

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

June 13, 2022
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Personnel Present: Administrator Michael Calvert, Police Chief Adam Gilstrap, Finance Director Mandy K. Hess

Agenda Notice: Wednesday, June 8, 2022

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

Mayor Erica Woods called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Invocation led by Councilman Edwards

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Woods

Mayor Woods gave a reminder of the July 4th event from 6pm-10pm and thanked Debra Graybeal for heading up the event. She said volunteers are still needed. Mayor Woods announced the state election date of June 14th from 7am-7pm held at the Rosewood Center. Next, she announced the date of the public hearing for the 2022-2023 budget set for June 30th and the special election date for August 2nd to fill the vacant seat. Mayor Woods then congratulated council on their 6-month anniversary of being in office and 4 months of service from Councilman Whitaker.

Item 1- Public Comments- None

Item 2- Approval of Minutes

Motion: To Approve Minutes from May 3rd and 9th, 2022

Moved: Edwards Second: Graybeal Vote: Passed

Item 3- New Business

1. Presentation from Richard Dixon with Ferguson Waterworks

Mr. Dixon gave a presentation on the installation and operation of the new water meters for the city as well as the integration and community outreach.

Councilmember Edwards asked how long it would take to install each meter per house. Mr. Dixon said it should take 15-20 minutes per house. Councilmember

Edwards asked about radiation and Mr. Dixon said he would be happy to gather and

provide that information. Administrator Calvert said there would be a preconstruction meeting to determine which area of the city to begin installation. Council member Edwards asked if the utility bill would look any different. Mr. Dixon said they would not. Mr. Dixon gave the city customer communication tool kits to help notify the community of the anticipated new meter install. Administrator Calvert asked how long it would take to read the meters. Mr. Dixon said the meters can be read in entirety within minutes. Mr. Dixon also reviewed the warranty on the meters and said they will provide customer service to the community. Councilmember Edwards requested a report to show customer service communication with customers.

2. Appointment of New BZA Member, Hester Rose Elrod

Moved: Graybeal Second: Edwards Vote: Passed

3. Discussion of Trash Service Agreement

Councilmember Edwards asked if the request for a report was submitted. Clerk Hess said yes, they did agree to provide a report on customer interaction. Councilmember Edwards questioned the budget items that will reflect the changes in expense and revenue when the private company takes over. Clerk Hess explained the expenses would be cut in several areas through several departments, such as the landscaping contract, employee salaries, etc. that would offset the contract fees. Councilman Graybeal asked what the anticipated start date is. Administrator Calvert said they plan to start August 1st and that employees and the community will be notified immediately.

Item 4-Resolutions

1. Approval of Resolution Allowing the City of Liberty to Participate in the State Insurance Benefits Program

Clerk Hess reviewed the benefits of joining the State Health Program to include lower premiums for employees and employer.

Moved: Edwards Second: Whitaker Motion: Passed

Item 5- Ordinances

1. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-01 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 900 Establishment of Zoning Board of Appeals

Moved: Graybeal Second: Shoenleben Vote: Passed

2. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-04 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 501.5 Other Requirements of MRD, Medium Density Duplex Residential District

Administrator Calvert reminded Mayor and Council of the changes and additions made to the Ordinance.

Moved: Graybeal Second: Whitaker Vote: Passed

3. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-05 An Ordinance Authorizing the Annexation of Hwy 123 Property

Moved: Hayes Second: Shoenleben Vote: Passed

4. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance Authorizing the Annexation of Bojangles

Moved: Hayes Second: Graybeal Vote: Passed

5. First Reading of Ordinance 2022-07 the City of Liberty 2022-2023 Budget

Councilman Hayes inquired about sewer tap rates. Administrator Calvert said the 2” lines are the standard for installation and therefore higher than the 3-4” lines. Administrator Calvert said he would be researching all rates and fees as part of the Strategic Plan and would provide that information to Council once available. Councilmember Edwards said it would be a good idea to review all city contracts and see where we could save and/or possibly bring more inhouse. Councilman Graybeal disagreed with lowering the amount of funds available for the 4th of July Celebration. Clerk Hess explained that it is still in the Hospitality Fund it was just moved to a miscellaneous event line item, but it can be moved back.

Moved: Shoenleben Second: Whitaker Vote: Passed

Item 6- Department Reports

Building Codes-None

Police Department- Chief Gilstrap reviewed his report and thanked all his officers for their hard work while they are short staffed.

Streets and Sanitation Department- Mayor Woods read the Public Works Report.

Recreation Department- Mayor Woods read over the Rec Department Report.

Item 7-City Administrator Report

Administrator Calvert the city received a new grant from the RIA. This will help with the lift stations in need of repair. We are also waiting to get SRF funds which will also go towards these repairs. An inspection of the roof at Rosewood will be completed to see if insurance may cover some hail damage. The welcome signs will be installed on the 18th. Councilmember Edwards commented that the other signs could use some sprucing up. Administrator Calvert also said he would like suggestions for properties that need assessment from the Brownfield’s grant the city received. ARPA funds are starting to be used towards infrastructure on Mountain View Dr. Councilman Hayes asked about the sewer lines and water meters at the new development. Administrator Calvert said they would use the city sewer system but not our water. They will not use our new water meters.

Item 8- Executive Session to Discuss Appointment should Council Desire-N/A

Item 9- Council Reports/Discussion

Councilmember Edwards asked about the status of the trash truck. Administrator Calvert said the cities that have looked at it think it is too small to fit their city needs but we will list it on some different government online sales sites to see if we have any luck there. Councilmember Edwards thanked everyone who help with the Memorial Day cemetery cleaning. Councilman Graybeal said there's a lot of work left to be done for the 4th of July event and encouraged volunteers to come out to help. He also thanked all of those working hard to put it together. Councilman Hayes reminded council about the GoGov app and wants to know if there is any interest. He also noted that he marked off an area at Freedom Park to provide a disc golf section. He also mentioned that it is not a permanent structure and can be removed.

Item 10-Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Moved: Graybeal Second: Hayes Vote: Passed

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

Approved July 1st 2022