



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, February 21, 2023  
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

**Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Prince
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Tyrone Davis
3. ROLL CALL  
All council members are in attendance.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES  
A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, January 17, 2023-Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Mr. Scott objected. Mayor Prince asked that we table this motion in order to add under Non-Agenda Items that, “ Mr. Scott mentioned putting mobile homes back on the “Mill Farm” area. It was once denied. However, he would like to bring it back to the table. He requested that he get information on an Ordinance about the standards.”
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS  
A. Annual Employee Anniversaries- Barbara Baker, Police, 23 years; Scott Bowen, Police, 4 years; Tyler Clark, Water and Sewer, 2 years; Haden Graham, Electric, 1 year  
  
B. Pearly Lawson-stated that she wanted the city and county to work together as a team. Next, she mentioned during the last week in March the county will be having a “Help make Marlboro County Clean and Green” clean-up. She stated that community volunteers, organizations, schools, and church groups are invited to help collect roadside litter, tires and other large items.
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
Pamela Best-she feels as if the city ordinance isn’t being followed, it is the Animal Control responsibility. She has emailed Angela Ward about the job performance of the Animal Control officer. She was told by Humane Society to call 479-1111 anytime she had an issue. The entire month of February she tried to get a stray cat some help.  
  
Crystal Huntley- Stated that she had been coming to meetings over a year to get Animal control to do their job. She just wants to work together and wants the ordinances to be followed.
7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES  
No Business
8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES  
A. City Parks Operating Hours Ordinance- Included in the packet is an Ordinance to establish and set City Park hours. As stated in the Ordinance the operating hours will be from “sunrise to sunset.”

Approving Action- A motion to approve First Reading of an Ordinance establishing the city parks operating hours from sunrise to sunset. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

A. Redistricting Resolution- Included in the packet is a resolution recommended by the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA). RFA will begin the redistricting process for the city with approval of the resolution.

Approving Action- A motion to approving a resolution adopting redistricting criteria for the 2023 redistricting plan. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution for SC Water Quality Revolving Fund Agreement - Included in the packet is a resolution required by SRF to enable the city to receive Principal forgiveness funds in the amount of \$ 498, 620 for the Sewer System Evaluation project. This is the Hanna Engineering project #22194 and will involve “GPS locating the city’s sewer manholes and updating the system in GIS.”

Approving Action- A motion to approving a resolution authorizing and approving the acceptance of loan Assistance from SRF. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

A. Inclusion of State Prison Population in Redistricting - Included in the packet is an email request from SCRFA asking the city council to decide to include or not include the Evans Correctional Facility population in the Benchmark statistics for redistricting.

Approving Action- A motion to **not include** the Evans Correctional Facility Population in the 2023 redistricting Benchmark data. Moved by Mr. Abraham Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Job Description and Pay Grade for City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities- Included in the packet are job descriptions and pay grades for the City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities. These were provided to the council at the Workshop on February 14<sup>th</sup> as information to assist the council in moving forward in filling two positions. As stated in the workshop, I recommend the council approve the job descriptions and Pay Grade and advertise for the upcoming vacancies.

Approving Action- A motion to approve the Job Descriptions and Pay Grades for the City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities and authorization to advertise to fill the vacancies. Will be discussed during Item 13.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

A. Projects Report- Hanna Engineering- provided projects update on numerous projects. Included in council packets were details of his report including project descriptions and photos.

B. The Housing Authority of Bennettsville Annual Audit-AN Audit report was included in the packet. It included all properties: Conventional Public Housing Westwood Apartments, Rural Development Eastwood Apartments, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
No Business

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion of Employment of a City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities -Council delayed approving the job descriptions and pay grades for the two positions until they met in Executive Session. Mayor Prince made a motion to enter Executive Session. Moved by Mr. Davis.

Seconded by Mr. Scott.

Mr. Davis made a motion to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The vote was unanimously.

14. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Special Call Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:30pm.

15. POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

After Executive Session, it was announced the council would have a Special Call Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:30pm. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

16. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Alderman stated that any Non -Agenda Items from Council can be given to him by tomorrow morning, so it can be placed on the agenda for the Workshop on March 14, 2023.

Ms. Weaver- Stated that she was for the murals on the buildings downtown. However, it needs to be done through the proper channels. She doesn't want anybody saying she was the cause of it being stopped.

Ms. Quick also stated that she was for the murals, however, there is a limit to what you can do. Mayor stated that's why the inspector should be here to answer questions.

However, there is a review committee that will handle requests. There is a process in painting murals on buildings. Ms. Weaver suggested that they have paper work on the murals that are already downtown because that will probably be questioned. Mayor stated that those were already done. She wasn't around then, but she'll go back and see if they could find it.

Mr. Taylor suggested that if council couldn't talk and speak about things like they have under Non-Agenda Items, remove it from the agenda. Next, he stated that NETC has received millions of dollars to help renovate their building and do other upgrades.

Lastly, he stated that it has been brought to his attention that there are several businesses at residences, and he wants to know if the businesses has Business Licenses.

Mr. Scott stated that every since we had issues with the billing cycles in Utility Billing citizens are saying their bills are increasing. For example, last billing cycle was showing 35 days and now it is showing 41 days. Is this issue affecting their utility bill? Mr. Scott mentioned putting mobile homes back on the "Mill Farm" area. It was once denied.

However, he would like to bring it back to the table. He requested that he get information on an Ordinance about the standards.

Mr. Davis thanked the entire City of Bennettsville employees for their hard work during an incident of a huge tree falling in District 2. He thanked Dan York and his crew for getting the job done, the Bennettsville Police & Fire Department for stepping in to assist where needed.

Ms. Quick stated that she believes NETC feels as if they aren't getting enough support from the City of Bennettsville, maybe have him come over again to speak.

Mr. Abraham stated that he had reached out to 3 different companies about team building. He is waiting to see who will give the best quote and activities. They will send out the information and he'll pass it along.

17. 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.