



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, January 16, 2024
Bennettville Public Safety Complex**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Fowler
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Tyrone Davis
3. ROLL CALL
District 2- Tyrone Davis
District 4- Bill Jennings, Jr.
District 5- Tyron Abraham
Mayor- Leith Fowler
District 3- Allen Taylor
District 6- Gregory Scott
District 1-Wanda Weaver
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
 - A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, November 21, 2023- Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Taylor stated, “Before we go further, I want to amend tonight’s Agenda where it’s talking about the Department Pay Scale and New City Administrator’s Contract. Mr. Taylor made a motion that Council go into Executive Session for those two items only. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
 - A. Employees Anniversaries- Mr. William Simon, City Administrator recognized John Crowley, Utility Billing, 22 years; Tasha Townsend, Purchasing, 22 years; Ricky Huckabee, Wastewater, 16 years; Kim Peterson, Police, 7years; William Griggs, Fire, 7 years; Larue Fine, Public Works, 2 years; Evan Graham, Utility Billing, 1 year
 - B. New Hires & Promotions
Mr. William Simon, City Administrator welcomed and recognized New Hires &

Promotions.

Administration

Brittany Jones, Business Development & Community Engagement Manager

Utility Billing

Walter T. Jackson-Meter Reader; John Smith-Meter Reader

Councilman Tyron Abraham (District 5) and Mayor Fowler asked Niya Joye to come up front. Mr. Abraham and Mayor Fowler then presented her with a letter from the City of Bennettsville Mayor for Domestic Violence Awareness Month . Mr. Abraham stated, “On behalf of Mayor Fowler, all our City Council members and Carolina Signs for donating the sign and shirt.”

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Yvette Douglas-Stated she attended the last meeting and spoke about rezoning and no longer being in the city. “ I came and I made a request. I haven’t heard of anything as of yet.” If we are going to be transparent, you sit in, you go, and ask people to cast their votes, and you tell them you’re going to be transparent, you’re going to do what’s right, then I need for you all to stand on business. It’s not a secret. It’s known and I shouldn’t have to keep coming and saying the same thing over and over. When the rezoning to effect, it affect all of us and we had to comply. No one is above the law.” She went on to her second issue is the morale at the City of Bennettsville Police Department. I have a friend at the Police Department that have been forced and bullied, things are being said about him in the community. This man has served this community for over 20 years. Never had anything negative said about him and to be torn down, it’s sad. Now, I’ve seen the city come up here ask for more money, for more policemen to be paid more, but I’ve seen Police leave and go to the county which pay less. So, it’s not about the money. There’s something going on and the county is working tirelessly trying to cover for the city. God forbid if we had two things going on at one time, it’s a mess. Lastly, our police are important to our welfare and to our safety.”

Pamela Best- Stated she has been attending meeting for two years and every single month for my issues. I’ve been bullied and threaten , so be prepared. Mrs. Best was told that the Animal Control issue is not under control because the Humane Society doesn’t have enough room to continuously take these animals. “What can be done to make Humane Society to where they can get this problem under control.”

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

Mayor Fowler entertained a motion to go into Executive Session. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.

Exiting Executive Session Motion moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mrs. Weaver. Motion passed unanimously.

- A. **City Department Pay Scale**-Mayor Fowler entertained a motion to accept the Proposed Resolution. Moved by Mr. Davis. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. **City Administrator's Contract**- Mayor Fowler stated, "Postponed to work out details and we'll meet next week with a Special Meeting." Moved by Mr. Taylor. Then Mr. Taylor stated "I make a motion to postpone until next week. We will have a Special Call Meeting to resolve and work out some terms." Seconded by Mrs. Weaver. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem**-Mayor Fowler asked for nominations. He stated that he had Wanda Weaver. Mr. Scott nominated Tyrone Abraham.
 - Mayor Fowler entertained a motion to nominate Wanda Weaver as Mayor Pro Tem.
Voted For-Wanda Weaver and Allen Taylor
Opposed-William Jennings, Jr, Gregory Scott, Tyrone Davis and Tyron Abraham
 - Mayor Fowler entertained a motion to nominate Tyron Abraham for Mayor Pro Tem.
Voted For- Tyrone Davis, Williams Jennings, Jr., Mayor Fowler and Gregory Scott
Opposed-Allen Taylor and Wanda Weaver

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION
No Business

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. **Boards and Commissions Vacancies-**
 - Board of Architectural Review/Tree Committee** – promotes the purpose and objectives of the City's Historic district ordinance, review and recommend to City Council the designation of individual historic properties and districts and construction or demolition pertaining to or affecting duly designated historic properties. The term of office for each member shall be two years. **Three (3) vacancies.**
 - Board of Zoning and Housing Appeals** – shall have the powers and duties to hear and decide appeals of decisions made by City Administration. The term of office for each member shall be two years. **Three (3) vacancies.**
 - Planning Commission** – shall hear proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance and map pursuant to SC Code 6-29-760(A). The term of office for each member shall be three years. **Three (3) vacancies.**
- B. **Business Report (New)**
 - TB's Italian Ice Food truck 109 N. Main St . Jefferson, SC
 - Ida Mae's Kitchen Food truck 712 Washington Ave. Hamlet, NC
 - Kingdom Power Wash Contractor(Pressure washer) 822 Fieldcrest Ln. Bennettsville, SC

Dem Boyz Cooking Food truck 1824 S. Grapevine Rd Pamplico, SC
Rowell Services Contractor (Pressure washer) P.O. Box 417 Centenary, SC
Stafford Lighting & Sound Technology P.O. Box 6496 Florence, SC
Pride Plumbing Services Contractor (HVAC) P.O. Box 116 Mt. Gilead, NC
Southern Favorite LLC Favorite LLC Food truck 403 White Magnolia Ave. Arlington, SC
Lawns Unlimited Landscaping 520 McCall Ave Bennettsville, SC
Two D Tree Services Landscaping 108 E 6th Ave. Lakeview, SC
Angry Beaver Tree Services, LLC Landscaping 319 Wagon Train Cir. Bennettsville, SC

C. **Recognition**

- Citizens of Bennettsville
- Niya Joy (10-year-old Domestic Violence Awareness Advocate)

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Mrs. Weaver - Thanked everybody that worked with her during the Christmas Holidays. She went on saying Council were out hanging wreaths for Christmas and flags for Veterans Day. Lastly, she congratulated Councilman Abraham for the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mr. Abraham - Thanked Council for letting him serve as Mayor Pro Tem. He looks forward to working with Mayor, City Council and all of the City and citizens. Mr. stated, "I want to make it better, to move forward, I'm here anytime anybody needs me. Also, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year to all employees and citizens. I hope that we have a great year, moving forward.

Mr. Jennings - Stated he doesn't expect many vacancies in line item 8, & 9 coming forth.

Mr. Taylor - Stated, "I see that we can work together as a team. You know I'm excited about that." He congratulated Mr. Abraham for serving as Mayor Pro Tem. Lastly, he mentioned that during Public Comment sometimes, he hear somethings. A comment was made, and it's been made twice about District 3, not being in the district. That's my district obviously and I was compared to a situation in Clio. I'm still in District 3. Just to clarify that, I'm not really sure where that's coming from. Voter Registration and all the maps are still showing that but I'm going to go to the office, so that I can get an answer for that.

Mr. Davis - Welcomed the new Mayor to the City of Bennettsville. He also welcomed Mr. Jennings, as well. He's looking forward to working with the both of them. "Let's go to work!"

Mayor Fowler - Stated, "It is a pleasure to be here. I just got a lot to learn and it's going to come. The city employees are fantastic, we just got to take care of them. We got to take care of the people in the city. I think this Council is ready to move forward and we can make things happen for the City of Bennettsville. I do want to put a special prayer out today for this cold weather coming. Take care of your neighbors. Check on your friends and make sure everybody's doing well."

14. ADJOURN

Mayor Fowler entertained a motion to adjourn meeting. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned.