

Minutes from February 8, 2022
Hanahan Council Meeting - 6:30PM
Debbie Lewis Municipal Chambers
1255 Yeamans Hall Road Hanahan, SC 29410

A City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 6:30pm. The meeting was advertised in the Post and Courier. The agenda was posted on the City of Hanahan webpage, the City's Facebook page and a copy of the agenda was posted on the lobby bulletin board at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Mayor Rainwater presided. Council Members that were present at tonight's meeting were – Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth, Council Member Sally, Council Member Boggs, and Council Member Spurlock, & Council Member Dyson. Council Member Chandler was not present this evening. We had a quorum for tonight's meeting.

Staff members that were present were: Mike Cochran - City Administrator, Courtney Soler – Finance Director, Bo Bowers – Fire Chief, Danny Stewart – Parks & Recreation Director, Jon Ellwood – IT, Larry Sturdivant – Building & Codes, Dennis Turner – Police Chief, Gale Dollar – Clerk of Court, Alexis Kiser – Building & Codes, Wynette DeGroot – HR Director, and Emily Huff – Clerk of Council.

The sign-in sheet has been included with the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rainwater called the Tuesday, February 8, 2022, City Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Pastor/ Council Member Adam Spurlock.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Sally led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS

1. **Citizen of the Month** – Mayor Christie Rainwater introduced and invited up our February Citizen of the Month, Stephanie Mitchell. She said that many of you know Stephanie from Hanahan Elementary School, where she is the principal. Stephanie was nominated as Citizen of the Month, by Danielle Hardwick. Danielle was unable to be in attendance tonight, as she had prior obligations, but in Danielle's submission, she stated that she wished to honor a special community member, and that Stephanie has been a valued member of our Hanahan community for years. She noted that Stephanie works endless hours at Hanahan Elementary to ensure that her students are receiving the best education possible. She not only focuses on the curriculum aspect for the students, but she is also committed to the staff at Hanahan Elementary School and gives more than 100% of her talent and time to the school, each day. Danielle went on to state in her submission that when Stephanie isn't working, she is volunteering within our

community at sporting events and giving back to the community whenever she can. In closing, Danielle stated that Stephanie is an all-around amazing woman, whom we are lucky to have in Hanahan and the mayor agreed and said that Stephanie is a rockstar principal and a rockstar citizen. Mayor Rainwater then thanked Danielle for her submission and gave a huge thank you to Stephanie, for all that she does for our students and our community! A certificate of appreciation and a gift card was presented, and pictures were taken with Council.

2. **Employee of the Year 2021** – Mayor Rainwater asked for Mike Cochran, City Administrator to come forward to award the Employee of the Year award. Mike Cochran then invited up Danny Stewart, Parks & Recreation Director to come up so together, they could recognize and award the 2021 Employee of the Year, Tommy “Tom” Karn. In Danny’s submission, he noted that Tom Karn began working in the Hanahan Recreation Department in July of 2018 as the Recreation Coordinator, and that he quickly rose through the ranks and now serves as the Athletic Director. Tom is directly responsible for selection of coaches/teams, conducting preseason coach meetings, ordering team uniforms, making game schedules, and overseeing all officials and scorekeepers. Danny went on to note that in his years of experience in recreation, Tom’s knowledge of his recreation duties is unparalleled. Tom’s customer service skills are exemplary. He is one of the friendliest people that I know, and he always arrives to work with a great attitude. Tom’s ability to communicate effectively with co-workers, coaches, and parents has led to a significant increase in participation in our athletic programs. Tom was instrumental in navigating our recreation department through the COVID-19 pandemic, making sure our facilities were clean and sanitized and up to DHEC standards to continue play. Due to Tom’s unwavering support of Hanahan Recreation Athletics during a global crisis, over 400 children and 250 adults were able to safely play organized sports. Tom was also instrumental in the transition of our new recreation registration software, even going the extra mile, to hand type all of the basketball player rosters for each team, while they transitioned to their new system. Danny said that Tom is a tireless advocate for recreation sports, and he exemplifies the true meaning of a recreation professional. Tom is a tremendous asset to the Hanahan Recreation Department and with his leadership as our Athletic Director, our programs will continue to grow and reach all time heights. A plaque was presented with Tom’s picture and engraved nameplate already in place. The plaque will hang in the lobby of City Hall for the year. Additionally, a certificate of appreciation and a gift card was presented, and pictures were taken with Council.

3. **Difference Maker Award** – Mayor Rainwater stated at this time, we have a very special award to present, and this award comes with some merit. Charles “Charlie” Cox was asked to come up, as she wished to recognize and award him, as the Bailiff Emeritus. Mr. Cox was thanked for his hard work and dedication to the city, which spanned many years, and served many roles; City Council 1989-1998, Election Commission 1998-2005, and Bailiff 2014-2022. Mayor Rainwater said that he has quiet the servant heart and she asked if he had anything to say, to which Mr. Cox replied that when he was a young boy, his mom taught him to treat others as you want to be treated and to do anything you can, to help your community/neighbor. He said that that has always stuck with him and that is exactly what he has always tried to do. A beautiful plaque was presented with Mr. Cox’s picture and engraved nameplate which will forever be on display in the Courtroom of City Hall. Additionally, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Cox and pictures were taken with his family and Council.

CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no citizen comments, regarding agenda items.

There were no comments/questions that were submitted online either. There being no further input, Mayor Rainwater closed this segment of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are adopted with a single motion, second, and a vote unless a request for removal is heard from a Council Member. Items on the January 11, 2022, Consent Agenda were:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 11, 2022, City Council Meeting
2. Approval for Emergency Repair for Irrigation System for Fields 3 and 4 (Hardy Services)
3. Approval for Emergency Replacement of Thermostat in Mabeline Gym (Johnson Controls)
4. Approval of Purchase of BD Veritor Test Strips for the Fire Department

- *A motion to approve the items on the February 8, 2022, Consent Agenda, was made by Council Member Sally.*
- *A second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth.*
- *There was no further discussion.*
- *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

**NOTE: Vote reflects 6 total votes, rather than 7, as Council Member Chandler was absent tonight.*

There wasn’t any Unfinished Business to discuss tonight. Moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Rainwater invited up Alexis Kiser, City Planner/ Economic Development Director and Mike Cochran, City Administrator to present the Master Plan, Intent to Award Conditional Contract Bid to Boudreaux. Alexis stated that this serves as an update as this was already previously approved in the budget. This will be a 4-phase project. Charrettes will be held, and a citizen-wide survey will be pushed out, as well as a final presentation. Slated to finish around July.
 - Council Member Sally asked who will be responsible for pushing out the survey, to which Alexis replied, it will be a joint effort. Council Member Sally then stated his concern, as in the past, surveys haven't really been useful, as it doesn't seem residents complete them.
 - Mayor Rainwater stated that she liked the QR code/posters that was done last year. She was impressed by those.
 - Council Member Sally we just need more feedback. Alexis replied that the Planning Commission is planning to go all out, and they will help promote the survey and she asked that Council also help promote/push out the survey, come time. Everyone agreed.

No vote was needed, as this simply was an update.

2. Mayor Rainwater asked that Mike Cochran, remain up front for the presentation of **Resolution #1-2022** – A Resolution to Adopt the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices in Otranto. Mike stated that residents are already concerned with the increase of traffic that this will bring, which is why we are suggesting these. He said that the road is slated to be done no later than October 31. The State rules want traffic calming devices to be made of concrete and span 14ft across (almost the width of the road). They can't be within 100ft of an intersection, nor can they be in front of driveways. They are intended for 25mph roads. He is proposing four (4) – right off Otranto onto Basilica and one (1) in place at the second entrance to Monte Sano/ Roma. In closing Mike said that DOT requires a Resolution on part, hence this Resolution.
 - Council Member Sally said that he can't help but think that we've had others that have requested these to no avail. He wants to know what the need is, where he is proposing these go. City Administrator, Mike Cochran replied that the other areas that he knows where people have asked for the speed humps, like Ridgecrest and Belvedere are 30mph zones, and the requirement is 25mph. So, this wouldn't work in those areas. They would first have to be rezoned to 25mph. He went on to ask, have we studied the entire city, as we have needs other places already. Mike Cochran replied no, we haven't because those areas would first need to be lowered to 25mph. Council Member Sally stated that he thinks that once we start this, everyone is going to want this for their street. Mike Cochran replied that the idea behind this, is to keep this as a recurring cost in the budget. He went on to say that Roma

has been a problem for 10 years. In return, Council Member Sally then asked why not start at Roma then. He thinks more data is needed before he can agree/vote on this. Mike Cochran said that knowing this new cut through road is going to be full of traffic, the idea is to slow the traffic.

- Council Member Spurlock agrees that safety is first, and he said that in his neighborhood (Otranto), he sees mothers out walking with their children in strollers or on bikes on the sidewalks, and the sidewalks butt right up to the roads where people are flying down them. He went on to say that he sees where Council Member Sally is coming from, knowing that there are needs elsewhere, but he also agrees with Mike Cochran, and that thinking ahead and putting these in now, is smart.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth said that we've tried to lower the speed limit on Foster Creek for five (5) years, to no avail. He asked Mike Cochran what they needed to do, to make that happen. Mike replied that he would have to get a refresher and read back up on the information, but he would do so and let Council know his findings.
- Mayor Rainwater stated that in the past when we have had residents complain about speeders on their streets, we have had Chief Turner set out the stealth decoy to gather data, and the findings typically show that the residents complaining were incorrect about the speeders. It may seem as if they're flying down the street, when in all actuality they aren't, that is what the stealth data shows us. She also agrees that she thinks more data is needed before they vote. Mike Cochran agreed to do a study.
- Council Member Boggs said that he thinks that we have exhausted the speed hump for tonight and asked about a turning light at the traffic light off Yeamans Hall onto Murray, in both directions. He feels that a left turn arrow is needed there. Mike Cochran replied that the State just did a study on that a few years ago and it didn't meet the criteria to have a turn arrow light there.
- Council Member Sally said that he personally doesn't think we have enough data for this just yet. He doesn't think it is wise and that it would be hard to explain to residents.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth said he doesn't disagree with Council Member Sally; however, he already knows there is an issue out there. He feels that if we can do something now, when we can, that it just makes sense to do so. In closing, Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth stated that he takes Council Member Sally's advice as an amendment to the Resolution for staff to come up with a comprehensive plan with Monte Sano and Basilica.

- *A motion to approve **Resolution #1-2022** – A Resolution to Adopt the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices in Otranto was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth, with the amendment of having a Comprehensive Plan done by staff.*
- *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
- *There was no further discussion.*
- *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

**NOTE: Vote reflects 6 total votes, rather than 7, as Council Member Chandler was absent tonight.*

REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

A. CITIZENS COMMENTS

1. Barbara Brown – 1118 Woodside – Asked in regard to the new road at Railroad Avenue if we have an idea of the increase of traffic this will cause on Murray.
2. Pat Eckstine – 7472 Hawks Circle – Stated that she was just over at Trader Joe’s in Mt. Pleasant today, and there are four (4) of the same traffic bumps there that were discussed tonight. She said that they aren’t a problem at all, especially once you get to know them and where they are. They’re more rounded and not so hard on your car when going over.
3. Danielle Reed – Monte Sano – She stated that she understands Council Member Sally’s concern with other parts of the city, and she has mixed feelings about the speed humps, but she feels that they would be helpful; especially when she is out walking with her children. They would be a huge help she said.
4. Stephen Allen – 5736 Oleander Court – started off by saying that they finally got his street sign up, however the Melvin Road sign is still missing. Joe Gill, Public Works Director said that it is on order. Also, in follow up to his comments/questions last month regarding the fire hydrants on his road, he went and measured. He said he just knew that hydrant was further away that Fire Chief Bowers mentioned at last months meeting. He said he measured, and sure enough, the hydrant was 688ft away, so it met the 1,000ft law. Everyone had a good laugh. In closing, Mr. Allen wished to thank Danny and Tommy at the Recreation Center and he also said that he wished to thank Mike Cochran, City Administrator for all that he does and for meeting with him this past week.

There were no additional citizen comments/questions.

B. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mike Cochran, City Administrator then presented his monthly report.

- 1. Flooding at Turkey Creek** – The grant through the SC Emergency Management Division received pre-approval. We are looking for funding for this project.
- 2. Downtown Revitalization** – The poles have come down!! We are now working on getting the solar lights installed. We have renewed the encroachment permit with SCDOT.
- 3. Phase 3 Tanner Trail** – The COG has met with the representatives of both South Cove and Timbercrest Village on easement issues. The COG is still waiting for the reallocation of funds from the DOT. This should be on the February 25th CHATS meeting agenda.

4. Parks Bond –

-53-Acre Park – This is progressing on schedule. We meet with the project crew regularly to go over the progress. There were delays in getting the lighting up but that is now on schedule. The geotechnical survey showed that we need to have some work done on the soil under the tennis courts and multi-use field. This is in progress.

-Steward Street Park – Permits have been applied for and some final work is being done before it can be sent out for final costing. The cost estimate has gone up \$200K.

-Manor Park – The slide that was installed had an odd bump in it. The manufacturer has sent the replacement for it to our installer, and it should be replaced tomorrow, 2/9/22, per Danny.

-Roma Park – The swings are up and being used!

-Spell Field – The playground equipment is installed and being used. The dog park obstacles are going to be built by a group of volunteers from the Art Pot. Danny is coordinating this effort.

5. COVID – The Fire Department continues to operate the Covid Clinic Monday – Friday 8:30am-3:30pm.

6. CSX – The county put up a camera at the library and it is pointed to the crossing at Hanahan Road. While not a solution, it does allow people to see if the tracks are blocked before committing to that route. The initial camera was a bit too far, but it has since been replaced with a camera with a closer view. This seems to have helped a bit, although they still get blocked on occasion. When this happens, I let the CSX rep know and he calls their operations personnel. Signs were also made and placed by the tracks, with a number to call and report it to, to CSX as well as an option to report the track blockage online.

Notes/Dates:

- Monday, February 14 - Valentine's Day
- City offices will be open with regular hours on Monday, February 21 – Presidents Day
- City Council Workshop was rescheduled due to inclement weather, which was originally scheduled for Saturday, January 22, 2022. The new date is Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 9:00am, at Cypress Gardens – Moncks Corner.
- Our next regular monthly City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:30pm.
- Our next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:30pm.

C. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

There were no additional Council Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

- *There being no further business to discuss tonight, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Sally.*
- *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
- *There was no discussion.*
- *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*
- *Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.*

**NOTE: Vote reflects 6 total votes, rather than 7, as Council Member Chandler was absent tonight.*

Our next regular monthly City Council Meeting will be March 8, 2022, at 6:30pm.