



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Prince
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Gregory Scott, Sr.
3. ROLL CALL
Mayor stated that all council members are in attendance with the exception of Ms. Quick. Shortly after, Ms. Quick entered the meeting during the Annual Audit.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
 - A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, October 18, 2022- Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the minutes for Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, September 20, 2022, with the correction of Item 6 line 1, “he was charged with” to, “violating to maintain property” he owns property on Crosland and Breeden Street on the corner.” Mr. Abraham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
 - A. Annual Employee Anniversaries-Sammy Crosland, Police, 24 years; Thomas, Dew, Jr., Fire, 12 years; Danny Locklear, WWTP, 11 years; Teddy Stubbs, Fire, 9 years; Jacob Stott, Utility Billing, 7 years; Sierra Shelley, Utility Billing, 4 years; Courtney Bulusan, Police, 2 years; Richard Hayes, Fire, 2 years; Frankie Cummings, Public Works, 1 year; Timothy Hagan, Fire, 1 year; Caleb Herndon, Fire, 1 year
 - B. Annual Audit-Robert Milhous- Mr. Milhous presented and reviewed the annual City of Bennettsville audit report as of April 30, 2022, to council. The audit opinion was the highest assurance that the City of Bennettsville can receive on the financial statements. Mr. Milhous stated he would be glad to return to detail specifics of the audit and answer any questions council may have.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Bobbie Grooms sent an emailed to Mayor Prince, Jaharra Graves and Tourism Staff reading:
“I wanted to reach out and extend my sincerest gratitude for the City of Bennettsville’s Department of Tourism & Recreation staff. Your Tourism team helped tremendously in the planning of our 7th annual Scarecrow Festival for the community. This year, we had nearly 50 vendors participate in the event - 12 of which were food trucks. Ms. Graves and her team did a phenomenal job securing food vendors, coordinating logistical pieces to make the day flow smoothly (police, trash cans, signage, road closures), and by providing assistance throughout the day when people had questions/comments. We could not offer this wonderful event without them!
We have partnered with many organizations within the community for a variety of events throughout the years, but the teamwork between Library and Tourism staff always exceeds expectations (and the community feedback proves it).
Again, please accept my sincerest gratitude for this continued partnership, and for all the Tourism department does to make Bennettsville and our county a great place to visit!”
7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES
No Business
8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES
No Business

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS
No Business

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

A. City Parks Operating Hours- Jaharra Graves-Included in the packet is an agenda item from Jaharra Graves requesting approval to establish operating hours for city parks. She will review the request.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the city parks operating hours “from sunrise to sunset” and authorization for the staff to prepare the necessary ordinance to implement this change. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Ms. Quick. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Holiday Schedule for 2023-Angela Ward- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Angela Ward requesting approval of the 2023 Holiday Schedule.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the City of Bennettsville Holiday Schedule for 2023. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. The motion passed unanimously.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

A. Police Department BWC Grant-Chief Miller- South Carolina Department of Public Safety Cash (BWC) Body-Worn Camera awarded an amount of \$13,171.00. Body-Worn Cameras are mandated for officers to wear.

B. SCDOT Response to Emergency Signal Request- Chief Miller-SCDOT update on Hwy 15/401 traffic/safety caution light at Fayetteville Ave. crosswalk/traffic control. A Memorandum was given to council and stated that, “In response to a letter from Corporal Moore of Bennettsville Police Department, a study has been completed to determine if additional traffic control measures are needed at the locations referenced above. The studies consisted of traffic counts, an analysis of the accident history, and field reviews. The conclusions/ recommendations for Fayetteville Ave. study does not support the installation of a stop-and go traffic signal at this intersection.

Hwy 15/401/SC-9 and S-178 9 (Throop Street/Breeden Street) conclusions/ recommendations were to increase the monitoring public’s awareness of emergency responders at this intersection, EMERGENCY VEHICLES ENTERING warning signs should be installed on the US-15-401/SC-9 approaches. The installation of an emergency stop-and-go traffics signal is not recommended at this time.

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

A. Christmas Luncheon 12 to 2PM December 8th - Mr. Alderman stated the Employee Christmas Luncheon will be Thursday, December 8th at 12:00-2:00 PM at the Bennettsville Community Center. Employees will be given a sit-down meal and we are having a drawing for employees.

B. Thanksgiving Holiday, November 24th & 25th - Mr. Alderman stated the upcoming holiday schedule for the City of Bennettsville is Thanksgiving, November 24th and 25th.

C. Christmas Holiday December 22nd, 23rd, and 26th- Mr. Alderman stated the upcoming holiday schedule for the City of Bennettsville is Christmas, December 22nd, 23rd, and 26th, and New Year’s Day, January 2, 2023.

D. No schedule Meeting in December- We do not have a December meeting, which will make our next Regular Council Meeting on January 17, 2023.

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Taylor apologize for being absent from last meeting, he was at a meeting in Columbia with The Municipal Association trying to further some knowledge by taking classes. Thanked employees for what they do as they get ready for the holiday season. Stay safe and he appreciate everything the employees do. Try to be a part of everything that’s going on during the holidays. He’ll save his questions for the workshop. Have a great Holiday!

Mr. Scott thanked all dedicated workers the city has. He will not be in attendance for the Christmas luncheon, due to prior obligations. He hopes all employees enjoy the change in the bonus this year. He wanted to make sure all employees get the bonus before or by Thanksgiving. Lastly, council received an email about the city receiving about \$1million dollars for creek clean up. Wished everybody a happy holiday. Let’s bring joy, love and happiness during the holidays!

Mrs. Weaver stated she had some item for the next workshop. She announced the Sip and Shop downtown on December 1. Next, she wanted to know what was going on with the Planning and Zoning position? Max stated that an offer was made to the individual who was interviewed.

They are waiting for their response.

Mr. Davis stated he would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and safe travel to all during the upcoming holidays. Next, he thanked all employees for their hard work. Lastly, continue to work together and let's get ready for the upcoming year.

Ms. Quick stated she wants everyone to have a happy holiday and don't eat too much. It's been a wonderful year!

Mr. Abraham recognized Corporal Fred Miller for the fine job he does as SRO. He has gained the respect from students and staff at schools. He does a great job! Next, he recognized Lieutenant Shawn Lucas and his department for the fine work they have done and continue to do. They work late at night, get called in for situations that occur. They solve cases in a timely manner, Thank y'all! Lastly, he wished all employees, council a safe and happy holiday.

Mayor Prince thanked The Fire Department and The Police Department for the role they play in our community. Wished everyone a good holiday season and enjoy your time with family and friends. Be safe out there! Lastly, we have accomplished a lot this year, with a lot of challenges.

14. ADJOURN
Mayor Prince

Public Comment Policy:

Citizens desiring to speak at any regular meeting must provide a written request to notify the City Clerk prior to the agenda deadline. Citizens interested in commenting at a regular meeting, shall sign in to speak and limit comments to no more than 3 minutes.

Mission Statement:

To utilize all available resources for the development of plans, programs, and projects to improve services to the citizens of Bennettsville and establish and maintain an active role in economic and community development.