project is scheduled to be complete in February. We hope the City will

take over the maintenance of the project once it is through. Mayor Bagwell commented that he didn't see a problem with that.

Keith Ellenburg: He has been a lived in Easley all his life and just recently moved to 209 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave beside the Pecan Terrace. He wanted an update on the property. Mayor Bagwell stated that he had talked with Larry Pritchard and the owner. It appears the owner has been threatening Mr. Pritchard. Tommy Holcombe, Building Official, got an estimate on demolition, which does not include asbestos or abatement, and it will cost approximately \$62,000-\$65,000. Condemnation is if someone is living in it and it is unsafe. If we demolish there will be legal issues with the owner and the bank. Councilman Mann asked if Tommy has talked to the owner. He has not. He also asked if there was anything we could do to force the owner's hand? Tommy state if we send a forceful letter then we need to be able to back it up if the owner/bank try to fight it. Councilman Mann stated he would like to get recommendations from Tommy and send a stronger letter. Mrs. Pritchard said there was an auction and the property did not sell and she believes that Wells Fargo owns it now. If it is not torn down then it will eventually fall down or burn down. Councilman Robinson asked City Attorney David Allison to do a title search and see who owns the property. Councilman Garrison said it was a fair approach and we need more information.

Jon Humphrey: on August 26<sup>th</sup> the Little League board met and decided to restructure and dissolved the BLWS program. Fortunate for us they are taking the Senior League World Series and moving it from Bangor Maine to Easley. It is 13-16 year old from all over the world. More information will be available after November. Councilman Robinson asked if he thought the tournament would be comparable. Jon said yes, it would be the same number of teams. The cost to get teams to Maine was higher than getting them to Easley. They also like the cooperation and partnership with Clemson. Councilman Mann asked if we would have a host team, Jon said yes but they were still working on the details.

Due to Blake Sanders running late Councilman Garrison made a motion to move the discussion on the Doodle Trail Ext to later in the meeting, a second by Councilman Dykes. The motion passed 7-0.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ordinance No. 2016-11: An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Stormwater System Revenue Bonds of the City of Easley, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Garrison. Brad Love gave a brief explanation and answered any questions from council. Mr. Steese gave a little background for the ordinance. The stormwater project at Oak Creek cost approximately 1.1 million dollars for the project, legal fees, and attorney fees for the Clean Water Act, etc. Everything is now completed and closed but this pushed the stormwater fund over budget. Money had to be taken from the General Fund and put in the Stormwater Fund. The first ordinance is the basic policy the second is the specifics. Councilman

Garrison asked how much money we anticipated borrowing. Mr. Steese said \$500-\$600 thousand would get us through 2-3 fiscal years. The auditors will ask how to plan to get this account out of the negative. Councilman Garrison asked what our General Fund Balance was at, Mr. Steese said 33% but by the end of the year it is anticipated at 26% if we don't get this account out of the negative. Councilman Dykes asked about General Fund debt that is going to mature and be paid off in this current fiscal year. Councilman Robinson would like to have a more detailed discussion about our options before the next meeting. Councilman Moore stated we would be paying over 250,000 in interest on this loan. Councilman Garrison agreed with Councilman Robinson, and Councilman Dykes stated he would like to see a lot of numbers and is not in favor of this ordinance. We need to be fiscally responsible and is not in favor of more debt. Mr. Steese stated that if there is an issue in the future we would have to do a bond. Councilman Dykes said we are making a contingency for something that may or may not happen. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance 2016-12: An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding one million dollars (\$1,000,000) City of Easley, South Carolina taxable Stormwater System Revenue Bond, series 2016; and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison, Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 6-1 with Councilman Dykes voting no.

New Resolutions: Resolution No. 2016-24 to award the construction contract for the Doodle Park. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Mr. Steese explained that only one bid was received. The project estimate is about \$500,000. \$250,000 is from a grant and we match. It is in the budget for this year under master plan improvements. This does not include the renovations of the train cars. We are looking at removing that from the bid and having a different plan for the bathrooms. This resolution gives us permission to award the contract after we negotiate the cost. If we don't have this we can't award for another month. Mayor Bagwell is concerned about the cost that was originally stated. The original estimate was close to \$100,000 to renovate the cars. Only certain people do this and we got a price estimate from them. Councilman Moore asked what are we getting, a playground and a parking lot. Councilman Dykes hoped to stay on track and we will need to do some hard negating. Mr. Steese said the problem was we only had one bidder and if we don't go forward we will have to put it back out to bid. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Discussion on Doodle Trail Extension: (At his time Mr. Sanders had not arrived) Mr. Steese explained that at the previous meeting there was not an agenda item to discuss and need to know how council wanted to move forward. Councilman Mann stated that we would have to have a public input meeting but so far all the comments have been positive. In order to convert Wilbur to a one way it will need to go before the planning commission with a public hearing. Councilman Garrison thanked the committee for all the work they have done and is all in on the project. Councilman Dykes said he is all in on the project as well. Councilman Wright stated

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there needs to be a way to get information out the residents of the area because some do not get the paper or have access to the internet. Mr. Sanders arrived at 8:20, he stated that from this point forward it is public transparency. It is showing the public drawings, and getting them all the information they need. This concluded the discussion.

Councilman Garrison made the motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk