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# City Council Meeting October 3, 2023

**DATE AND TIME:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 6:00 PM

## **Members Present:**

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

Councilmember Stephanie Jarrett  
Councilmember Charles Brewer  
Councilmember Kellie Harrold

## **Staff Present:**

City Manager Dalton Pierce  
Municipal Clerk Amy Craig  
Detective Lieutenant Kevin Hoffman  
Planning Director David Breakfield  
Utilities Director Ben Wright  
Utilities Crew Member Baer Blackmon

Parks and Rec Director Chris White  
Parks and Rec Director Julie Hollis  
Parks and Rec Coordinator Dale Percival  
Parks and Rec Program Assistant Priscilla Cook  
Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez  
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas  
Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones

## **Participants:**

## **Others Present:**

(See Sign-in Sheet)

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### **1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mike Fuessler

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

### **2. PRAYER**

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Brown

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Mike Fuessler

### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **4.1. New Employee – Sara McCoy**

Unfortunately, Sara McCoy was unable to attend the Council meeting, so she will be introduced at next month's Council meeting.

#### **4.2. New Employee – Baer Blackmon**

Utilities Director Ben Wright introduced Baer Blackmon as a new crew member for the Utilities Department.

#### **4.3. Promotion – Dale Percival**

Parks and Recreation Director Chris White introduced Dale Percival as the new Program Director for the Parks and Recreation Department.

#### **4.4. Retirement – Julie Hollis**

After over 32 years with the City of York, Julie Hollis has retired effective October 2, 2023. Parks and Recreation Director Chris White presented Ms. Hollis with a plaque. Council, staff, and citizens gave Ms. Hollis a standing ovation to celebrate her great and many years of service to the City of York.

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## 4.5. YCHS Girls Softball Team

Utilities Director Ben Wright and Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas presented Coach Danny Mazell and the YCHS Girls Softball Team with a check for \$840.00 that was provided through a 50/50 raffle at the annual York Summerfest Golf Tournament.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

*\*\*No public comment\*\**

## 6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

*\*\*No public comment\*\**

## 7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

### 7.1. CIP Matrix

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that an award was received on October 3, 2023, to replace cameras in 20 of the police cars. The total award is \$137,245 from South Carolina Department of Public Safety. He commended York Police Department for taking the initiative to apply for grants. Although they are not always awarded, he appreciates their efforts.

City Manager Pierce provided a presentation of 16 projects over the course of 3 fiscal years. The project timelines are based on each engineer's preliminary schedule, which began FY22-23. The presentation provided milestones, such as costs, percentage already completed, and more. These projects range from water and sewer, wayfinding, sidewalks, recreation projects, and facility upgrades. Council stated they appreciate the timeline that City Manager Pierce provided.

## 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 8.1. Council Meeting September 5, 2023

### 8.2 Council Work Session September 18, 2023

### 8.3 Council Special Called September 18, 2023

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve Council Meeting September 5, 2023, Council Work Session September 18, 2023, and Council Special Called September 18, 2023 Minutes, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Minutes were approved unanimously.

## 9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that the City is in the process of closing out the FY22-23 and that more revenues and expenses will be coming in for that period. Auditors will be here in March 2024, but the goal is to have them earlier if possible. LGIP interest has brought in approximately \$470,000 for the year. Total revenues over expenses is 14%. The City of York is in a good financial position. City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that next month Finance Director Jeff Wilkins will give a more in-depth guide to the City's finances.

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

### 10.1. ORDINANCES:

Second Reading Ordinance 23-703, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions On August 1, 2023, during Council's Work Session, Council and Planning staff discussed revisions for the Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions that needed to take place regarding square footage, swimming pools, recreational playgrounds, and picnic areas.

On September 5, 2023, at Council's regular meeting, the First Reading Ordinance 23-703, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions was adopted unanimously. To keep

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the process moving forward, staff requests that Council approve the Second Reading Ordinance 23-703 Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions.

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 23-703, Amending Appendix A Zoning and Appendix B Subdivisions, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

### 11.1 ORDINANCES:

- First Reading Ordinance 23-704, Rezoning Lee Street

Rezoning Lee Street will be rezoning from General Industrial to R7. Planning Commission felt that the rezoning will be compatible with surrounding areas and remain consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve on First Reading Ordinance 23-701, FY23-24 Budget, which was Seconded by Councilmember Brewer. During Discussion, Council reviewed the current zoning of housing and commercial in that area and stated that a potential issue could be businesses coming in after a residence is built and buffers will have to be built. Council further stated that it does not make sense to rezone only one lot, in addition to the buyer knowing the lot was zoned as GI when it was purchased. Council plans to discuss the rezoning further at another meeting. With no other Discussion, the Motion was approved 5-2, with Councilmembers Brewer and Jarret voting in opposition.

### 11.2 SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

- Spook-tacular Bar Crawl

Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas stated that Towne Tavern had put in an application in September, but plans fell through, and they were not able to hold the original event as planned. This one would be held October 28, 2023, 5-8pm. Other establishments will be participating, and an outline has been provided for where the patrons will go. Each person will have a representative to ensure there are no alcoholic drinks in public. No road closures will be required.

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve the Spook-tacular Bar Crawl, which was Seconded by Councilmember Brewer. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

- Downtown Partnership with Yorkville Carolina Christmas Show

Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas stated that Blush Blossom Boutique would like to help drive foot traffic to the downtown area. They have formed a partnership with Yorkville Marketplace for the Carolina Christmas Show. Blush Blossom would like alcohol to be permissible as the patrons shop. "No alcohol beyond this point" signs would be available. A food truck and live entertainment would be available as well.

Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve the Downtown Partnership with Yorkville Carolina Christmas Show with a contingency to add police officers at each crosswalk, which was Seconded by Councilmember Brewer. During Discussion, safety concerns were addressed by Council pertaining to the possibility of someone falling and being injured. Also, a concern was raised about the City being liable for any falls with alcohol being present and possibly closing Congress Street from Madison Avenue to Liberty Street. More police presence was mentioned as a suggestion for safety as well. With no other Discussion, the Motion was approved 6-1, with Councilmember Ramsey voting in opposition.

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- City of York Kickoff to Christmas Tree Lighting and Hometown Christmas Parade  
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas stated that last year, the Christmas Tree Lighting was a week before the Christmas Parade, and this year they would like to have it the day before the parade on December 8, 2023.  
Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to approve the City of York Kickoff to Christmas Tree Lighting and Hometown Christmas Parade, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.
- Historic Yorkville Holiday Home Tour  
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas stated that Historic Yorkville Holiday Home Tour would be held December 9 and 10, 2023, from 2-6pm both days. This is an annual fundraiser for them and this year carriage rides will be available with a starting point at Yorkville Marketplace.  
Councilmember Harrold made a Motion to approve the Historic Yorkville Holiday Home Tour, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.
- Silver in the City  
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas stated that Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Leake are prepared for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver in the City already. This year the event will be held a little earlier than normal. The dates are April 12-14, 2024.  
Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve Silver in the City, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was passed unanimously.

## 11.3 DISCUSSION(S):

- Proposed Organizational Changes  
Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez stated that she would like Council to vote for all items together and mention what was opposed.  
Councilmember Brewer made a Motion to approve the Proposed Organizational Changes as written with amendments to the holidays, instead of having four holidays, the City will add Veteran's Day and one additional floating holiday, the City will keep the separation pay in 13.10b to include the sick payout, and frontloading the accrual rates, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. During Discussion, Council inquired about the accrual rates changing for the employees that have been with the City for a long time. Ms. Ramirez stated that since most of them are maxed out with vacation and sick time, that this will not have an impact on them. Council believes that the sick payout is an excellent recruiting tool, along with the additional holidays. Council expressed their views on accrual rates and Ms. Ramirez suggested frontloading the sick and vacation time for employees, which Council agreed. With frontloading, the levels and how much would have to be decided. For the sick payout, Council suggested a requirement that employees must be employed for a minimum of 5 years consecutively. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

## 12. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fuesser read a Proclamation for Julie Hollis' retirement during the Presentations, and he reminded everyone of the litter pick up on October 21, 2023.

## 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1 Discussion of Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property

13.2 Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements

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13.3 Discussion of Matters Related to Boards & Commissions

13.4 Discussion of Matters Related to the City Manager

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to go into Executive Session, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to exit Executive Session, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

### **14. UPON RETURNING TO OPEN SESSION, COUNCIL MAY TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Brewer made a Motion to authorize City Manager Dalton Pierce to sign the Letter of Intent that gives him the authority to sign the contract as long as it matches the Letter of Intent, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously. Councilmember Jarrett made a Motion to appoint Amber Palmer to the Board of Zoning Appeals, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously. Councilmember Brewer made a Motion that upon a positive review of the City Manager that he receives a net bonus of \$5,000, which was Seconded by Councilmember Jarrett. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

### **15. ADJOURN**

Mayor Fuessler made a Motion to Adjourn, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. The Motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Craig  
Municipal Clerk