

Council Meeting
June 12, 2017

Easley City Council met on June 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members were present. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk, served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the public hearing to order at 7:00p.m. for any discussion on the FY 17/18 City of Easley Operating Budget. There was no discussion or comments and the hearing was closed and the regular meeting called to order. Mayor Bagwell welcomed everyone and called on Councilman Chris Mann to give the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on council for their reports.

Ward 1: No Report

Ward 2: No Report

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Congratulated all the high school graduates.

Ward 4: No report

Ward 5: No report.

Ward 6: No report, Offered get well wishes to Mrs. Bagwell. Encouraged everyone to go visit Midtown Music. Their building is very impressive.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report.

We are still working on getting the Doodle Park awarded. The grant agreement is having to be extend. The concert series is going well with three concerts left. We will be meeting with the auditors on June 19th to do some preliminary work for the audit the end of September.

The financial are in line. Property taxes are coming in a little low but the sales tax is off setting. Business License are \$140,000 over compared to last year. We are still waiting on the insurance check from the MASC. Hospitality taxes are over what was budgeted which means people are going out to our local restaurants. Victims Advocate Fund has a new budget provision in it from the State. If 90% of the money is not used the money will have to be returned to the state. Right now there is approximately \$90,000 that needs to be spent. Councilman Robinson asked what it can be spent on. Mr. Steese stated it can be spent on the victims advocate, computers, it can pay for housing for a CDV person, etc. It is for victims of those type crimes. The Legislature approved the house version of the retirement bill. The city is to pay 2% this year but the state will offset that by 1% and will paid directly to the retirement fund. We expect to close the year out sometime the first of August. Councilman Robinson asked if the areas from last year's audit that the city needed to improve on were better. Mr. Steese stated we have made corrections, and the auditors were pleased with the changes. We have hired a finance director, Joni Smith, she will start on July 10th. She is relocating from Michigan and is very experienced. The Wounded Warrior Honor Ride will be on June 19th at 12 at the JB Red Owens Complex with the ride going through downtown.

Citizens wishing to address council: Tracy Gantt, He has a ministry and is trying to help the homeless. He needs a building that will help people transition off drugs and alcohol, get detoxed.

He needs to know where to get started. Mayor Bagwell stated he admires what he is trying to do, but is not aware of a place that is available in the city. Referred him to talk to the county. Mr. Gantt said he hates seeing the children and teens homeless and messed up.

Jon Humphrey: The Senior League World Series will be July 29-Aug. 5th with the championship game on Aug. 5th live on ESPN. In July the pre-series activities are being revamped. The committee is working with the EDDBA to have these activities downtown on July 28th. More information will be forthcoming.

Presentations: None

Old Business: Ordinance No. 2017-05 to provide for the adoption of a city operating budget, its execution and effect, for the fiscal period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. Some discussion on adding Pickleball to the budget. Mr. Steese said he is trying to find funding and it can be added to the Parks and Rec Master Plan. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2017-08 A thirteenth supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of City of Easley, South Carolina, Combined Utility System Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$9,500,000. Councilman Robinson recused himself because he represents Easley Combined Utility. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mr. Steese explained this is for Easley Combined Utility to issue bonds. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0 with Councilman Robinson abstaining.

There was no new business or any new resolutions.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. by Councilman Mann.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk