

Council Minutes
October 14, 2019

Easley City Council met for its regular monthly meeting on October 14, 2019 all members were present, with the exception of Councilman Robinson. 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. Councilman Wright 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: Thanked the Easley Police Dept and Chief Tollison for the pink breast cancer car. His family has experienced breast cancer first hand.
Thanked Lisa Chapman for a great Fall for the Arts.
Good luck to all the candidates in the upcoming election.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes – The open house at the Fire Department was excellent and well attended. There were a lot of young people there, the Police Department had the pink car there, and several county agencies were there. This was the biggest and best open house so far.

Mayor Bagwell congratulated the Fire Department on a good open house.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann – September 28th was the ribbon cutting for the Nalley Brown Nature Park; it is a very unique park and a great asset to our Recreation Department. Rick Huffman, an environmentalist, was in attendance and he stated that Pickens County has more species of plant life than anywhere else in the United States.
The hospital is having a fundraiser on October 25th for the new cancer center. Information and tickets are available on the hospital website.
The museum fundraiser was great, thanked all of those involved in that event.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore – Thanked the Police Department for their cancer campaign. It has affected his family recently with the loss of his mother-in-law.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright –Congratulated Lisa Chapman on a great Fall for the Arts; it was well attended.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson –Absent

Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese for his report: The Pickens County Municipal Association will meet on October 28th at 7:00 in Pickens.
Trunk or Treat will be October 31st on Main Street from 6:00-8:00.
November 5th is the election.

Citizens wishing to address council: Michael Miller was not in attendance.

Bob Fedder – Thanked the City for their continued support of the museum. The recent fundraiser was successful. Thanked the women’s club for the landscaping there are doing around the city. Thanked the Police Department for the pink car, his mother was a three-time cancer survivor.

Bill Long – He lives on North A Street and is concerned about the drug house on his street. He has talked with the Police Department many times and knows they are doing what they can. There is a constant stream of people in and out of the house. He saw a young teenaged girl leave there Saturday night. When is the landlord going to take responsibility? Anything that the City can do would be appreciated. Tommy Holcombe, Building Official commented that they had met with the landlord and it is being worked on.

Presentation of the FY 18-19 Audit - Ken Meadows, Greene Finney LLP
The audit went very well. Joni Smith, Finance Director and her staff did a great job getting all the information that was needed. The financial results are good. The City received an unmodified opinion which is the best you can receive. The City continues to show improvement and is in good financial shape. There is approximately one million in surplus in the General Fund. Councilman Dykes thanked Ms. Smith for keeping the budget in line and thanked the department heads for doing a good job staying within budget.

Old Business: Second reading of ordinances –Ordinance No. 2019-18 - to approve the sale of .034 acre located at 122 Folger Avenue to JSCI Main Street Diner, LLC. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. If Council approves, we will deed over this portion of the property to JSCI and the remainder will be part of the Silos Property. There was no further discussion. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 6-0 with Councilman Robinson being absent.

Ordinance No. 2019-19: To rezone approximately 20.2 acres of real property located at 1208 S 5th Street, Easley, South Carolina, Tax Map Number 5018-08-88-1603 from R-10 to FRD. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. This was approved on first reading at the August meeting. The owners of the property requested that we delay second reading until October so they could get everything finalize. The Planning Commission approved this rezoning with no opposition. The zoning designation has to do with the setback requirements and number of units per acre.

Councilman Mann commented that as previously discussed if we do nothing, they could go up to 80 units on the property. With the RFD designation we would have more control over the development.

Councilman Dykes commented that he thinks it is a great development but is concerned about the condition of South 5th Street. Our traffic situation needs to be looked at on a long-term basis.

Councilman Moore asked if there was going to be a traffic study for future projects?

Mr. Steese commented that there will be a meeting with a traffic engineer to discuss roads in Easley.

Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance No. 2019-22 - To annex certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Pickens, located at Pearson Road and Walnut Hill Drive, being shown and designated as tax map number 5028-06-38-0138. Councilman Wright made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes.

Mr. Steese gave an explanation. They have asked for a zoning of 7.5 for single family detached housing. The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the request. If the annexation is declined the development would still occur and we would have no control. This was approved on first reading. There was no further discussion.

Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion passed 6-0.

Ordinance No. 2019-23: to annex certain pieces, parcels or lots of land lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Pickens, located on Pearson Road, being shown and designated as tax map number 5028-09-16-8868. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Mann.

Mr. Steese gave an explanation. The property is next to the previous one. They are requesting a zoning of GR 2 for townhomes. The Planning Commission approved with no opposition and Council approved on first reading. There was no further discussion.

Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion passed 6-0.

New Business: First Reading of ordinances: There were no new ordinances for first reading.

New Resolutions: Resolution No. 2019-23 -To award the RFP for Professional Services for the creation of an Impact Fee Structure and Capital Improvements Plan. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. An RFP was sent out with two bids being received. It is the recommendation to award to Tischleer Bise. Their bid was \$85,000 and the other company was \$150,000. The decision was based on their qualifications and price. They should have the study completed by the first quarter of 2020 as we enter into budget season.

Councilman Moore asked "Who sets the fees?"

Mr. Steese stated that Council would with the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Resolution No 2019-24 -authorize the General Manager of Easley Combined Utilities to submit a Notice of Termination to PMPA to terminate the Supplemental Power Sales Agreement effective Dec. 31, 2029 if determined to be necessary. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Wright. A representative from Easley Combined Utility was present. He commented that a ten-year notice has to be given if you are considering canceling the agreement with Catawba. This resolution gives the General Manager of Easley Combined Utility authority to handle those agreements.

Councilman Garrison stated that Council had been made aware of the agreement and Mr. Ledbetter and the ECU Commission will make the best decisions for the City.

Councilman Dykes asked what PMPA was. It is ten cities with joint ownership of the Catawba Plant in Rock Hill.

Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution No. 2019-25 - To adopt a Public Art Policy for the City of Easley. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. Councilman Mann called for the question and the motion passed 6-0.

Resolution No. 2019-26 - Recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Councilman Dykes made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. There was no discussion and Councilman Garrison called for the question. The motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk