

Council Minutes
December 9, 2019

Easley City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on December 9, 2019 all members were present. The press was notified. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the year.

Rev. Jeff Childress with St. Andrew United Methodist Church gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the previous meetings were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on Council for their reports.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and offered congratulations to Pat Webb and Nancy Breazeale for winning the run off election. Thanked Mayor Bagwell, Councilman Wright and Councilman Mann for their leadership and service to the City of Easley.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes – The Public Works Committee met to review equipment and employees. They discussed the possibility of City trash cans for residents and an option of mulching grass clippings instead of picking them up. A follow up meeting will be held sometime in February. Recognized Eddie Fortner as the new Public Works Director and Justin Durrell as the new Public Works Deputy Director. Best wishes to Councilman Mann and Councilman Wright, thanked them for their many years of service to the City of Easley. Thanked Mayor Bagwell for being a powerful influence on the City of Easley, very grateful for their friendship.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann – Thanked everyone for their kind words. “It has been a honor to serve the City of Easley.” Thanked Mayor Bagwell for being like a father to him for 35 years.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore – Best wishes to Councilman Wright, Councilman Mann and Mayor Bagwell, thank you for your leadership and friendship.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright –Merry Christmas to everyone. “I have enjoyed my time on Council.” Congratulations to the winners of the run off.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson –Thanked Councilman Mann, Councilman Wright, and Mayor Bagwell for their service, leadership, guidance, and friendship. “I wish you all the best for the future.”

The Finance Committee met on November 22nd to review the audit and all is well in the financial world. Would like to meet with staff about growth and how to plan for it.

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese for his report: The Fire Department will have their annual Christmas breakfast on the 11th, the employee Christmas luncheon is the 12th, the Christmas Parade is Saturday the 14th at 6:00 p.m. Council needs to be there by 5:30 to load on the fire truck.

Council Minutes
December 9, 2019
Page 2

City offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. Details for the January Council Meeting and Swearing-In Ceremony will be forthcoming.

Mayor Bagwell was presented with the Order of the Palmetto Award by Representative Neil Collins. This is the highest honor a civilian can receive from the office of Governor McMaster.

Councilman Robinson made a motion to table the two annexations in number 9 on the agenda due to the fact that two different Mayors and a different council would be voting on them. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mann, there was no discussion and Councilman Dykes called for the questions. The motion passed 7-0.

Citizens wishing to address council:

Michelle Cwian – Concerned about the new development on Lenhardt Road, requested more time to get information.

Jonathan Nett – He is concerned about the ordinances for Lenhardt Road and will wait until next month to speak.

Old Business: Second reading of ordinances – Ordinance No. 2019-24 - To rezone Tax Map Number 5039-15-74-4220 (approximately 16.858 acres) and Tax Map Number 5039-16-73-9671 (approximately 2.696 acres) of real property located on Rolling Hills Circle, Easley, South Carolina, 29640 from GC to GR2. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. This property is at Town Center. The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the request.

Councilman Robinson asked about the access to Hwy 153 extension from the project.

Mr. Holcombe commented that it is still under review with the SCDOT.

Councilman Dykes inquired about the number of units for the project. Mr. Steese commented approximately 240.

Councilman Moore asked if the 153 extension would be complete by the time these apartments are finished. Mr. Steese stated it would be.

There was no further discussion. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2019-25 - to amend the FY 2019-20 City of Easley operating budget. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave an explanation. This is to handle two topics of concern the traffic issues at Forest Acres Elementary and West End Elementary. The Pickens County School District has some preliminary designs and

pricing for the projects. They are in the process of getting State approval before they can move forward. They asked us to contribute \$207,000 to the project. The ordinance has changed since first reading after discussions with the finance committee. They have recommended that it be charged in one fiscal year and not split between two. It is recommended that the funds come out of the Insurance Tax Revenue and Miscellaneous on the expense side. The other part was a pilot program for transportation.

Councilman Mann asked if there was on vote for both amounts. Mr. Steese stated yes.

Mayor Bagwell stated he was in favor of part A of the ordinance but wanted to remove part B until the next meeting so more information could be obtained.

Mr. Steese stated a motion to amend the ordinance to remove item B would be needed.

Councilman Garrison made a motion to remove item B relating to public transportation pilot program with a second from Councilman Dykes, Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilman Dykes stated he is in favor of part A of the ordinance because it gets traffic off the road.

Councilman Mann stated he is not in favor of the ordinance. It is spending City money to help the school district. "They have a big budget and we would have no ownership in it."

Councilman Wright stated he was in favor of it because it might strain the relationship, we have built with the Pickens County School District. "You never know when we will have to call on them for help."

Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-1 with Councilman Mann voting no.

Mayor Bagwell thanked everyone for allowing him to serve the City of Easley for 40 years. Wished the new Mayor and Council a lot of success.

Councilman Garrison made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

