

**Minutes from September 7, 2021
Hanahan Council Workshop- 6:00PM
Debbie Lewis Municipal Chambers
1255 Yeamans Hall Road Hanahan, SC 29410**

A City Council Budget Workshop was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 6:00pm. 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, Member Sally, Council Member Spurlock, Council Member Dyson, Council Member Chandler, and Council Member Boggs. 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, Joe Gill – Public Works Director, Danny Stewart – Parks & Recreation Director, Larry Sturdivant – Building & Codes, Dennis Turner – Police Chief, Wynette DeGroot – HR Director, Alexis Kiser – Planner/Economic Development 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, September 7, 2021, City Council Workshop to order at 6:07pm.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Mayor Rainwater.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEM ONLY

Mayor Rainwater opened the meeting for Citizens comments regarding agenda items only.

There were no citizen comments.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Comp Plan

Mayor Rainwater introduced and called up Kathryn Basha, BCDCOG to discuss Comp Plan.

- Kathryn stated Comprehensive Planning needs to be updated every ten (10) years and this is our tenth year. Every five (5) years, it should be reviewed.
- Envisioning the City's future and strategies for implementation.
- Background & purpose – the authority for local governments to undertake planning and to apply zoning and land development regulations is granted by the SC General Assembly via the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994. The Act mandates that a Comprehensive Plan be systematically prepared and continuously evaluated with updates of the ten (10) required elements as often as necessary, but at least every ten (10) years.

-Comprehensive Plan Elements

- Population
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources
- Resilience
- Cultural Resources
- Community Facilities
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Priority Investments

-Plan Approach

- Project Kick-off Activities
- Data Collection & Assessment
- Public Engagement for Input
- Setting Goals & Implementation Strategies
- Vetting of Planning Commission Draft
- Final Plan Adoption

-Key Stages of the Planning Process (Target Timeline)

- Data Collection, Stakeholder Meetings ~ Sept. - Dec. 2021
- Public Engagement, Surveys, and Open Houses ~ Late Oct. – Nov.
- Needs Assessment, Goals & Strategies ~ Dec. 2021 – April 2022
- Commission Draft Review ~ June 2022
- Public Vetting and Draft Finalization ~ July – Sept. 2022

Kathryn Basha then gave Council “homework” asking them to email her at kathrynb@bcdco.com their responses to the following questions:

- 1) What has the City gotten “right” in implementing the 2012 Plan? What needs more attention?
- 2) What are the City’s biggest challenges going forward?
 - Population?
 - Housing?
 - Affordability?
 - Economics?
- 3) What opportunities exist for the City’s future?

B. Naming of the 53-Acre Park

- Council Member Spurlock said that he thinks a city forum for community input for the naming of the park should be done.
- Council Member Chandler stated that he wishes that a section of either this new park or the Amphitheatre would have three (3) flag poles with the memorial pavers, that are currently in place out front of City Hall. Where they are currently, no one really sees them or knows about them. He thinks they should be in more centralized location, so they are seen. He then said that we could then host memorial events out there and recognize them. Council Member Sally liked this idea, especially if the pavers were moved to the Amphitheater, by the bandshell or boardwalk. Council Member Chandler said that there are about 200 pavers out there and they sold them for \$75 each. Mayor Rainwater said that she wasn’t opposed to the idea, but she thought that perhaps we could host the Memorial Day reading of the names on the pavers here at City Hall and leave the pavers in place where they are.
- Council Member Chandler asked why change it up by naming it by its location, like we have done with the other parks, i.e., Loftis Field and Spell Park.
- Mayor got everyone back on track with the naming and it seems that sending out a Survey Monkey for community input is the way to go, so everyone can be involved. Council did some brainstorming and threw around a couple of ideas and ultimately, decided to give four (4) choices and a spot for each person to write in their own idea. The four (4) that were decided upon were: Memorial Veterans Park, The Blast Zone, Hawks Nest, and/or Freedom Park. Some of Council were opposed to The Blast Zone naming of the park, with it being so close to a school. Others thought that when they heard blast, they didn’t think of blowing up per say, rather they thought of having a blast. The mayor said that she would create the Survey Monkey and get it posted for everyone to complete.

C. Downtown Revitalization Efforts

Main Street Program

- Alexis Kiser spoke on their efforts for Orangeburg Downtown Revitalization efforts when she worked there. She stated that they (the City of Orangeburg partnered with “DORA”) for funding. The received funding from private sponsors and local businesses.
- It is a three (3) year process to get certification.
- Master Plan is out for RFP.

D. Vision and Mission Statements

- Mayor Rainwater said that she thinks it is lacking and is needed – one or the other. She believes it should come from leadership. Everyone agreed on that.
- Mike Cochran, City Administrator said the mission statement should be kept short, like one (1) paragraph. It should also involve employees for effectiveness.
- Mayor Rainwater stated that our website doesn’t have any walls or anything, it only states Hanahan is a wonderful place to live.
- Mike Cochran said that each of our departments have their own mission statement, and they are listed on their pages, on the website.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth stated that all of our neighboring cities have a mission statement, they’re similar, yet unique.
- Mayor Rainwater suggested that we put a board up in the breakroom and have employees jot down their ideas/suggestions on a Post-It note.

E. Communication

- Mayor Rainwater said that she thinks that the communication has improved but communication to the public is where we are lacking. She feels that it is inconsistent.
- Mayor Rainwater feels that we need a PIO (Public Information Officer) for the city. Cities smaller than us have a PIO. She stated that at MASC Conference she learned that you could hire a PIO cheap, via third party company. Several other cities have gone this route. She went on to say that most people don’t even know the city has Instagram, we do, but it isn’t being utilized.
- Mike Cochran agreed that a PIO would be ideal, as he feels that would be a fulltime job on its own.
- Council Member Boggs said that we should look at this position for a college internship. The younger, college aged kids are the ones so knowledgeable with social media.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hedgpeth stated that he feels it is inconsistencies with social media. We are great at letting the public know about sandbags when it’s time.
- Mayor Rainwater asked Courtney Soler, Finance Director to see how much this would cost us, like Port Royal, using a third-party company. Courtney said that she would look into it.
- Mike Cochran said that it is important that we have branding. He wants uniformity.

COUNCIL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mayor Rainwater asked if Council had any other questions or comments and there were none.

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 Spurlock.*
- *There was no discussion.*
- *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0. (Council Member Dyson was absent)*
- *Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.*

Our next meeting will be our regular City Council Meeting, next week, on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:30pm.