
City Council Meeting August 1, 2023

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 6:00 PM

Members Present:

Mayor Mike Fuesser
Mayor Pro Tem Ed Brown
Councilmember Matthew Hickey
Councilmember Marion Ramsey

Councilmember Stephanie Jarrett
Councilmember Kellie Harrold

Members Absent:

Councilmember Charles Brewer

Staff Present:

City Manager Dalton Pierce
Municipal Clerk Amy Craig
Finance Director Jeff Wilkins
Fire Chief Mike Regal
Zoning Administrator Amanda Blackston

Utilities Director Ben Wright
Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez
Police Chief Brian Trail
Detective Lieutenant Kevin Hoffman

Participants:

Others Present:

(See Sign-in Sheet)

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mike Fuesser

- Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. PRAYER

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Brown

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mike Fuesser

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1. New Employee

Utilities Director Ben Wright stated that the new employee, Baer Blackmon, had an emergency and will not be able to make it to this meeting, so he will be introduced at the September Council meeting. Instead, Utilities Director Ben Wright presented a refinished plaque for the York Filtration Wastewater Plant that preserves a piece of York's history.

4.2. FBI Academy – Kevin Hoffman

Chief Brian Trail stated that Detective Lieutenant Kevin Hoffman is the first Law Enforcement Officer in York to go through the National FBI Academy program. Chief Trail stated that Detective Lieutenant Kevin Hoffman received a yellow brick for completing the 6.1 miles obstacle course and a red brick for completing 34 miles of rowing. Detective Lieutenant Kevin Hoffman thanked Chief Trail and everyone for allowing him the opportunity to go through the program.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Second Reading Ordinance 23-696, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions

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John Schiflet spoke concerning York Place being a church home and the zoning issues at play in the Board's discussions. He stated that they have been trying to come up with a plan for the property. He realizes the City is looking for a return on investment, but he stated that the plan they have will provide ministry to children and seniors in the community. The Ordinance as it stands now will not allow for this ministry due to the zoning and that middle income families will not be served due to the minimum requirements.

Danny Sanford spoke in reference to York Place and how the Ordinance will not allow them to do with the property the original intentions that they were set to do when they were gifted the property. Instead, they will have to give the property back. Mr. Sanford prepared a report for Council to review that documented the pros and cons of the Ordinance.

Charles Bradford spoke about York Place and stated that from his understanding Council has not passed the zoning destination for the York Place property. Mr. Bradford mentioned the various zoning options and that York Place is in limbo. He summarized several issues and stated that he would like a discussion with Council outside of a Council meeting with Planning Department staff regarding their goals for the seniors and mid-income families.

5.2 Second Reading Ordinance 23-697, Rezoning Railroad Avenue

Tony Smith stated that the property on Railroad Avenue has a unique shape, and the rezoning would allow for one or two residential properties to be built there.

Cora Shannon stated that there are concerns for flooding and described the floods that have occurred on her property. Her main concern for the rezoning is if the flooding will be taken into consideration and the water able to go somewhere and not cause more flooding.

5.3 Second Reading 23-698, Appendix A RV Storage

No public comments were made

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were made

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7.1. SC Rural Infrastructure Grant – Water and Sewer Inventory Collection & Assessment Study

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that staff has met with Grazier Rhea to discuss the CDBG and other opportunities. City Manager Pierce recommends a comprehensive inventory assessment evaluation of water and sewer infrastructure. There is \$4.5 million available statewide, and the maximum grant amount is \$250,000. Due to the City of York being in a Tier IV county, a 25% match is required.

7.2. Advanced Leadership Institute: South Carolina City and County Management Association and The Darla Moore Foundation

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that he was accepted into the Advanced Leadership Institute when he was hired on as City Manager and that he has graduated the program. He was able to work on a capstone project with leaders in other municipalities. The project consisted of annexing a 50-acres piece of property in the Town of Hampton where a new high school will be built. City Manager Pierce wanted to thank everyone for allowing him to participate in this program and for their support.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1. Council Special Called July 24, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Brown made a Motion to accept the Minutes into the record, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. With no Discussion, the Minutes were approved unanimously.

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9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Jeff Wilkins summarized the finances for July 2023. He discussed the impacts of inflation the effects on the City of York, in addition to the LGIP accounts. He spoke of Parks and Recreation Director Chris White doing a job well done with the programs as his children were able to participate in the baseball and softball camps this summer. The revenues incoming from the Parks and Rec programs demonstrate how well York is growing.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. ORDINANCES:

- Second Reading Ordinance 23-696, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 23-696, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. During Discussion, Council stated that requested amendments in previous meetings were not included into the Ordinance. Also, Council inquired if the church's project mentioned in the Public Hearing could be passed through special exception, which was confirmed that there are mechanisms to have it approved. Council stated that they had anticipated the recommended amendments being in the Ordinance at this meeting and that it needs to be in a comprehensive form before being passed. With no other Discussion, the Motion was not adopted with the votes unanimously in opposition.
- Second Reading Ordinance 23-697, Rezoning Railroad Avenue Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve Second Reading 23-697, Rezoning Railroad Avenue, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. During Discussion, Council wanted to address Ms. Shannon's concern during the Public Hearing in reference to flooding before voting. Council assured Ms. Shannon that measures would be taken to ensure lack of flooding due to DHEC providing building code inspections and a stormwater plan with the new development. With no other Discussion, The Motion was adopted unanimously.
- Second Reading 23-698, Amending Appendix A RV Storage Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to approve Second Reading 23-698, Amending Appendix A RV Storage, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

10.2 Needs Assessment

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve the Needs Assessment as presented by the CDBG, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 DISCUSSIONS:

- FY23-24 Budget Final Budget Workshop City Manager Dalton Pierce summarized the final adjustments and revisions made to the Budget before it is finalized. He requested that Council provide feedback for him to assess and evaluate the final budget for FY23-24.
- Proposed Organizational Changes Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez stated that she sent out a revised Handbook reflecting the changes she made that were proposed in previous meetings.
- Ancillary Benefit Renewal Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez stated that RCH, the City's health insurance broker, recommended a consolidation of services. Mrs. Ramirez stated that she proposes they use Sun Life,

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as they would be able to provide everything for City employees. Sun Life would lower costs for the City and employees.

12. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fuessler stated that the citywide litter pickup day has been rescheduled for October 21, 2023, at 8:00am. He reminded everyone that this is an election year and filing opens August 9 and closes on September 8, 2023. The Mayor's seat, along with Districts 2,3, and 4 are up for election this year. The filing fee for Mayor is \$100 and the filing fee for Councilmembers are \$50. The Mayor reminded everyone that National Night Out is August 3, 2023, at 6:00pm.

13. ADJOURN

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting, which was Seconded by Councilmember Jarrett. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting Adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Craig
Municipal Clerk