**COUNCIL MEETING**

May 12, 2014

The Easley City Council met on May 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center. All members were present. Lisa Garrett served as the recording secretary.

The news media is notified in case of a called meeting. All regular meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and all of the media has been so notified.

Mayor Bagwell called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 p.m

Prior to the meeting council met in executive session, no action was taken.

Councilman Wright gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

There were no correction to the minutes. They were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called for reports from Council Members:

Ward 1: No Report

Ward 2: The fire department has improved its ISO rating from a 4 to a 3 which is a very significant. This will improve homeowners insurance rates.

Ward 3: Public meeting for the Doodle Trail was well attended approximately 130 people came. It was a very good meeting. The bike committee will meet in the next couple of weeks. There was a nice article in the Easley Progress about one of our police officers. Officer Brad Smith help in a tragic situation. Nice to read something positive about our officers.

Ward 4: No report

Ward 5: Would like to suggest the city send some kind of accommodation to Officer Brad Smith for his outstanding service

Ward 6: Received a call from a citizen about students on the property of a residence near GMS, Chief Trabor was notified and his prompt attention to the matter is appreciated.

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Fox Simons, City Administrator for his report. The American Legion will have a flag retirement ceremony on May 2th at Pope Field the public is invited. On June 7th we will have our first Mudd Run at the complex at 10 a.m. 20% of the proceeds will go to the EHS booster club and the rest to the recreation dept. Easley Baptist Hospital is the corporate sponsor for this event.

Citizens wishing to address council: None

Hearing to discuss Sky’s Tha Limit Business License Suspension. The City has suspended their license and we are required to have a public hearing for this. Mayor Bagwell called on Chief Trabor to discuss. On Dec. 27, 2011 narcotics agents went to the business and informed them that synthetic marijuana could not be sold. They were given the opportunity to get rid of any they had. There were numerous complaints from parents about kids smoking this. Several kids ended up in the hospital and one was comatose for two days after smoking this drug. In April 2012 undercover agents starting making buys. In March 2013 our agents along with Pickens County Sheriff’s office discovered that one family owned five locations selling synthetic marijuana. There were 8 buys at our location. On May 1, 2014 warrants were served and arrests were made. This was a joint effort by many agencies. Police recovered 4000 packets of this drug with a street value of $140,000. In line with the business license ordinance police notified Keith Kennedy, Business License Officer. Mr. Kennedy issued a suspension letter to the owner. Chief Trabor then turned discussion over to Keith Kennedy.

Chief Trabor provided all the evidence for a letter of suspension to be issued. Another person came in and applied for a business license for the same location to do body piercing but a code clearance was never done and a license was not issued. Councilman Garrison asked if there was a time limit on the suspension and could they reapply? Section 14 of the ordinance states that if an applicant has a criminal background they will be denied a license. Councilman Mann asked public if anyone was in the audience representing the business or the Pilgrim family. No one was present. Mayor Bagwell commented that he was pleased with the cooperation with all the agencies involved and congratulated the police department on a job well done. City Administrator Fox Simons asked Attorney David Allison if a motion was needed, his reply was yes. Councilman Garrison made a motion to revoke the business license of Sky’s Tha Limit with a second from Councilman Mann, there was no more discussion. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

At the previous council meeting Mayor Bagwell appointed a committee to review the sign ordinance. Councilman Robinson asked the Mayor to revoke that committee at the time, Mayor Bagwell agreed.

Presentations: None

Second reading of Ordinances: None

First reading of Ordinances: Ordinance No. 2014-07: To provide for the adoption of a city operating budget, its execution and effect, for the fiscal period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Councilman Mann made a motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Wright. Councilman Mann wanted clarification that there will be another public meeting for the budget. Mr. Simons stated there will be another public meeting in June. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-1 with the Mayor voting no.

Ordinance No. 2014-08 To re-zone approximately 1.05 acres of real property located at 116 Dayton School Road from neighborhood commercial to general Residential - 2 (tax map number 5039-18-30-0989). Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Mayor Bagwell called on Tommy Holcombe, Building Official for explanation. This is a vacant lot behind K-Mart that is going from commercial to multifamily for apartments. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolutions: Resolution No. 2014-04: To award a $80,100 contract to Crossties of Ocala for the pick-up, removal, and disposal of railroad crossties along the Doodle Line corridor. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Garrison. Mr. Simons explained this is to take up the railroad ties on the Doodle Line. An RFP was issued and five bids came in. This was the lowest bid. They are ready to get started, Easley’s cost is $40,050 and they have 120 days to complete the job. They plan on selling the good ties to landscapers and the bad ones will be burned and used for fuel. The Mayor called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Bagwell called Chief Danny Trabor to the front and presented him with the proclamation for Peace Officers’ Memorial Day.

Resolution No. 2014-05: To recognize May 15, 2014 as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day.

Councilman Garrison made a motion to adjourn at 7:40.

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 Mayor Larry Bagwell

Attest:

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Jonathan F. Simons, Jr. City Administrator