

Council Minutes
November 12, 2018

Easley City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on November 12, 2018 all members were present. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the veterans for their service.

Kevin Dennis gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the previous meetings were approved as submitted.

Mayor Bagwell called on Council for their reports:

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison thanked all the veterans and their families and asked them to stand to be recognized. The recreation committee met and recommended that the tennis court project be postponed until the first of the year. They would also like for it to go back out to bid.

Ward 2: This is the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Attended a program at the American Legion on Saturday and went to the Veterans parade and program in Liberty on Sunday. They were both very good events. Congratulated Attorney David Allison on his win as Probate Judge.

Ward 3: Thanked all the Veterans for their service. Congratulations to Judge David Allison on his election. Happy Thanksgiving to all, we have a lot to be thankful for.

Ward 4: Attended the Veterans events with Councilman Dykes in Liberty. There was a Veteran 99 yrs old that had been a POW and held as a war criminal. It was very touching to see. Thanked Councilman Dykes for his service.

Ward 5: Congratulated the EHS marching band for winning the State Marching Band Competition. A lot of hard work goes into that.

Mayor Bagwell commented that he had talked with the band director and we will have some type of recognition for them.

Ward 6: Having missed the October meeting he didn't get to hear the audit report but he read it and congratulated Joni Smith, Finance Director for a great job and the improvement.

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese for his report: City offices will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 22 and 23, 2018. The Christmas parade is December 8th and the tree lighting will immediately follow.

Citizens wishing to address council: Jim Wilson, owner of the Doodle Station. He was not opposed to food trucks until he was told about the trucks in the quadrants. The only business that would benefit is The Pint Station. They have worked out an arrangement with local restaurants to bring food to their business. Why do we change? The City has invested a lot to try and revitalize

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the downtown. Commended the City and the current administration for what they have done. Why would you want to stir up so much controversy?

Dave Watson: He is concerned about the possible mobile home ordinance. We have ordinances in place that are not being followed. Would like to suggest an open meeting to discuss the mobile home issue.

Donna Pace, co-owner of the Bleu Voodoo Restaurant. We do not want food trucks in the City. David has owned the jewelry store for 40 years. It took six years to completely reconstruct the Bleu Voodoo building. We opened in 2010 and have always tried to help our neighbors and the City. We are asking for the City to help us by not allowing food trucks on Main Street and in the TIF District. Some people were afraid to sign the petition because of the retribution from the City.

David Wingard, co-owner of the Bleu Voodoo and owner of Wingard Jewelry Store. A yes vote to allow unrestricted food trucks will affect 14 restaurants in the downtown and the other businesses. The ordinance needs to include a 200' limit to current businesses. He has attended the recent committee meetings. His concern is there is not enough parking. He has a petition that his customers have signed if the Mayor would like to see it.

Daniel Palmer: He has lived in Easley for five years. He has communicated with Councilman Mann and he will not return his calls and feels he is not being represented properly. He says the police department is involved in extortion and deprivation of property.

Ashley Corso, Owner of The Pint Station. She has attended many meetings and has voiced her opinion on why food trucks would benefit the downtown. The Chamber survey proves that some businesses and citizens would like to have food trucks downtown. It is important to look at other successful towns but it is not the same as what we have in Easley. Thanked everyone for taking the time to work on this issue. We have tried the ordinance for six months but would like for us to try it another way for six months to see what could happen.

Councilman Mann addressed Mr. Palmer's issue with him not returning his phone calls. He has used threatening language to him and was advised by legal counsel not to respond.

Second Reading of Ordinances: Ordinance No. 2018-20: An ordinance to annex certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Pickens, being shown and designated as tax map number 5038-10-47-1424; .128 acres on the Westside of Rock Springs Road and provide a zoning designation of GR2. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Holcombe, Building Official to explain. At the City's recommendation we approached the owners of Mutts

to annex this small piece of property into the City limits. It is part of their property, they agreed with no problems. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2018-23: Authorizing the sale of real property comprised of Tax Map #5019-15-64-5344, 5019-15-64-6202, and 5019-19-62-7453 to Apex Development SC, LLC for \$55,000.00. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Mann. City Administrator, Stephen Steese gave a brief explanation. Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

New Business: First Reading of Ordinances: Ordinance No. 2018-22: To enact a new City ordinance to regulate 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, chairman of the committee, gave the report. He brought the suggestion to the committee about the quadrants. If the ordinance is approved this would keep all the trucks from being in one area. The current ordinance has been a pilot program and requires food trucks to park in designated parking in front of City Hall. We have had a couple of inquiries but they did not like where they had to park. The committee discussed another six-month program that would allow one food truck per quad. There could be zero there or there could be four parked only on a city owned parking spot and not in front of an open business. The spot will be assigned by the City Administrator or the Building Official's Office. This is a compromise to protect our current business. A food truck with the approval of the business can park in front of a business. They can not take up more than two spaces. They can not park on the railroad side of Main St. They can not serve into a road way. The committee voted four for the ordinance, two against, and one did not vote. This has been the hardest thing he has done in his fifteen years on Council. The Chamber survey was totally on their own. They asked five questions. Comments have been looked at on Facebook and emails that Councilman Mann has received. There have been 179 people in favor of trucks and 16 against. This is not something being done to hurt the downtown businesses. If we see in the first month or two that it is hurting the downtown businesses we will revisit. Councilman Robinson asked if the City would assign the spaces. Mr. Steese comments that it is on the permit application what quad they would like to be in. Councilman Moore commented that he voted no for the ordinance. He has talked to a lot of people about this issue and he feels it will take away from the businesses. It is not just food trucks now there are boutique trucks; how will we handle that. Food trucks don't employ our citizens. Not all of the people who signed David's petition live in the City limits but we benefit from their hospitality tax. Councilman Robinson doesn't think we should prohibit businesses but the current ordinance needs some work. Councilman Garrison stated that he normally votes with committee recommendations. He is in favor of trying it for six months and seeing how it goes.

Mayor Bagwell comments that if the committee feels like they have done right he will for the ordinance. Councilman Dykes stated that he has had an open mind about the situation and has read the comments, and respects the opinions of the restaurants. He doesn't feel comfortable with the ordinance as it is written and is not in favor of it. Councilman Garrison called for the questions and the motion passed 4-3 with Councilmen Dykes, Moore, and Wright voting no.

Mayor Bagwell commented that this is not final and hopes things can be worked out.

Resolution No. 2018-28: To award the replacement of the Pope Field tennis courts to McGrath Industries, DBA Talbot Tennis for \$224,996.00. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Garrison. Councilman Garrison, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, stated they would like to recommend delaying the demo of the courts until the first of the year so the courts could be used during the next few months. The committee also recommended that it go back out to bid or we can stay with this one and vote according. Councilman Moore asked if the committee thought the bid was too high. Councilman Garrison stated it was because we only received one bid, personally he would like to have more. Mr. Steese stated we still need to vote to not award. Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion failed 0-7.

Resolution No. 2018-30: Approving the property owner agreement to place a mural on the exterior wall of 208 Northwest Main Street; and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. Councilman Mann commented on her building being vandalized. Councilman Moore commented that he had known Rosa for many years and she was very hurt by what people put on her building. She is a Cuban/American that came here legally and is a citizen. It is a good move to help her. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2018-31: a resolution to contract with Quinn Satterfield Inc. to construct two (2) model homes as part of the Affordable Single-Family Housing Development along West D Avenue. Councilman Wright mad the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Councilman Robinson made a motion to amend the agreement to paragraph 3c stating the payment shall be secured by a mortgage to the City of Easley and shall be repaid upon the sale of the property by Quinn Satterfield, Inc. Councilman Robinson also asked for paragraph 5 be amended to read payment will be at closing and not in fifteen days from closing. Councilman Garrison second that motion Councilman Dykes asked Mr. Steese to give a brief explanation on the whole ordinance. Councilman Moore asked if the house does not sell will we be obligated to do a second house. Mr. Steese state the agreement will specify that. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion with amendments passed 7-0.

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Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk