

**City of Liberty**  
***Regular Council Meeting***  
**Rosewood Center**  
**419 East Main Street**  
**Liberty, SC 29657**

**May 9, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Council Present:** Mayor Erica Woods, Councilman Shoenleben, Councilman Graybeal, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Whitaker

**Absent:** Councilman Peggy Edwards and Councilman Archie Newberry

**Personnel Present:** Administrator Michael Calvert, Police Chief Adam Gilstrap, Finance Director Mandy K. Hess, Public Works Director Tim Moore

**Agenda Notice:** May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Posted:** Town Hall at 1:00p.m.

Mayor Erica Woods called the meeting to order at 6:37pm and apologized for the delay on the start of the meeting.

Invocation led by Councilman Graybeal  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Woods

Mayor Woods announced Councilman Archie Newberry's resignation and gave an update on the Love My Liberty 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event. The band and fireworks have been booked volunteers are needed for the event.

**Item 1- Public Comments-** Mr. Brian Peterson spoke regarding Ordinance 2022-03 and requested council consider tabling the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading until full council was present and available and due to planning and zoning minutes not being available on the website. He also suggested Council request all Planning Commission meeting minutes to be included in regular meeting packets.

**Item 2- Approval of Minutes**

**Motion: To Approve Minutes from April 11, 2022**

**Moved: Graybeal      Second: Shoenleben      Vote: Passed**

**Item 4- New Business**

**1. Presentation from Greene & Finney on the 2021 FY Audit**

Mr. Finney gave an overview of the purpose of the audit and the findings for the city. Overall, the city is in really good shape financially according to Mr. Finney.

**2. Approval of the City of Liberty's Strategic Plan**

Councilman Graybeal said he is glad to see this plan on paper to help clarify the city's vision to the community. Mayor Woods noted the strategic plan was made possible through the help of the community and the strategic plan is the result of their ideas and input.

**Moved: Graybeal Second: Shoenleben Vote: Passed**

**Item 3-Resolutions**

**1. Approval of Resolution Electing the Standard Allowance for Lost Revenues under the American Rescue Plan**

**Moved: Whitaker Second: Graybeal Motion: Passed**

**2. Approval of Resolution Allowing use of funds from the American Rescue Plan**

**Moved: Graybeal Second: Shoenleben Vote Passed**

**Item 4- Ordinances**

**1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-02 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 502.5 other requirements of RM-8, Multi Family District**

**Moved: Shoenleben Second: Graybeal Vote: Passed (1 Opposed)**

**2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2022-03 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 503.5 Other Requirements of RM-16, Residential, Multi Family District**

Councilman Graybeal said the feedback he has received from the community is in favor of the Ordinance.

**Moved: Graybeal Second: Whitaker Vote: Passed (1 Opposed)**

**Item 5- Department Reports**

**Building Codes-None**

**Police Department-** Police Chief Gilstrap said the department has hired another employee and they are working on getting her into the academy. He also reviewed his statistical monthly report.

Minutes

5/922

**Streets and Sanitation Department-** Director Moore gave his statistical report regarding trash pickup and water and sewer.

**Recreation Department-** Mayor Woods read the report and noted the 14 and under flag football team went undefeated in their season and won the Tri-County championship by a score of 52-33.

### **Item 6-City Administrator Report**

Administrator Calvert reviewed the latest update on the new water meters with a projected start date in June. He said the lift stations are in differing levels of completion and Rice's Creek is nearing completion. He then addressed the roof repair needed for the Rosewood Center. Several estimates have been made and hail damage has been reported. The city has contacted our insurance group to see what avenue can be taken. Administrator Calvert also addressed the welcome signs and said SCDOT has given the city approval to proceed. He mentioned the budget is still in progress and will be presented next month and that the new city seal is still in the works and any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Lastly, Administrator Calvert mentioned training available to staff and council and he encouraged everyone to take advantage of all opportunities.

**Item 7- Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters Within the Administrative Department, Contractual Matters with Economic Development, and Contractual Matters with the Public Works Department** Council and Mayor entered Executive Session at 7:28pm. The meeting was called back to order at 8:35pm.

**Moved: Graybeal Second: Hayes Vote: Passed**

### **Item 8- Possible Actions from Executive Session**

- 1. Motion: To Appoint Mandy K. Hess Municipal Clerk and Treasurer for the City of Liberty**

**Moved: Hayes Second: Whitaker Vote: Passed**

- 2. Motion: To Move Forward with Annexation Ordinances with 123LLC and Bojangles**

**Moved: Hayes Second: Graybeal Vote: Passed**

### **Item 9- Council Reports/Discussion**

Councilman Graybeal stated he had prepared statement after learning of some recent incidents and proceeded to read his statement. Messages have been sent of a

Minutes

5/922

derogatory manner and Mr. Graybeal takes personal offense to the sexist remarks made to female colleagues as well as suggestions that Administrator Calvert is controlling the mayor. Mr. Graybeal expressed that the mayor is fully capable of making her own decisions and that he fully supports Administrator Calvert. He then said as a city and council, we should not entertain this kind of behavior. We are setting an example for those who may serve in the future and should not accept the ignorance of others in any shape or form. (See video for verbatim)  
Councilman Hayes provided materials on an app called GoGov. Mr. Hayes thinks this may be a good tool to reach the community. He has received a quote for services that can be provided.

### **Item 10-Adjournment**

#### **Motion: To Adjourn**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

**Moved: Graybeal      Second: Hayes      Vote: Passed**

Mandy K. Hess  
Mandy K. Hess, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved June 13<sup>th</sup> 2022