



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

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Prince

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Tyrone Davis

3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Prince stated let the record show all council members are present except Ms. Quick. Shortly after, Ms. Quick entered the meeting.

4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, January 18, 2022- Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 18, 2022 with the requested correction of Item 10C, at the top of page 3, "The motion was not to approve The Rezoning Request for 108 Cottingham Blvd" rather than approving. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

A. Employee Anniversaries- Mr. Alderman stated the Employee Anniversaries for February 2022 is MaryBeth Burkmier, Utility Billing, 35 years, was not in attendance. However, the Mayor thanked her for faithful service.

B. Annual Employee Anniversaries- Mr. Alderman stated the annual employee anniversaries for February 2022 are Barbara Baker, Police Department, 22 years, Luke Sides, Fire Department, 4 years, and Scott Bowen, Police Department, 3 years

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Whitney Best- Read emails that were sent from Mayor Prince about concerns from previous meetings.
- Crystal Huntley-Before speaking, Mayor Prince stated, "here is the letter that I wrote to you and the envelope. This letter was returned to us with the same address that you gave us. Thank you." Ms. Huntley read about how we as a neighbors can come together as a community to help better serve Bennettsville.

7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES

No Business

8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES

A. An Ordinance Amend the City Sign Ordinance- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Planning and Zoning requesting an amendment "to Appendix A: Sign Regulations to allow animated sign with permit approval in the U-1, Industrial District."

Approving Action: A motion to approve an ordinance Amending Title XV: Land Usage Appendix A: Sign Regulations. Mayor Prince entertained a motion. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. The motion passed unanimously.

B. An Ordinance Amending the 2013 Bond Refinance Ordinance- On November 16, 2021, Council approved "an Ordinance Authorizing the issuance and sale of \$10,000,000 utility System Revenue Bonds," as part of a plan to generate estimated gross savings of \$207,372 and \$2,400,00 in new money. The estimated savings was based on the market rate. We were notified that the market rates are no longer favorable to generate the original estimated savings. However, we can continue the refinancing and generate the new money plus decrease our debt service. Our Bond Attorney and Financial Advisors recommend we consider refinancing. They are preparing a revised ordinance and I will hand it out at the meeting.

Approving Action: A motion to approve an Ordinance Amending the 2013 Revenue Bond Refinancing Ordinance. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

- A. A Resolution Approving a Mitigation Buyout Grant- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Planning and Zoning requesting approval of a resolution “Authorizing the Mayor and City Council to execute a CBBG Mitigation Agreement in the amount of \$4,933,225 to fund the buyout of properties impacted by flooding”

Approving Action: A motion to approve a resolution authorizing executive of agreement between the city and SC Office of Resilience to fund \$4,933,225 for buyout of properties impacted by flooding. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Ms. Quick. The motion passed unanimously.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

- A. A Rezoning Request by Mr. Woodrow Blair- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Planning and Zoning with details of a request from Mr. Woodrow Blair to rezone property located at 117 First Avenue.

Approving Action- A motion to approve the rezoning request for 117 First Avenue and authorization for staff to prepare the rezoning ordinance. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Mutual Aid Agreement with Marlboro County Sheriff’s Office- Included in the packet is an agenda item from the Police Department with details of a request to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Marlboro County Sheriff’s Office.

Approving Action- A motion to approve Mutual Aid Agreement with the Marlboro County Sheriff’s Office. Moved by Ms. Weaver. Seconded by Ms. Quick. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. PeeDee COG Request to Approve Section 504/ADA Review Committee- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from Angela Ward with a request from PeeDee COG to approve Section 504/ADA Comment and Review Committee Angela Ward will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve Section 504/ADA Comment and Review Committee. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Ms. Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Municipal Judges Appointments- This item was tabled at the January 2022 Regular Meeting. As detailed in the January 2022 Agenda Detail, the city council appointed Judges Rogers and Stuckey to begin 4-year terms on March 1, 2018. A decision regarding the Municipal Judge Appointments is needed to continue Municipal Court operations. FYI, Judge Rogers called me and said he will continue serving as Judge, as needed until the Council has made a decision. In addition to that, two emails have been received Judges Stuckey has decided to request that she not be considered for re-appointment for Municipal Judge. Then on Monday, Judge Rogers simply said his Judicial appointment ends on February 28, 2022, and he will seek re-appointment and it would be an honor to serve the city for another term. Mayor Prince stated, “my perception that we should accept Mr. Rogers to continue serving as a judge and that we have a second judge placed in that position. Mr. Abraham considered Judge Grover McQueen to serve as one of the Judges. Mayor Prince added that we renew the contract with Judge Rogers. Mr. Taylor interjected and stated, “he was not in agreement with that.” He went on saying he had an interest in recommending Chastity Rummage and she is interested in the position.

Approving Action- Mr. Abraham made a motion to authorize the Administrator to contact Mr. Grover McQueen as Municipal Judge for a term not to exceed four years. Ms. Weaver seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approving Action- Mr. Taylor made a motion that we offer the position to Chastity Rummage as Municipal Judge for a term not to exceed four years. Mr. Scott seconded. Mayor Prince was against.

- E. Request to Contract with CBHBC- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from the Finance Director requesting approval to “enter a two-year contract with CBHBC Corp. d/b/a DATA MAX Corporation.” Mrs. Laura Smith provided this information.

Approving Action-A motion was made by Ms. Quick to accept Agenda item from the Finance Director requesting approval to “enter a two-year contract with CBHBC Corp. d/b/a DATA MAX Corporation. Mr. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

No Business

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

No Business

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Tyron Abraham stated, “he is still asking Council to look at our Sanitation/Public Work Department. We still have leaves and limbs everywhere and the guys are trying to do the best they can. Still short of CDL Drivers but still it is not fair to the citizens.” However, try to assist with an increase for a CDL driver and Sanitation workers. Next, he mentioned a competition with our Utilities Department, linemen, Fire Department an event that Myrtle Beach host every year inviting other cities to come in and team up with different departments to bring in revenue for the city. He will get more information in the future. He thanked all employees. He also wished Mr. Davis a Happy Birthday.

Ms. Quick just wanted to make sure we receive the money we are supposed to get from the vendors.

Mr. Davis thanked all employees for their hard work. He gave his condolences to the Parker family (Clemon Parker, Public Works). He also piggyback off what Mr. Abraham stated about increasing the pay for a CDL driver. Lastly, he stated, “If we can’t do it, why?” When citizens ask questions, we should be able to give them a reason of why.

Mrs. Weaver stated she received calls also about sanitation, as well. She was glad that the Premium Pay checks went out to employees.

Mr. Scott thanked all employees for what they do for the city. A special thanks to Ms. Mary Beth Burkmier for 35 years, Barbara Baker, 22 years, for their faithful years of work. Hats off to them!

Mr. Taylor thanked all employees for their hard work. He stated, “we need to come up with more creative ideas.” He went on saying, considering innovative ways to help solve some issues. Lastly, he wanted the city to look into removing “required face mask to recommended” in city buildings. If you want to wear a mask, it is your choice, but if you do not, you should not have too.

Mayor Prince thanked all employees for their work. The issue with trying to recruit employees for CDL drivers try using more cites for employment vacancies. She went on saying, Northeastern Technical College may offer classes, let us check and see. Next, we are halfway there to our new webpage. She thanked all employees that responded in the survey. Finally, she gave her condolences to the Parker family.

14. ADJOURN

Mayor Prince adjourned the meeting.

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.