

Council Meeting  
March 14, 2016

Easley City Council met on March 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. All members were present. The press was notified.

Prior to the meeting Councilman Dykes made a motion to go into executive session with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Councilman Robinson, the motion passed unanimously. No action was taken during this meeting.

Mayor Bagwell called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Bagwell called on Dr. Wayne Dickard, Retired Pastor to give the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved as written.

Ward 1: Councilman Garrison: No Report.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: Easley Pride Day will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a community clean up event to help residents clean up and dispose of large items that is not normally picked up by public works. There will be large containers in each ward. David Lappin has been helping to get the word out. Last year we collected 14 tons of garbage. There are also 40 yard signs that are going up around town. Each council member will be getting some to put out in their ward.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: No report, wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore: This has been complaint month. One citizen reported a swimming pool in the 200 block of Alfred Rd. After inspection the pool has dirty black/green water in it. There is another pool on Henry St that had three ducks swimming in it. Another on Elizabeth St that has no cover and green water. The neighbors are concerned about mosquitos. Mayor Bagwell asked Tommy Holcombe to check on these properties.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright: No report, reminded everyone of the Family Unity Parade and festival on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson: No report, asked David Lappin to investigate spraying the city for mosquitos.

Mayor Bagwell called on Chief Butch Womack to introduce his new employees, Keith Folks and Johnny Summey.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. City offices will be closed on March 27<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday. The ad for a new community development person has closed with interviews beginning this week with someone being hired by the first of April. An RFP for the Parks and Rec Master Plan Update has been sent out and it closes on March 22. The

bids will be reviewed at the next committee meeting and a proposal brought before council in April. Budget workshop will be in April, dates will be sent out soon to choose from. Councilmen Mann, Garrison, Robinson and Moore all said half days would work best for them due to their work schedules. The Farmers market and Spring Fling is on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8-2. Presentations: None

Citizens wishing to address council: Sabrina Hall: She is still having an issue with neighbors' trash. They have not gotten any better if anything it has gotten worse. David Lappin went out and inspected and letters were sent to the residents and owners of the properties. They have until this Wednesday to comply and then they will turn it over to the police department to go out. Mayor Bagwell said they would be out again tomorrow to check on things.

Cindy Hopkins with the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber held its 68 awards meeting. The Duke Energy Service Award was presented to Mayor Bagwell for the use of his time and talent to better the community.

James Breazeale: The Family Unity Parade will be April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. requesting that ALL council members and the Mayor be in the parade. It is his opinion that all citizens should know who their representatives are.

Neil Wilson: Lives on Grisby Ave. There is a terrible problem with speeders on his street. The police department has been out numerous times and run radar. Since December they have given out 46 tickets. It has not gotten any better. He has started videotaping people. The police has been out every time he has called and he appreciates all they have done to help in this matter. Bob Fedder lives on this street also and commented that they have gotten 3 or 4 people running the stop signs. Councilman Moore commented that he appreciates the police department and Chief Tollison for helping out in this situation. Mr. Fedder said there were two cars out there this morning.

Betty Roe: Announced a new charter school coming to Easley. It will be in the old Getty's Middle School. It will be grades 6-12 with students able to earn college credits while in high school. They will also offer 10-15 sporting activities. The high school students will go ½ days. There will be more information coming out soon.

Old business: None

New business. Ordinance No. 2016-03: To amend section 3 of the City of Easley Hospitality Tax Ordinance. Councilman Garrison made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Mann. Mayor Bagwell called on the City Administrator Stephen Steese to explain. Currently any prepared food that is purchased inside the city limits has a 2% charge. This money is used for tourism. Right now there is a discount for paying early. We are taking that part out. Effective

May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give us time to get new forms printed. Councilman Robinson asked about the \$33,000 what restaurants take discount. Mr. Steese replied most of the major chains like McDonald's, etc. Councilman Mann asked if the school board adds a 1% hospitality tax would they get any of our money, Mr. Steese stated no. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Ordinance No. 2016-04: To adopt a new business license ordinance for the City of Easley and repealing any previous ordinances beginning with the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2016. Councilman Mann made the motion to bring to the floor with a second from Councilman Dykes. Mr. Steese explained that the Municipal Association of SC has a model business license ordinance. The major change is using the NAICS codes, these are the same codes businesses use to report income to the IRS. There are talks right now on the State level about business licenses. The MASC is working with the State Chamber of Commerce to make this ordinance a model for the state. They are trying to get some standardization in the state so we are trying to get a head of the game. This will start July 1 which will give us time to get our computer software changed. This will not affect any renewals that go out in April, only new license after July 1 and renewals April 2017. We are also increasing the fees .10 on every fee we have and it is still below Clemson and Greenville. We are a little higher than Pickens. Councilman Dykes asked what the percentage increase was. Mr. Steese explained it is based on gross sales so the amount will differ. This is the first time they have increased since 97-98. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilman Robinson recognized Cindy Hopkins and Jim Wilson with the Easley Chamber of Commerce and suggested if they have any questions concerning this ordinance to ask by the next meeting.

Resolutions: Resolution No. 2016-04: For the demolition of 11 houses throughout the City of Easley, Amount not to exceed \$35,200.00. Councilman Wright made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor Bagwell called on Tommy Holcombe, Building Official to comment. These are the houses that the city purchased in Phase 1 of this project. Three have been torn down and this is the remainder. We have been following DHEC rules and regs. Councilman Moore asked about the price, Mr. Holcombe stated that we got a deal for doing all the houses. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Resolution 2016-05: Asbestos abatement project not to exceed the amount of \$58,800. Councilman Mann made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0. \*\*Note there was a typo on the agenda the price is \$58,800 (58,000 on agenda) the actual resolution document was correct.

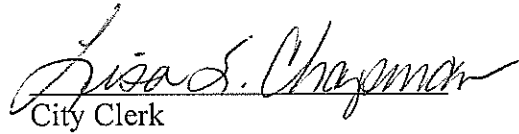
Other Business: Mayor Bagwell commented there was no need for this due to no action taken in executive session.

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

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk