

Council Meeting
March 13, 2017

Easley City Council met on March 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the court room of the LEC. 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 7:00p.m. Rev. Troy Harrison, Pastor of Siloam Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance

The minutes from the February meeting were approved as written.

Mayor Bagwell called on council for their reports.

Ward 1: Welcomed Kim Valentin back to the Council Chambers. The Recreation master Plan Committee will be meeting this Friday morning at 9:00 in the Police Department training room.

Ward 2: Councilman Dykes: Easley Pride Cleanup Day will be April 22nd from 8-1. This is also Earth Day, so we would like to encourage citizens to help clean up our city. There will be containers located in each ward.

Ward 3: Councilman Mann: Welcome back to Kim Valentin. The Doodle Trail Extension ribbon cutting will be April 1st along with Spring Fling. The time will be forthcoming. Councilman Dykes, Councilman Robinson and I were on the Hometown Spotlight with WSPA promoting events in Easley. This was a great way to show case our city.

Ward 4: Councilman Moore: It was strange to look outside my window and see a City police officer chasing a pig through my yard. DNR finally came and helped with the situation. The Fire Department came and helped neighbor that had locked her keys in her car. Recently visited Travelers Rest and their downtown was so busy. There is opportunity in downtown Easley if people will take advantage of it.

Ward 5: Councilman Wright: The Family Unity Festival is April 8th at 1:00. Encouraged everyone to participate.

Ward 6: Councilman Robinson: No report.

Mayor Bagwell called on City Administrator Stephen Steese for his report. March 27th is the PCMA meeting in Central. The Statement of Economic Interest is due by March 31st. Spring Fling and Jazz Festival is April 1st. There are over 90 vendors and 12 Jazz Bands lined up. The Doodle Park went back out to bid. The bid opening will be the 2nd week of April and construction to begin late spring. Our financials are looking good. Revenue is coming in from property and sales tax. The departments are doing well saving on expenses and coming in under budget. Councilman Mann commented the Statement of Economic Interest for elected officials and when it is required. Councilman Robinson asked about the pension bail out by the General Assembly. Mr. Steese commented that there are two bills going in both houses with a 2% increase on the employer side, and 1% for the next five years. The house budget calls for the State to fund 1% of the 2%, the Senate bill does not state that. For every 1% increase is equal to approximately \$65,000 that the city has to contribute, 1 mil on tax bill. This greatly impacts our budget.

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Citizens wishing to address council: Judith Robinson: She is having a problem with dogs and cats getting into her trash. Would like to know if public works would take trash out of a can. Mayor Bagwell state that according to our ordinance they are not allowed to do that. Mayor Bagwell also stated that we have a leash law and finding the owners of the animals would help. Councilman Garrison asked if put out the trash in the morning if that would help. She said she had tried that also. There is also an issue with some sinking areas where the gas company did some work. They also moved her mailbox and it is not tight. Mayor asked Tommy to follow up with the post office about getting it fixed.

Sabrina Hall: Thanked Councilmen Moore and Wright for taking a look at the street and getting somethings corrected that she asked about. The house at 203 N. 4th St. is unbelievable. The police have come out, they abandoned their animals. Some of the family comes by and they use the house as a trash can. People are putting their trash out too early. One neighbor had multiple cats. She took twelve to the animal shelter. The owner would not do anything about them. The person in 406 is collecting wheelchairs again. The letters that are being sent out are not doing any good. Her neighbor threatened to shoot her and the police if they complained again. Mayor Bagwell said they would look into it again.

Kim Valentin. Ms. Valentin is the fundraising coordinator with Meals on Wheels. Thanked the city for their support with March for Meals. All of the meals and promotional materials were paid for by the City. Asked if the City would help promote their need for volunteers. They deliver the most meals in Easley and drive over 100 miles in the area. There are a lot of fundraising events coming up for people to support.

Bob Feddar: The ribbon cutting for Trains on Main is coming up, invitations will be sent out.

Frank Jones: He recently bought a house on Rock Springs Road. Due to the recently accident where the car went through the house, and his mailbox being hit, asking for a solution to the speeders on this road. He fears for the safety of his family and home. Mayor Bagwell commented that he had been by the house and will asked the Police Chief to put officers out there to observe the road.


Presentations: None

Old Business: Second Reading: Ordinance No. 2017-03 to rezone 612 West 4th Ave Easley SC 29640 Tax Map No. 5019-19-51-2387 from R10 to GR2. Councilman Wright made the motion to approve with a second from Councilman Moore. Mayor Bagwell called on Tommy Holcombe to explain. The owner brought before the Planning Commission. It is a very large house, former daycare, they want to convert to a multifamily duplex. The Planning Commission was in favor with no opposition from the neighborhood. Councilman Dykes called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

New Business: First Reading of Ordinance: None

Resolutions: Resolution No. 2017 02: opposing the adoption of Bills H3650 and H3651 with its potential major loss in revenue to cities and disproportionate assessment to locally owned small businesses. Councilman Dykes made the motion to bring to the floor for discussion with a second from Councilman Mann. Mayor Bagwell called on Mr. Steese to explain. The House bills effect the City's authority to collect business license. It includes businesses that are not in the City limits to receive a 25% discount, i.e. Walmart and a company like Dixie Lumber would pay full price. This is not fair to small businesses that they would have to pay more than national chains. There would be a set maximum amount we could charge for fees. Business License fees accounts for over 4+ million dollars a year in revenue for the City, we would lose about half of that with this new bill. Mayors and Cities around the state are putting pressure on legislators to stop this bill. Councilman Garrison called for the question and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilman Mann made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk