



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 P.M., Tuesday, March 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, with the exception of Ms. Quick. Shortly after, Ms. Quick entered during Item 10.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
 - A. Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, February 21, 2023- Make corrections on Item 16, line 7 from the bottom up add "SCDOT" for stepping in to assist where needed. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
 - A. Employee Anniversaries -Katrina Brigman, Police, 10 years; Teddy Brigman, Police, 25 years; Steve Wilkes, Utility Billing, 10 years
 - B. Annual Anniversaries- Bradley Grice, Public Works, 3 years; Griffin Norris, Water & Sewer, 7 years; De'Aron Smith, Police, 8 years; John Cartwright, Electric, 4 years; Jordan Smith, Water Treatment, 3 years; William Porter, Fire, 1 year
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS
None
7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES
 - A. City Parks Operating Hours Ordinance- Included in the packet is an Ordinance to establish and set City Parks hours. First Reading was approved on February 21, 2023.

Approving Action: A motion to approve Second reading of an Ordinance establishing City Parks hours from Sunrise to Sunset. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed unanimously.
8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES
 - A. An Ordinance Adopting the FY2023-2024 Annual Budget- Included in the packet are the proposed Annual Budget documents for FY 2023-2024 including, the Budget Ordinance, Overview, Department O & M Requests, Business and Hospitality Funds, and 5 Year Capital Plans. I will review the documents. No changes have been made since the draft budget presentation at the City Council Workshop on February 14, 2023.

Approving Action- A motion to approve 1st Reading of the proposed FY 2023-2024 Annual budget. Moved by Mr. Abraham. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.
9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS
No Business

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

- A. Interconnection Agreement for Non-Renewable Generation - Included in the packet is a copy of an Interconnection Agreement, prepared by Booth and Associates our electrical consulting engineers, establishing the details required for a customer to construct, install, and interconnect with the city's electric system. This is the standard used by other utilities and is required to be completed and approved by customers desiring to add non-renewable generation.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the Interconnection Agreement for Non-Renewable Generation. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Bids for 102/104 West Main Street- On January 17, 2023, City Council approved a motion authorizing staff to advertise for the sale of 102/104 West Main. Bids were requested and two bids were received at 2:00 PM March 8, 2023. The request for Bids and the Bid Tabulation is attached. Kendrick Douglas submitted a bid for \$20,001.00.

Approving Action: A motion to award a bid to Kendrick Douglas of \$20,001.00 for his purchase of 102/104 W. Main Street and authorization for staff to prepare the ordinance to convey to property. Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Ms. Weaver abstained. Ms. Quick and Mr. Taylor voted against. Motion passed.

Mr. Taylor stated for discussion purposes he mentioned a Workshop to talk to Mr. Wagner about a project they have here, and these two properties are a part of that project. He's not saying you shouldn't award the individual, but he thinks Mr. Wagner should come to talk to us, so that we might consider doing something different, to have all options on the table that might benefit the town and not just an immediate quick sell because this is the 3rd time something has happened with this building. His personal request is to delay it until there is an opportunity to talk to Mr. Wagner and explain what their thinking.

Mr. Abraham stated that he appreciated what Mr. Taylor said, however, he think they should go ahead and award the bid that they already have, that's his opinion.

Mr. Scott stated out of fairness, the City should go ahead and award the bid to Kendrick Douglas. "We should have come together before this, you can't put the bullets back in the gun, once it's been shot."

Mr. Abraham made a motion to keep the action as is and award bid to Mr. Kendrick Douglas. Seconded by Mr. Scott.

- C. Transfer Station Operation Service Contract-Bill Parrish-- Included in the packet is an Agenda item from Bill Parrish detailing staffing problems with the Transfer Station and a recommendation to "pursue contracting this service." Bill will review his request.

Approving Action: A motion to approve to use contract service with "K.D McDuffie" To operate Transfer Station Truck until the position fills. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.

- D. City Administration and Director of Public Utilities Job Description Approval- Included in the packet are the revised job description including changes discussed at the February 21st Regular Meeting, February 27th, Special Meeting, March 14th Workshop. As requested, the job descriptions are added to this Agenda for Council consideration of approval.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the revised job descriptions for the City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Ms. Weaver. Motion passed unanimously.

- E. Strategic Plan- The Strategic Plan was discussed at the March 14, 2023, Workshop. As requested, the plan is included in the packet for council to again consider approval.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the Strategic Plan dated November 2021. Moved by Ms. Weaver. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

- F. Department Head Performance Evaluation- During the March 14, 2023 Workshop Council member Weaver requested that the City Council conduct the performance evaluation of all department heads.

Approving Action: A motion to approve a request that City Council will conduct the performance evaluation of all Departments Heads. No votes were made.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

- A. Applications and Resumes-City Administration and Director of Public Utilities- As requested by City Council, included in the packet is a copy of all applications and resumes as of March 14, 2023, for the City Administration and Director of Public Utilities.
Max Alderman, City Administrator and Director of Public Utilities, reminded all citizens about the County wide clean-up.

12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR
No Business

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Weaver asked about information pertaining to the Buyout Program. Max stated that the final review has been finalized and hopefully be completed in 6-8 weeks. In the meantime, we will begin working on any homeowners that have been cleared of any eligibility or duplication issues. Next, Ms. Weaver wanted to know if anything could be done about business owners bringing their buildings up to code? Mayor Prince responded and stated that it will be on the Agenda for the April Workshop. Lastly, she asked Jaharra Graves, Director of Tourism, Parks, and Recreation about the Merchant Meetings.

Mr. Scott congratulated employees on their work anniversaries, especially Teddy Brigman at the Police Department for Retiring and serving the city for 25 years. Next, Director of Tourism, Parks, and Recreation will be celebrating the Easter egg hunt and the “Gulf Celebration” in May. He thanked Chief Miller for providing him with information on things he can obtain. Lastly, he thanked Councilman Tyrone Abraham for having an event on Amelia Street for Ms. Lowery, the young lady who lost her life, as well as her daughter’s life. Thanked Councilman David for inviting hm to his event on Saturday. To finish, Mr. Scott stated that he wanted to add an item to the Workshop Agenda about the Mobile Home Ordinance in a certain area.

Mr. Taylor thanked all employees for what they do.

Mr. Abraham thanked the citizens that helped assist him during the event for the Lowery and Brown families. Moving on, he stated he wanted to continue with the “Team Building Activities”. The MASC (Municipal Association) has a “Team Building Program” that they offer that doesn’t cost as much. Learning topics such as indivial goal setting, building an adhesive leadership team, team commitment, accountability, and building trust. This will be a good start, he stated. Next, he congratulated Teddy Brigman at the Police Department for Retiring and serving the city for 25 years. Lastly, he thanked Ms. Overstreet in the Finance Department for the “Customer Welcome Packets”, and the Electric Department for their hard work although they are short staffed. Thanked Ms. Jaharra Graves for the information she’s putting out. In conclusion, he thanked Mayor for the sandwiches that were provided for Council.

Ms. Quick thanked everyone for working hard. She wants more activities for downtown Bennettsville for kids and adults, such as a public flea market.

Mr. Tyrone Davis thanked the entire city for all they do. He went on thanking everyone

who helped support his event. He made 240 plates and served the community. Lastly, Stay focused and move forward!

Mayor Prince stated that council meetings are of a professional setting and should be operated on a professional level. Next, she stated that trust should be built with each other. Lastly, she wants to provide information on the Ordinances about businesses and their upkeep. Take a look at the Strategic Plan again to see what needs to be done.

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.