

Council Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020

Easley City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on April 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This was a virtual meeting due to the Coronavirus. All members were present. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary. The press was notified. The public was made aware of how to watch the meeting on line. Anyone wishing to address council was asked to call or email their questions into Lisa Chapman.

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the roll.

Ward 1: Present, Ward 2: Present, Ward 3: Present, Ward 4: Present, Ward 5: Present, Ward 6: Present. Also present was City Administrator, Stephen Steese and City Attorney, Brian James.

Mayor Womack called on Councilman Garrison to give the invocation.

Mayor Womack then called on Councilman Dykes to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Womack let everyone know that he gave a proclamation earlier today for 9-1-1 Telecommunicators Week. The Pickens County Fire Chiefs Association and the City of Easley presented them with a small gift. If you talk to any of them please thank them for their work.

The minutes from the previous meetings on March 9, special called meetings on March 18th and April 9th, were approved as written.

Report from Council:

Ward 1: After last night thank you to our public works, police, and fire departments and Easley Combined Utility for the clean-up. We were lucky in our area.

Ward 2: Agreed with Councilman Garrison, all departments were working together with the tornado aftermath. The Coronavirus has changed all of our routines. Some suggestions for being homebound, spring clean your home and yard, read a book, call and check on friends and relatives, maintain your exercise, walk around your neighborhood, practice your social distance and especially during this time check on the elderly.

Ward 3: Thank you to everyone that came out at a moment notice for the clean up from the storms. Everyone has pulled together and done a great job. That is what community spirit is all about. Exercise is really important; your dog will love it if you walk with them. We can handle it.

Ward 4: People of Easley have really got out and did their part. The city employees did a great job. This virus is terrible and we need to remain conscious of our social distance.

Ward 5: Thanked everyone that put forth an effort to help in the storm clean up. It shows that we are united. We thank God for being in the mist of everything going on.

Ward 6: Amen to all the above. Last night was a scary night. We got a warning at 3:29 a.m. and we moved to the basement for about an hour. Glad we made it through. We had an issue in our neighborhood with some curbs that needing repaired. Thanked Eddie for getting that taken care of.

Council Minutes

April 13, 2020

Page 2

Mayor Womack – It took fire department an hour to get to a home in Burdine Springs with all of the trees down in the city.

Report from City Administrator, Stephen Steese: The budget books for the proposed fiscal year 20/21 are in your boxes. We can send it to you on a PDF if you do not feel comfortable coming into City Hall. We will need to schedule some proposed work session dates. I will send out some dates. Stephen showed some pictures of storm damage. For the most part the trees have been removed from city streets. The problems were getting the power turned off so they could cut and clear the trees.

Mayor Womack stated that the fire department responded to 34 calls, not counting what the police and public works responded to.

Mr. Steese stated that a tornado was confirmed in Easley, and in Pumpkintown it was an EF2.

Citizens wishing to address Council: Someone emailed about Smithfield being open. Mr. Holcombe and Chief Tollison have visited and the restaurant and bar are not open. They are not congregating. We addressed this prior to the email coming in.

No other comments have come in.

Mayor Womack stated that we have had a lot of comments on the Doodle Trail closing. That was a joint decision with us and the City of Pickens. We are trying to keep the employees that take care of trail safe. The recreation department has chipped in and helped out in a lot of different areas to help us around the city.

Councilman Robinson stated that this is uncharted territory and we are all trying to do the best we can for our community. If the trail needs to be closed to protect our citizens, he will support this.

Unfinished business- Second reading of ordinances: Ordinance No. 2020-09: ordinance #2 to amend the FY 19/20 City of Easley Operating Budget. Council Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. There are no changes since first reading. Councilman Garrison called for the question

Roll Call Ward 1- yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea

Councilman Garrison made a motion to amend ordinance 2020-09 to include the Mayor's vote, with a second from Councilman Dykes, Mayor Womack – yea.

Ordinance No. 2020-10 authorizing the sale of personal property comprised of a 1990 American Fire Spartan fire engine to Pumpkintown Fire Department for \$1.00. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Webb. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. No changes since first reading. Once approved we will get the agreement signed and the title transferred. Councilman Moore called for the question

Roll call: Ward 1 yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea

Mayor Womack - yea

Council minutes

April 13, 2020

Page 3

There were no new ordinances.

New resolutions: Resolution No. 2020-03 endorsing a work environment free of recognized hazards through the establishment and implementation of loss control policies and procedures, and their subsequent amendments and additions, designed to provide protection to city employees, public and private property, and members of the public. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave an explanation. This was voted on at the March meeting but a motion to approve was not made. Councilman Dykes called for the question

Roll Call: Ward 1 yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea
Mayor Womack Yea

Resolution No. 2020-04 to designate April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Easley. Councilman Garrison made a motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese explained that we do this every April so we can apply for grants. The City of Easley desires that all citizens be afforded the opportunity to attain a decent, safe, and sound living environment. The City of Easley rejects discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status related to housing services. The State enacted the SC Fair housing law in 1989. Councilman Garrison called for the question.

Roll Call: Ward 1 yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea
Mayor Womack yea

Resolution No. 2020-05 to express the intention of the city council of the City of Easley, South Carolina, to cause the City of Easley, South Carolina to be reimbursed for certain costs for public improvements with the proceeds of tax-exempt obligations. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale. Mr. Steese explained. This has to be done if council wants to finance equipment or capital improvements. Council approved the purchase of a leaf truck last fiscal year. It was returned to the manufacture because it was unfit for duty and we did not buy it.

We have located a potential leaf vacuum truck that is in final production, and we are hoping we can have it in a couple week to test drive. It is a single person truck.

The brush truck we have identified is a Spartan. It is a single person truck. We are going to test it on grass clippings since they are not designed to pick up grass clippings. We have two boom trucks that are not operational. The 2001 freightliner has 2 cracks in the driver side frame rail assembly that would cost \$17,000 to repair. The 2004 Ford with trailer is not running it has an issue with engine keeping it in the shop. We have a 2007 Sterling with trailer, running on 5 cylinders. It would cost \$32,000 to replace the engine. The 2017 Freightliner is running well and it is the same truck we are looking to purchase but a newer version is a single operator. We are down several brush trucks. We need to get one sooner than later.

Councilman Moore asked if there was anything we could do with the old trucks? Mr. Steese stated that once we are in the new facility our shop will be able to move engines around. Another option is to sell the trucks. Councilman Garrison asked if the new truck would be able to pick up grass clippings, we are not definite it will solve that issue until we try it out. If it does not work like we want it to what are the secondary plans. Mr. Steese stated that we have not been able to find a truck that will pick up grass clippings. The options are that we would try to continue picking up the clippings or stop providing that service.

Mayor Womack stated that we could get folks to bag them, but they are still going in the landfill. It is better to mulch. Councilman Dykes agreed, we should get some input from the citizens. Mulching it back into the yard is the best people could do. Councilman Garrison asked about the \$210,000 and the financial breakdown compared to the new one. Mr. Steese stated that the previous truck was about \$190,000, this one will be about \$210,000 total cost.

Councilman Dykes called for the question

Roll Call: Ward 1 yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea
Mayor Womack yea

Resolution No. 2020-06 approving the execution of a letter of intent for development of property located on Pearson Road; and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Webb. Mr. Steese gave an update. This is the property on Pearson Road that has been annexed. They want to do an exchange of property. The exchange would allow us to extend the Brushy Creek Greenway outside of the flood plain and allow us to make some connections to communities near the trail. We have talked to the owners of the adjoining property and they are good with this. The letter of intent is us agreeing to the exchange with the City of Easley and STP Development. We would have to bring back to council by ordinance to quit claim the property.

Councilwoman Webb stated she would like for us to preserve the flood plain area and keep it from development.

Mayor Womack commented that the property we own is not buildable.

Councilman Moore asked if we would be able to put the trail out of the flood plain? Mr. Steese commented yes, we could do that. It would be 30-40 feet out of the flood plain so we don't have to deal with the same complications as we are on the other side of Pearson with the Greenway. Councilman Dykes asked if this is the Doodle trail or the Greenway Trail? Mr. Steese stated it is more of an extension of the Brushy Creek Greenway. They are looking to build about 105 homes on this property that would have access to this trail.

Mr. Holcombe said that Mr. Steese has hit on all points that staff has been working on.

Councilman Garrison called for the question.

Roll Call: Ward 1 yea Ward 2 yea Ward 3 yea Ward 4 yea Ward 5 yea Ward 6 yea
Mayor Womack yea

Council Minutes
April 13, 2020
Page 5

Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn at 8:04pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk