



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

**Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Prince
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Gregory Scott
3. ROLL CALL  
Mayor Prince stated that all council members were in attendance.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
  - A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, August 16, 2022- Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Mr. Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
  - A. Annual Employee Anniversaries - Audra Johnson, Public Works, 7 years; Shawn Lucas, Police, 23 years; Gregory Williams, Police, 23 years; Patricia Bethea, Finance, 6 years; Amber Hendrix, Police, 6 years; Harold Kessler, IV, Police, 6 years; Christy Quick, Water Treatment, 3 years; Jamie Polston, Water & Sewer, 2 years  
Laura Smith, Finance Director will retire after 28 years was recognized and given a plaque and a gift bag. She was not in attendance.
  - B. Humane Society- Stephanie Jones- She went over a few things that the Humane Society has been doing and mention a couple of ordinance suggestions. The Humane Society care for over 1,600 cats and dogs a year. They we're primarily known for being an animal shelter for abuse in abandoned animals. Over the last 2 years, they have chosen making the community safer and a healthier place for pets and their owners who love them. They have created a community outreach program that is continuously evolving and is a big resource for pet owners in Marlboro County. They provide free and discounted vouchers for spay neuter surgeries and vaccines, a pet food bank for owners who are struggling to feed their pets and they also have an Unchained Marlboro which Unchained Dogs provides the owners with a 10 by 10 kennel, canopy shade, doghouse, and water bucket for the life of the dog. Humane Society also has a pet safe haven for pets of domestic violence survivors while violence survivors while they're in transitional housing so that survivors have

to make the choice to leave their pets behind and abusive situation and we are one of the first communities in our region to provide the service. She thanked Grant from Red Rover and Greater Good. Another focus has been on trap neutering and returning. Lastly, their goal is to make the community a better place for people and pets.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pamela Best-Stated that the situation with the dogs has gotten incredibly better. She went saying she could pet some of the cats that are feral. She knows who needs to be fixed. Some people keep cats around to keep insects, mice, and things away. She knows where every single cat colony is in her area. She needs help. On 500 North Marlboro a cat needs help, another cat with a broke foot for over a year now needs help, as well. Lastly, she needs someone to reach out to her.

7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES

No Business

8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES

A. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 91 Animals Section of Codes of Ordinance- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Planning and Zoning detailing a request to Amend Chapter 91 Animals Section 91.04, 91.05, 91.15, 91.16, 91.21,91.23,91.24, and 91.25. Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance Chapter 91 Animals Section. Moved by Ms. Weaver. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

B. An Ordinance Amending 94.06 (B) Upkeep of Property Ordinance- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Planning and Zoning to amend Ordinance Section 94.06 (B) and (C). Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 94.06 (B) and (C). Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Ms. Weaver. The vote was 6-1 with Mr. Taylor abstaining.

C. An Ordinance Annexing 200 Beauty Spot Road- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from Planning and Zoning to annex 200 Beauty Spot Road. Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1st Reading of an Ordinance Annexing 200 Beauty Spot Road. The motion failed.

D. An Ordinance Annexing 731 Craig Circle- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from Planning and Zoning details to annex 731 Craig Circle. Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1st Reading of an Ordinance Annexing 731 Craig Circle. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

E. An Ordinance Annexing 760 Craig Circle- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from Planning and Zoning details request to Annex 760 Craig Circle. Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1st Reading of An Ordinance Annexing 760 Craig Circle. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Ms. Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

F. An Ordinance Amending the City's Purchasing Ordinance- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Tasha Townsend requesting an Amendment to City's Purchasing Ordinance 33.36 Local Preference. As detailed, the local preference provision is not allowed when the purchase is funded from state or federal funds.

Approving Action- A motion to Amend Ordinance 33.36 to prohibit local preference with state or federal funded projects. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Committing to Local Match for Hometown Economic Development Grant- -Included in the packet is an agenda item from Holly Swann requesting approval of a "Resolution committing the City of Bennettsville to providing a local match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant." Holly Swann will review the request.

Approving Action-A motion to approve a Resolution Committing the City to Match for Hometown Economic Development Grant. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

A. Lot Clearing Bids - Included in the packet is an agenda item from Holly Swann "requesting more funds to meet the bid." Holly will review the request.

Approving Action-A motion to approve that we allocate the additional \$22,400.00 that's needed to accept the low bid and to get the contractor started on this process. Moved by Ms. Quick. Seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

B. SRO Contract Amendment- Included in the packet is an agenda item from Chief Miller requesting an amendment to the "MCSD School SRO Contract" Chief Miller will review his request.

Approving Action-A motion to approve an amendment to the MCSD SRO Contract as requested by Chief Miller. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Mr. Davis. The motion

passed unanimously.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

No Business

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

A. Executive Session to:

1. Receive Legal Advice – Going into Executive Session, a motion was moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Discuss a Personnel Matter- No votes taken; no decisions made.

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Scott thanked all city employees for their hard work. Mr. Scott had concerns about citizens bills showing 41 days in a billing cycle. Mr. Alderman said he would check into it. Mr. Scott stated “I contacted the Utility Department, and he was told that there was a “glitch” in the device that they use to read the meter, but what they were telling me was that “Don’t worry the billing cycle days didn’t matter. Everything else was right, but everything else was just a glitch.” He went on saying, “Then I found out also that they knew about this in advance and my only question is, why wasn’t people informed, there was a glitch, an error, or something like that? “I don’t see why we didn’t do that because we don’t have anything to fear but at the end of the day, I might gripe about the price but at the end, I’m going to pay it. So, if anything goes wrong, you ought to become a courtesy that we say, look, there was a glitch. We put it in the bill, put in the paper, something like that, but just to sit back and do nothing and hope that they don’t see it for 41 days that’s just you know. They already saying that would it be true or not? They’re getting killed in the light bill but to see something that is a 41-day, and we say nothing, it’s kind of hard to explain. What do I go back and tell the citizens that call me, don’t worry about the 41 days? It doesn’t mean anything and that you know they ask me why they have it on there?” Mr. Alderman stated, “that is very unusual.” Lastly, Mr. Scott mentioned an area downtown where the sidewalk is rising, and it could cause someone to trip. This area needs to be looked into.

Mr. Davis thanked all city employees for the work that they do. He continued on to say that we need to work together. “Together we stand and divide we fall. Just very thankful to be on council and also try to make his city better.” He went on saying that maybe we should put a rope or something at area that Mr. Scott mentioned about rising up. so that people are aware that it’s there.

Ms. Quick stated that it wasn’t a need to bring up the sidewalk rising because they need to just fix it and the streetlights because it’s part of their job.

Mr. Abraham stated, “That about four weeks ago, he said he had some suggestions and some concerns about the City of Bennettsville Utilities, customers and I just want to see where was those suggestions that I made? I didn’t never receive anything, but if we can just add that to the workshop to discuss it.” He went on saying, he just wanted to show some concerns about the city hall building, improvements and some safety protocol. He spoke with Chief Miller, Chief Burks, and Sheriff McNeil about right out here off Troop Street and the bypass with all our emergency vehicles going out there he thinks it’s a hazard. He stated that we need to work on trying to get some type of security caution light right there, just something that we

can look into. Lastly, he wanted to look into increasing our city employees Christmas Bonus from \$150 because they have been receiving this amount over 20 years.

Mayor Prince thanked everyone for their input and employees for all they do because everybody works hard. Lastly, she stated that, we all are learning to do more with less.

Mr. Alderman stated to please mark your calendar for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month for our City Workshop.

14. ADJOURN  
Mayor Prince

