

Council Work Session  
July 13, 2020

Mayor Womack called the work session to order at 5:17 p.m. All members were present. 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](http://www.Youtube.com). The press was notified by email on July 10, 2020. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Womack turned the meeting over to Councilwoman Webb to discuss face coverings. A committee was formed and members included City Council members, staff, business owners and medical professionals. The committee met on July 8th to discuss face coverings in public. It is the recommendation of the committee that council adopt a resolution to strongly encourage the use of face coverings in public.

Councilwoman Webb reiterated for the public to wash hands, wear masks, and social distance due to increase in the virus in Easley.

Councilwoman Webb further explained:

The State of SC has not given a mandate but the MASC has presented us with a sample ordinance. The ordinance puts the burden on the individual business owners. If we did that there would be a \$25 fine to individuals and \$100 to businesses if they are not enforcing. The committee thought the ordinance was unfair so they recommended a resolution.

The committee also recommended the following:

- Public education with the CDC recommendations to socially distance, frequent hand washing and wearing face coverings.
- Provide education materials and other media to businesses to encourage distancing and face coverings.
- Continue to review the cases and determine if the topic needs to be revisited and a face overseeing ordinance be adopted.

Councilman Robinson asked if a resolution can be turned into an ordinance.

Mr. Steese stated if council passes a resolution tonight an ordinance can be done on an emergency basis. We could adopt with one reading.

Councilman Garrison thanked Councilwoman Webb for the work the committee did. Agrees that this is a reasonable first step and we need to keep an eye on it.

Councilman Dykes commented that Mr. Steese gave a lot of good data about the increase in cases. He expressed his opinion to the committee and was in the minority, he wanted an ordinance. We need to be prepared to come in at a later date to do an ordinance. We want our citizens to take responsibility and adhere to the resolution and practice safety guidelines. If it doesn't turn around in the next few weeks we need to revisit.

Councilman Moore asked "What was the opinion of the medical professionals?" Do mask help, are we testing more, why has it gone up.

Councilwoman Webb commented that additional testing has added to the increase, but by the data you could tell cases escalated as things opened.

Councilman Moore then inquired about the type of mask to wear, the paper vs. cloth.

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Councilman Robinson stated he had a n95 mask but they are tight, restrictive and uncomfortable.

Councilwoman Webb commented that n95 masks should be for the professionals.

According to the ordinance they are some exemptions for people that have health problems, children under 10, people that have panic attacks, etc. if we look at an ordinance this will be taken into effect.

Chief Tollison stated that they should use caution with an ordinance. The model ordinance puts the burden on business for their employees not their customers. That would need to be looked at. It should not be the responsibility of the local police department to get involved with a local business and his patrons unless it gets volatile.

Chief Matthew Littleton commented that the N95 is basically a respirator and it has to be fitted according to OSHA guidelines. Cloth protects you but the number one thing is social distance. Stay away from people. Washing your hands properly and frequently reduces exposure 50%. When using a single use mask wash hands before you take it off and after it is removed.

### Stormwater Update:

There have been over 30 complaints within the Huntington North community. Most of them have been tracked down to 2 or 3 drainage easements. One includes an undersized drainage system that is original the neighborhood.

Some of the issues will be corrected by staff and some will need to get this engineered. We have an RFQ out for S. 2nd Street and Dogwood Lane for an engineer to design and DOT would need to approve. The advertisement went out on Monday July 6th, and closes on July 28<sup>th</sup>. We should have to council at the august meeting for approval.

Other projects will include improvements to Couch Lane, Carson Place and Halifax, Kensington

We have reach out to SC Rural Infrastructure about a grant to assist with these projects.

### Stormwater Bond

We closed on the bond July 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff has met to categorize all projects into 3 categories.

- Ones requiring design by engineer.
- Ones that can be bid out in a group for a contractor to complete.
- Ones that can be done in house by city staff.

Eric is working to locate all materials needed for the projects and to schedule.

Councilman Robinson asked about the amount of the bond. Councilman Dykes asked about the total number of projects.

Mr. Steese stated that the bond was for \$795,000 and there are about 18-20 projects total. We need to make sure our money goes as far as it can to get the most accomplished.

Public art at the Silos.

Mr. Steese commented that the developmental agreement with is the primary developer, Inky's, was to build a wall, put in a sidewalk to parking lot, and provide some over flow parking. Council approved \$50,000 for public art. They have come up with a couple of designs they would like council to look at. First is an antique bulb Silos sign that will be placed on top of the Silos.

The other is 22 exterior down lights that will illuminate the Silos and be able to create light shows and be lit for special events and holidays.

Councilman Moore ask who would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Steese stated that it is up to them.

Councilman Garrison asked if are we still going to have an art committee.

Mayor Womack commented that each council person was supposed to nominate someone to be on it. We have some names, if everyone is ok with it, we can go with the names that Lisa submitted.

Councilman Moore suggested Phalba Jeanes. She had requested to be on the committee.

Councilman Robinson asked if anything was going to be done to the outside of the Silos. Mr. Steese stated they are going to try and keep it as natural as possible to keep the original look of it. The inside will be used as a brewery.

Amend the mobile food ordinance.

Tommy Holcombe, Building Official gave a brief explanation.

The current ordinance was adopted in Nov. 2018 as pilot program. Since adoption there have been some minor issues that have arisen that need adjusting. The proposed ordinance corrected a few grammatical issues and items that were not consistent.

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.

If there is a complaint the Police Department will go out and check.

We have had our share of troubles and complaints these new guidelines will help.

Councilman Moore asked if there is a length for the trucks? The Lobster truck that has been coming is huge and taking up too much space.

Mr. Holcombe said there is no length designated.

Lease agreements:

Mr. Steese gave an explanation about the leases.

There are three leases on the agenda that were part of the budget that was approved by council.

- A 5-year lease for a Caterpillar back hoe for Public Works
- A 4-year lease on a Ventrac mower for Public Works
- A 5- year lease for a Swozi Cart Pro and attachments for lining the ball fields.

Mutual Aid Resolution for Police Department

Chief Tollison commented that the Police Department maintains several mutual aid agreements with the county's police departments along with Pickens and surrounding sheriff's offices. This authorizes law enforcement agencies to enter into contractual agreements

Project Updates

Operations/Maintenance. /Fire Station One

There has been a lot of work that has been going on. Starting today the crane should be delivered for the steel to be installed. Rock will be delivered for the drive/parking area. The goal is to be moved in by end of the year.

At station one the grading has been completed. The footings have been poured, and the foundation should go in this week. Some additional parking will be behind the new building at fire station one. This project is about 4-6 weeks behind Ops/maintenance.

Councilman Robinson commented that at the last meeting the Mayor asked about a motor vehicle collision. Is there was any new information. Chief Tollison stated that the street department put the counter out for a one-week count. It showed an average of 30 cars per hour on Crescent between the 2 intersections. There was an average of about 200 cars per day. Peachtree Street had an average of 800 cars per day. It was decided that the 2-way stop was sufficient for that intersection. Councilman Robinson thanked the departments for following through with that.

There were no further discussions and the work session adjourned.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk



