

Council Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2020

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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 July 10, 2020. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Womack called on Councilman Dykes for the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.

Presentations: The American Legion Post 52 presented the following with awards:

2020 State and Local Award - Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Chief Tim Tollison – Easley Police Department

2020 State and Local Award for Bravery – Travis Evans – Easley Police Dept.

2020 Firefighter of Year Award - Brandon Driscoll – Easley Fire Dept.

2020 Public Safety Award - Jonathan Pierce – Easley Police Dept.

2020 Outstanding Law Enforcement Award - Joey Williamson – Pickens County Sheriff's Department

Captain Rashad Murray was presented with an American Flag for all the help he has given to the American Legion Post 52.

Councilman Dykes commented that we are grateful to the American Legion for coming and honoring our public servants. We appreciate everything our civic clubs do for our city.

Reports from Council:

Ward 1 No report

Ward 2 Visited the new recycling center and checked it out. It was very educational.

Ward 3 No report

Ward 4 No report

Ward 5 No report

Ward 6 In regards to a motor vehicle accident at Peachtree and Crescent, this has been investigated and a traffic count done and nothing needs to be done at this time.

Report from Stephen Steese, City Administrator -Our fiscal year ended June 30th. A lot of our taxes don't come in until the end of the month. Money from the MASC will not be until August. Our Hospitality tax is \$111,139 below what it was last year. Business License are up \$92,000 from last year. Accommodations taxes are \$9500 below last year.

Citizens wishing to address council. We had three comments two people live outside the city limits. Mayor Womack gave one of the comments to Councilwoman Webb to address when the discussion of face coverings comes up.

There were no ordinances for second reading

New Business:

Ordinance 2020-21- to amend city ordinance §121 (mobile food vendors) regulating mobile food vendors operating inside the City of Easley. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. There have been a few corrections to the original ordinance.

Corrections:

- Require all application documentation at initial and renewal time.
- In sure that fire and building codes inspect all vendors.
- Update definitions of a mobile food vendor.
- Suggest Pendleton Street be treated the same as Main Street.
- Clarify the use of the 2 parking spaces in Easley Crossing to allow the vehicle/trailer to extend over the end of the sidewalk.

Councilman Robinson asked about the inclusion of Pendleton Street, have there been problems. Mr. Steese stated that there haven't been any problems, but the traffic is similar to Main Street and with the new restaurants on Pendleton they would not meet 150 ft guidelines.

There was some discussion on the length of food trucks. There is also an issue with the way people are lining up. If the trucks are too long, they will need to go.

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

New Resolutions:

Resolution 2020-13 authorizing the execution and delivery of lease dated June 29, 2020 (the "lease"), between City of Easley, South Carolina, and Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation. Councilwoman Webb made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale. Mr. Steese explained. As we are starting new fiscal year, we have multi year leases that council has to approve. This is a 5-year lease for a Caterpillar backhoe for Public Works. This is a larger tractor than the one we currently have. This equipment can be used for projects we would normally have to contract out.

Lease would allow us to trade in or purchase after the 5-year lease is complete.

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

Resolution 2020-14 approving multi-jurisdictional agreements entered into by the Easley police department with surrounding law enforcement agencies and authorizing the Mayor and/or City Administrator to approve and sign materially equivalent agreements entered into by the police department in the future. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale.

Mr. Steese gave a brief explanation. Our governing body has to approve any mutual aid agreements with other agencies. They allow us to work with other agencies. We recently

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assisted Clemson with a demonstration and they were on standby for us during a demonstration. There was no further discussion. Councilman Moore called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution no 2020-15 Recommending individuals wear face coverings in public buildings and retail and food service establishments. Councilman Moore made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Dykes. Councilwoman Webb gave an explanation.

At the last meeting Mayor Womack asked for a committee to look at requiring the public to wear masks. The committee consisted of Jerry Garrett owner of Garland and George, Heather Seabrook, RN with Prisma, Brett Williams employee at BMW, Chris Bowers Pickens County Council representative and an RN, Fire Chief Littleton and Police Chief Tollison, Stephen Steese, City Administrator, Brian James, City Attorney, and Councilman Dykes.

There is no vaccine to prevent this virus and there is no cure. The CDC guidelines are to wash hands, wear masks, and social distance.

Mask prevent you from spreading the virus to others, it does not protect you from others.

State of SC has chosen not to pass on ordinance but put the responsibility on the municipalities. The MASC has drafted an ordinance it would put the burden on the businesses with a \$25 fine for an individual that doesn't wear a mask and \$100 for the business. It would also involve the police department if it got out of hand or if there was a dispute. After a lot of discussion on both sides the committee suggested we do a resolution that encourages people to wear mask, social distance, and wash hands without a fine. We are also going to do education for the public. It is a starting point and a good compromise. It is a short-term resolution and we can revisit it if the numbers continue to go up.

The one comment from a citizen inside the city limits was in favor for the resolution.

Councilman Garrison thanked Councilwoman Webb and her committee for the hard work. You did a good job analyzing the data and comfortable with this as a starting point and we need to keep looking at the numbers.

Councilman Dykes as member of the committee was more in favor of an ordinance but comfortable at the end with a resolution.

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

Resolution 2020-16 authorizing the negotiation, execution, and delivery of leases no. 004-0668201-106 and 004-0668201-302 dated July 7, 2020 (the "leases"), between City of Easley, South Carolina, and VGM Financial Services, a division of TCF National Bank, and prescribing other details in connection therewith.

Councilwoman Webb made the motion to approve with a second from Councilwoman Breazeale. Mr. Steese explained. There are two leases within this one resolution. For Public Works a 4-year lease on a Ventrac Mower. For the Recreation Department a Swozi Cart Pro lining the fields.

Councilwoman Breazeale called for the question and the motion passed 7-0

Councilman Moore made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk