
City Council Meeting March 5, 2024

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 6:00 PM

Members Present:

Mayor Mike Fuesser
Mayor Pro Tem Ed Brown
Councilmember Matthew Hickey

Councilmember Charles Brewer
Councilmember Kellie Harrold
Councilmember Marion Ramsey

Members Absent:

Councilmember Jarrett

Staff Present:

City Manager Dalton Pierce
Municipal Clerk Amy Craig
Parks & Rec Director Chris White
Public Works Director Chris Wallace
Utilities Director Ben Wright
Fire Chief Mike Regal

Human Resources Director Sarah Ramirez
Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas
Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones
Finance Director Jeff Wilkins
Planning Director David Breakfield

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 – Deveontae Stradford

Utilities Director Ben Wright introduced Deveontae Stradford as a new Utilities Maintenance Worker for the Utilities Department.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Second Reading Ordinance 24-714, Subdivision Speed Limit Standard

No public comments were made.

5.2 Second Reading Ordinance 24-715, Urban Camping

No public comments were made.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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Holly Starnes spoke in reference to the Parks & Recreation updates, in which she stated that, upon election, Council entered into an agreement with the constituents of the community, but Council failed to honor the contract between the School District and the City from 2019. Ms. Starnes stated that the community deserves better than what they have been given and that the citizens will continue to come before Council until this is made right.

Melissa Rouse, representative for NAACP, stated that she read over the Strategic Plan 2021 and that it represents a dynamic community, meaning inclusive, attractive, family-oriented, and strives for a high quality of life for all residents. Part of the dynamic community was to expand recreation and health opportunities, which is the focus for Ms. Rouse. The last meeting pertaining to Jefferson Field, resulted in the black community's request being ignored by voiding the contract with the School District.

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7.1 Capital Project Updates

City Manager Dalton Pierce and Utilities Director Ben Wright provided an overview of the various capital projects for the City. They provided where each project is in the bid process or what needs to be done before they can be solicited to contractors.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1. Council Meeting February 5, 2024

8.2 Council Work Session February 19, 2024

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from February 5th and the Council Workshop Meeting from February 19th into the record as they are, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. With no Discussion, the Motion was approved unanimously.

9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Jeff Wilkins stated that the City is in the midst of the beginning stages of the audit and the Budget season. Mid-February the property taxes came in, which increased the revenues. Currently, we are approximately \$1.5million above revenues over expenses. A portion of this funding is sent to the LGIP account to accrue interest.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. ORDINANCES:

- Second Reading Ordinance 24-714, Subdivision Speed Limit Standard
Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 24-714, Subdivision Speed Limit Standard, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. In Discussion, Council thanked the York Police Department for all their work for this study. Citizens called and gave commendations for their efforts. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.
- Second Reading Ordinance 24-715, Urban Camping
Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 24-715, Urban Camping, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.
- Second Reading Ordinance 24-716, Construction Debris Chapter 36 Article II Sec. 36-46 (a) 5 Amendment
Councilmember Brewer made a Motion to approve Second Reading Ordinance 24-716, Construction Debris Chapter 36 Article II Sec. 36-46 (a) 5 Amendment, which was Seconded by Councilmember Ramsey. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

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11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 BIDS & SOLICITATIONS:

- Fire Truck

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that Council has a handout pertaining to the purchase of a Fire Truck costing \$1,159,147, with \$30,000 in contingency. With all the appropriate equipment and other items, the contingency will be closer to \$100,000. Staff requests that the purchase move forward due to the lead time already being March 2027. City Manager Pierce explained that at the beginning of the Fiscal Year, the Debt Service for the City will be at \$1million, but in 2026, the Debt Service will decrease to approximately \$225,000. The first payment for the apparatus will be in 2029, and the costs for the entire Fiscal Year will be \$35,000. If a 10 year Debt Service was done for \$1.16million at 4.5% (interest rates could be different, of course), the Debt Service will be \$146,492 over the 10 years. One option is the State Appropriations request of \$1.2million for the apparatus. A second option is to pay the Debt Service out of the Impact Fee schedule since it has already allocated in the Capital Improvement Projects for capital purchases over \$100,000. A third option is to use the General Fund to fund the Debt Service through property taxes. A fourth option is to allocate the funds beginning this coming Fiscal Year through capital outlay in the next four Fiscal Years. Council inquired about this going out to Bid and possibly getting the fire truck cheaper, in which City Manager Pierce stated that the memo mentions Administrative Code Section 2-360 referencing procurement through general services. Also, Council asked if the County will still support the City once this apparatus is purchased. Chief Regal stated that the City is due to receive ladder replacement in 2028 and engine replacement in 2030. City Manager Pierce confirmed that the City will not receive any additional funding from the County. Council mentioned that further discussion may need to take place regarding the City's funding from the County.

Councilmember Brewer made a Motion to approve the Bid proposal for the Seagrave Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$1,159,147, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

11.2 SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATIONS:

- York County Employee Luncheon

Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones stated that York County's Employee Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 3rd, located at 13 S. Congress Street. Food trucks will be serving approximately 300 York County employees from 10:00am-2:00pm. Set up will begin at 7:30am. The City's parking lot will be needed.

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve the York County Employee Luncheon, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

- Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones stated that a Cinco de Mayo Celebration will be held on Friday, May 3rd 6:00pm-9:00pm. Roads will begin to close around 4:00pm and will only affect N. Congress Street from Madison to Liberty Streets. Inflatables, pinatas, a food truck, and a stage for music will be provided. This event will highlight the Hispanic and Latino communities in York. Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. In Discussion, Council inquired if notifications (via door hangers) will be provided to the citizens in which the road closures will affect. Ms. Jones stated that she will make sure the citizens are aware. With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

- Kick-off to Christmas Tree Lighting and Hometown Christmas Parade

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Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones stated that the Tree Lighting will be held on Thursday, December 12th at 6:00pm-7:30pm. The Hometown Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 13th at 6:00pm-8:00pm. The School District lot will be utilized again, and the route will remain the same as last year. Vendors will be there, and performances will occur before the parade.

Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve the Kick-Off to Christmas Tree Lighting and Hometown Christmas Parade, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

- **White Rose Festival/York Summerfest**

Community Events Coordinator Chloe Jones stated that the White Rose Festival was discussed at the Council Work Session on February 19th. This event is to begin a new tradition by naming the event after the City of York. The event will be held on Saturday, September 21st, 10:00am-7:00pm, which will be a little cooler than the summer temperatures. The layout will be the same, minus City Park. Amusements, a car show, BMX, and vendors will be the same as York Summerfest in the past.

Councilmember Brewer made a Motion that the City of York does not move forward with the White Rose Festival this year, defer it until Council can receive further information for 2025, and keep York Summerfest this year, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. In Discussion, Council inquired if both events will be held, in which Ms. Jones stated that she is only laying out both events for one to be decided upon by Council. Also, Council wanted to ensure that the citizens had an opportunity to make plans for the new change and wanted the event to not conflict with other events in the area. Discussion took place between Council and Community Engagement Director Becky Mestas regarding the different events that could possibly conflict, such as the Jaycee's Auto Show and Festival on the third weekend of September in Clover. Council recommended that York Summerfest remain the same at least one more year. It was confirmed that York Summerfest will be held as usual on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

With no other Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

11.3 ORDINANCES:

- **First Reading Ordinance 24-717, Amendment FY23-24 Rates & Fees**

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that Ordinance 24-717 needed to be amended due to a \$200 difference in the base rate as was discussed in the Work Session on February 19, 2024. Councilmember Hickey made a Motion to approve First Reading Ordinance 24-717, Amendment FY23-24 Rates & Fees, which was Seconded by Councilmember Brewer. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

- **First Reading Ordinance 24-718, Highway Commercial Zoning**

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that amending the Highway Commercial Zoning will aid the Planning staff by addressing issues that would cause tough differentiation from the previous Ordinance.

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to approve First Reading Ordinance 24-718, Highway Commercial Zoning, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

11.4 DISCUSSION(S):

- **Recycling**

City Manager Dalton Pierce stated that Clover's Town Administrator reached out to him regarding the Recycling Service contract that ends for them on June 30, 2024. The historical data from 2021-2024 demonstrates twelve and a half tons collected, which half of that is coming from the School District. The City's growth and the recycling does not parallel. If the Recycling Services are ended, then the half million funds that are saved could be reallocated to purchase two new trucks. In Discussion, Council stated that if the Recycling Services end within the City limits, they are not

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eliminating recycling altogether. There are options, such as the local recycling centers within the county. One is located near Cotton Belt. Council further stated that they are not seeing the desire to have it with the amount of growth coming into the City. City Manager Pierce stated that no one would be losing their job. The funds would just be allocated elsewhere. Public Works Director Chris Wallace confirmed that the School District would still be taken care of through the county, as they could pick up their recycling. Various options were discussed, such as small recycling centers or third party services.

12. MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Fuesser reminded the citizens of York that on Friday, March 8th, at 2:00pm, the Kings Mountain Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will be hosting a monument dedication at Veterans Park. The dedication will be followed by light refreshments at Church of the Good Shepherd. Also, on Saturday, March 9th, March for the Heart 5k will be held at 8:00am and the downtown area will participate in International Women's Day. The next litter pick up day will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024. A local Cub Scout Troop and JROTC will participate in this event in a safe location.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 13.1 Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements
- 13.2 Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements
- 13.3 Discussion of Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to leave Regular Session and 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 and enter back into Regular Session, which was Seconded by Councilmember Hickey. The Motion was adopted unanimously.

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

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to deny the proposal for Economic Development Incentive for Scooter's Coffee, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously.

15. ADJOURN

Councilmember Ramsey made a Motion to Adjourn, which was Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. With no Discussion, the Motion was adopted unanimously. The Meeting Adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy W. Craig

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Amy Craig
Municipal Clerk