

Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 12, 2020

Mayor Womack welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members were present. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing this meeting was closed to the public in order to control the size of the gathering. The meeting could be viewed by live stream at www.Youtube.com. The press was notified by email on October 9th, 2020. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Rev. Artis Buford with One Church gave the invocation, followed by the pledge.

The minutes were approved as written.

Report from Council:

Ward 1: No report

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes gave a report from the public works committee meeting on October 7th. There were two major items discussed, grass clippings and trash cans. Grass clipping are causing maintenance issues with the trucks. We are going to have to get another truck if we continue to offer this service. If we discontinue picking up, we would provide a place for people to bring and dispose of their clippings at the recycle center. Landscapers would be able to dump there also. Landscapers are not hauling off all of their debris. Another option would be for residents to cut back into their yard.

Trash cans for residents would make our city look cleaner, keep animals out, and safer for our employees. It would cost about \$525,000 upfront for us to purchase 9000 cans for city residents and the cost to retro fit the trucks. \$25000 for maintenance on trucks. We don't feel we can afford this in this budget year. The committee suggested put it in the 20/21 budget year.

Mayor Womack congratulated Councilman Dykes for doing a great job at the Boy Scouts meeting at Hagood Mill.

Ward 3: No report

Ward 4: No report

Ward 5: No report

Ward 6: No report

Mayor Womack called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report: We will not be doing out Trick or Treating downtown based on the number of people that normally show up we can't do this to meet CDC guidelines. Early voting can be done at the County Election office. Beginning October 18 through the 30 voting can be done at the library.

Resolution No.2020-23 to appoint Annetta Allen Mayes to a two-year term as a part-time Associate Judge for the City of Easley. Councilwoman Webb mad the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. There was no discussion and Councilwoman Breazeale called for the question. The motion passed 7-0.

Judge Snow did the swearing in for Ms. Mayes.

Interim Police Chief Lane Byers introduced new employees Spencer Tarkenton, Sean Smith, and Joe Morgan new police officers. Alex Dukes Victims Advocate. Chianne Bailey Dispatcher was unable to attend.

Fire Chief Matthew Littleton introduced the new firefighter David Dixon.

Citizens wishing to address council.

Danny Youngblood, Developer with Youngblood Development: Thanked everyone for allowing him to speak. He is concerned about the impact fees. We are normally a pro-growth city. Building has been good for business and good for citizens. Asked council to vote against the fees. We hope that you will take your time and take a close look at the proposal and make good choices.

Michael Dey, VP of the Home Builders Association that represents this area. He has already sent in information to Mayor and Council. The builder would pay at beginning and pass on to homeowner. The fee is going to impact everyone in some way. Who doesn't pay is the person that buys before the impact fees are implemented. I would like to encourage you to give this very serious consideration.

Chris Bailey representing the Realtors Association, he has sent in a letter to the Mayor and Council. With the price of building supplies and now these fees it is making homeownership further out of reach. Thank you for your time.

Old Business: Second reading of ordinances – Ordinance No. 2020-25 to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$975,000) City of Easley, South Carolina, general obligation refunding bond, series 2020; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds shall be expended; to provide for the payment thereof; and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore.

Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. The only thing that has changed was the award Southstate Bank came in with best interest rate at 1.24%.

Councilman Garrison asked how many years were left on the bond.

Mr. Steese stated 7 years. The bond was used for infrastructure at Town Center and the area around it.

Councilwoman Webb stated that refunding is not getting any new funds, it is just refinancing to lower rate down.

Mr. Steese commented that that was correct and we will save about \$140,000 over life of loan.

Councilman Moore asked if anything else changed?

Mr. Steese said no.

Councilwoman Webb called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

New business first reading of ordinances. Ordinance No. 2020-22 to Adopt a Five-year Capital Improvement Plan and Development Impact Fees.

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Councilman Dykes made motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale.

Mr. Steese gave an explanation The Planning Commission met for more public comment on September 21st. They recommended by a vote of 4-0 to send back to city council with a request not to approve. This is the second time it has been on the agenda for first reading. Mayor Womack suggested that this go to a council committee for more study.

Councilwoman Webb made a motion to refer this to a special committee to explore in more details, with a second from Councilman Dykes. The rest of council agreed with this motion. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Womack assigned Councilwoman Webb as the chairman of the committee and will let her choose people that need to be on the committee. Mayor asked council to contact pat with any concerns or questions.

New resolutions: Resolution No. 2020-20 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breaszeale. Mayor Womack read the resolution.

Councilwoman Webb commented that as a survivor of breast cancer she thanked the city for what they were doing to bring awareness.

Councilman Garrison suggested that woman request 3D mammograms. They are better at early detection.

Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. 2020-21: to award the request for bids for resurfacing, painting, and sealing all gymnasium floors at the Bagwell Gym to Floor Master. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. It is time to refinish the floors at the Bagwell gym. There are a couple of places where the floor has been damaged that needs to be repaired. The bid went out and two were received. The low bid was from Floor Masters out of Powdersville at \$29,511.50. The work will start after the election on November 3rd and it will not impact volleyball or basketball seasons. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution 2020-22 a resolution to proclaim October 2020 as Fire Prevention Month.

Councilwoman Webb made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale. Councilman Moore read and then presented Chief Littleton with a proclamation.

Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk