**Minutes from May 9, 2023**

**Hanahan Council Meeting - 6:00PM**

**Debbie Lewis Municipal Chambers**

**1255 Yeamans Hall Road Hanahan, SC 29410**

A City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 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. Council Member Hedgpeth presided. Council Members that were present at tonight’s meeting were Council Member Boggs, Council Member Spurlock, Council Member Chandler, and Council Member Dyson. Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were not present. We had a quorum for tonight’s meeting.

Staff members that were present were: Courtney Soler – City Administrator, Danny Stewart, Parks & Recreation Director, Norman Hritz – Fire Chief, Larry Sturdivant – Building & Codes, Lee Lawson – City Planner, Dennis Turner – Police Chief, Cameron Spencer – Assistant to City Administrator, Kristine Amara – HR Director, Tyler Dempsey – IT, Allyson Driggers – City Treasurer, and Emily Huff – Clerk of Council.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting Chair Hedgpeth called the Tuesday, May 9, 2023, City Council Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Pastor Josh Driscoll of Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Dyson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. **Employee of the Month** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth asked for City Administrator, Courtney Soler to come up to present the Employee of the Month award. Sam Barbare, Dispatch was nominated as Employee of the Month by Chief Turner and City Administrator, Courtney Soler as she has gone above and beyond for many months while dispatch has undergone major changes. Dispatch has changed software/ their CAD system and included a new Pro QA system to match Berkeley County’s dispatch models, and while this has allowed us to gain many new functions as a dispatch center, it is a difficult process to learn a new system while “on the job”. During this time, dispatch like many other agencies across the country, have been severely understaffed requiring all our dispatchers to work many hours of overtime, give up vacation, and lose precious family time to ensure that dispatch is properly staffed. Sam and her dispatch team have taken on these new requirements of the job with a “can do” attitude and have kept the morale in the office up while everyone works through these challenges. Our dispatchers are an integral part of our city. It is common to hear about the police and fire heroes, but none of these heroes could do their jobs if it weren’t for a very hard-working dispatch team supporting them. We honor Sam’s role in this process, her leadership of her team, her sacrifice to the city for many hours worked and all the other ways that she goes above and beyond for the city. Courtney asked for all the dispatchers present to come forward to be recognized as well.

A certificate of appreciation and a gift card were presented to Sam, and pictures were taken with Council.

1. **Citizen of the Month** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth introduced and invited our Citizen of the Month, David Nangle up. He was nominated by Courtney Soler, City Administrator, and several Council Members for his act of kindness. He volunteered his time and services and took it upon himself to pressure wash the city’s sign on April 7, 2023. While others were online posting about the disarray of the sign, David did the opposite. He went out and cleaned the sign and posted that he was “happy to help”. That is exactly what we are looking for when we recognize someone as Citizen of the Month. We sincerely appreciate David’s thoughtfulness to step up and stand out, and for that we wish to recognize him and award him Citizen of the Month.

A certificate of appreciation and a gift card were presented. Pictures were taken with Council.

1. **Hanahan Fire Department Recognition** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth invited Fire Chief Norman Hritz up for an award the Fire Department received. He said that the Hanahan Fire Department was designated a 2023 Fire Safe SC Community. Chief then invited Captain Chris Evans up to further explain the award. Captain Evans stated that as a department, Hanahan Fire Department worked to reduce fire related injuries to our citizens and firefighters in the State of South Carolina. They did so by providing consistent fire safety messaging following Fire Safe SC’s core four messages. They focused on improving their data collection and reporting.

Council wished to thank the Fire Department for all of their hard work and congratulated them on this award.

1. **National Day of Prayer Proclamation** –Meeting Chair Hedgpeth called on Council Member Spurlock to read the proclamation, which stated: on Thursday, May 4, 2023, our nation observed its Annual National Day of Prayer, with the theme ‘Pray Fervently In Righteousness and Avail Much’.

In our nation we enjoy many blessings through God’s grace, such as, the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to pray.

We see erosion of our nation’s moral fiber resulting in the breakdown of marriages, families, an increase in illegal drug use, crime, acts of terrorism, and a lack of respect and caring for others. As a nation and community, we must call on God in prayer to reverse this downward spiral if we are to remain strong and be a moral example to others. If God’s people who are called by His name humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, then will He hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

As a nation and community, we need to depend on God’s word and give thanks for His graciousness and mercy to us, while asking for forgiveness for our sinfulness and restoration of our moral perspective, remembering that blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

* *A motion to approve the National Day of Prayer Proclamation was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *There was no further discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

1. **National Building Safety Month Proclamation** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth then called on Building Official Larry Sturdivant to read the National Building Safety Month Proclamation, which stated “It Starts with You,” is the theme for Building Safety Month 2023. It encourages us all to raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local, and global scale. Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities’ largely unknown protectors of public safety––our local code officials––who assure us of safe, sustainable, and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity. Our city is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings, and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disasters strike.

Our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians - building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers, and others in the construction industry who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings. These guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal officials who are experts in the build environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work, and play. These modern building codes include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes.

Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience, and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

* *A motion to approve the National Building Safety Month Proclamation was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *There was no further discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

1. **National Foster Care Month Proclamation** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth then read the National Foster Care Awareness Month Proclamation which stated strengthening families and focusing on their wellbeing is vital to building strong communities, and preserving families is the primary goal of the child welfare system. Foster parents play an important role in supporting biological parents and helping them enhance their relationship with their children to achieve family stability and maintain family connections in support of family reunification.

There are 424,000 youth in foster care across the nation, and foster families open their homes to provide a stable, nurturing environment. We have a responsibility as individuals, neighbors, community members, and residents to recognize that all children need love, support, security, and a place to call home. During National Foster Care Month, we celebrate all those who have invited a child in need into their hearts and homes and express our profound appreciation for those who make foster care possible.

* *A motion to approve the National Foster Care Month Proclamation was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *There was no further discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

1. **National Military Appreciation Month Proclamation** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth stated that we have one last proclamation for the evening, and he called on Council Member Boggs to readthe National Military Appreciation Month Proclamation, which stated **Military Appreciation Month takes place every year throughout the entire month of May,** it was officially designated by Congress in 1999. Every year, [the President issues an annual proclamation](https://marineparents.com/marinecorps/military-appreciation-month.asp) reminding Americans to celebrate this patriotic month that pays tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Although the entire month is designated to honoring past and present military members and their families, there are several, specific military holidays sprinkled throughout Military Appreciation Month itself, including Loyalty Day, [VE Day](https://www.uso.org/stories/2703-relive-ve-day-through-the-eyes-of-wwii-veterans-who-were-there), Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. 365 days a year, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day, members of the U.S. military are on call around the world, defending the interests and security of the nation. This May, during [Military Appreciation Month](https://www.uso.org/may), it is the perfect opportunity to express gratitude to them, and their families, for all that they do every day. This year, as many service members continue to work on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially important that we, as patriotic citizens – pause to honor them during Military Appreciation Month. May is designated as "Military Appreciation Month", we should thank all of those who serve or have served our great nation for the sacrifices and hardships that they have borne. Without the patriotic individuals who have served our country over the years, our freedoms, liberties, and way of life, we as Americans embrace so dearly would be impossible to maintain. As a community, we thank our service members, past and present, and their family members and loved ones around the world. You're inspirations to us all.

* *A motion to approve the National Military Appreciation Month Proclamation was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *Meeting Chair Hedgpeth thanked Council Member Boggs for his service.*
* *There was no further discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

**CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no questions/comments.

There were no comments/questions that were submitted online.

There being no further input, Meeting Chair Hedgpeth 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 May 9, 2023, Consent Agenda were:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the April 18, 2023, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of the Emergency Purchase of Mosquito Spray
3. Approval of the Emergency Service Repair to Public Works Floors

* *A motion to approve the items on the May 9, 2023,* *Consent Agenda, was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Ordinance #1-2022** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth introduced and invited Allyson Driggers, City Treasurer up for the Second Reading of Ordinance #1-2022 – An Ordinance Amending the City of Hanahan’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Amendment #3) – Allyson reiterated what she said at last month’s council meeting. She stated that there are three (3) amendments.
2. The city is working on two major capital parks projects. Certain items have been taken out of the budget due to financial constraints. The City would like to add additional capital items to the parks but have limited general operating funds. A way to cover these gaps is to hire a Sponsorship Consultant. The City put out a bid for these services and has awarded this contract to K. Hope Creative. This service is eligible for use of American Rescue Act Plan funds, and savings from other ARPA projects has been moved over to cover this cost.

*\*This was on the April Consent Agenda.*

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1. The Fire Department attempted to fix plumbing issues in their bathrooms over the past few years. They started a renovation project to tile the showers. These renovations were never completed and have more complex issues that a professional will need to fix. This amount would allow for all three bathrooms to be fixed properly.

*\*This was on the April Consent Agenda.*

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1. Demolition of the City’s building at 5827 Carolyn Street, Hanahan, was approved in the March 2023 consent agenda. The funding for this demolition will come from the Local Option Sales Tax funds that are deposited into our Capital Improvement Account. The expense line had $20,000 budgeted, so this will be increased by $19,200 to cover the additional cost of asbestos remediation and demolition.

*\*This was on the March Consent Agenda.*

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General Fund Total Budget Before Amendment: $14,128,878 *\*Revenues*

General Fund Total Budget After Amendment: $14,193,878

There were no additional comments/questions.

* *A motion to approve the Second Reading of* ***Ordinance #1-2022*** *– An Ordinance Amending the City of Hanahan’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (Amendment #3) was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

**NEW BUISNESS**

1. **Resolution #3-2023** – Meeting Chair Hedgpeth called on City Administrator Courtney Soler and Chief Turner to come up and present Resolution #3-2023 -A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Council to Execute an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stormwater Infrastructure Program Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Hanahan and the South Carolina Office of Resilience to Fund a Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project That Will Mitigate the Impact of Future Disasters. Courtney started by stating that she and Chief took this project on last summer when they were in the roles of Interim City Administrator. She asked Chief Turner to take this project on and he did so and did an amazing job writing the grant**.**

Chief Turner stated that because of costs increase we had to do away with a few things like curbing and drainage, etc. So, when this grant came about, he wrote it and applied in hopes of approval. We were approved. The South Carolina Office of Resiliency (SCOR) has reviewed the City of Hanahan’s ASIP application for the Downtown Stormwater Improvements project and our project has been selected for an ASIP grant award of $1,163,208.00. This project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds assigned to SCOR by the State Treasury to complete Stormwater Infrastructure Projects.This project has been awarded as a State-run project. The SC Office of Resilience shall appoint a State Project Manager (SPM) for this project. The SPM will be responsible for the management and monitoring of the project. The SPM will coordinate the Scope of work to include:

* Procurement of engineering services for survey, design, permitting, environmental assessment, and construction contract oversight as required.
* Construction Contract Bid Process
* Complete Project Closeout
* Conduct grant compliance with Federal and State regulations.

The City of Hanahan must take ownership and maintain the completed drainage improvements in perpetuity.

There were no additional comments/questions. The council thanked Chief for his work on this project.

* *A motion to approve the* ***Resolution #3-2023 -*** *A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Council to Execute an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stormwater Infrastructure Program Subrecipient Agreement Between the City of Hanahan and the South Carolina Office of Resilience to Fund a Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project That Will Mitigate the Impact of Future Disasters* *was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

1. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were no Citizen Comments.

1. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Courtney Soler first showed a slideshow of The Hawks Nest Park pictures in progress during construction, to date now that the park in open. She then presented her monthly report to Council:

1. **Park Bond Projects** –
2. **The Hawks Nest** –

* Maintenance Buildings: both buildings have been delivered. They are waiting for the structural engineering plans to move forward. The dog kennels are under construction.

1. **Steward Street Park –**

* Old Public Works building: the final lighting plan was delivered last week and under review by electrical engineering staff. This project should be ready to go out for bid next week (the week of May 8).

1. **Phase 3 Tanner Trail** – the timeline has been created for this project: [no changes]

* Pre-bid, bid services 4/8/2023 - 6/16/2026.
* Construction activities 7/10/2023 – 5/10/2023.

Note – the final activity is an administrative closeout, so completion date of construction is estimated 2/2024.

1. Based on complaints of speeding and the issue with the speed limit being too high on Brookside Drive, Ridgecrest Avenue, Northfield Place, and Belvedere Drive. SCDOT was asked to conduct a speed study. As of April 27, 2023, SCDOT completed the speed study and based on their analysis, the speed limit will be reduced from 35mph to 25mph for the aforementioned roads, and there will be an “All Residential Streets” plaque posted at each entrance. This will allow this part of town to be considered for speed humps. Speed humps have to be in areas that are zoned for >25mph.
2. The new Welcome to Hanahan sign is complete and should be installed at Railroad Avenue by May’s Council Meeting, May 9th.
3. The plan for Railroad Avenue is to rename the entire length of the road from Murray Drive all the way down to Eagle Landing Blvd: “Railroad Avenue”. This change will take place on 7/1/23 and will require Dominion Energy, Hanahan Elementary School, and the Hanahan Recreation Facilities to change addresses. Courtney stated that she has been in contact with the Principal at Hanahan Elementary School about the address change and she asked that we wait until July 1, which Courtney obliged. The city facilities will also undergo an address change, the new road will be named Amphitheater Avenue.

Notes/Dates:

* The Hawks Nest Grand Opening/ First Official 50th Anniversary event – 5/12 4:30-7:30pm at The Hawks Nest. The Opening Ceremony will be at 4:30pm, with Party in the Park to follow. \*This date was originally scheduled for April 28th but had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.
* 5/23/23 - Budget Workshop at 6:00pm.
* 5/25/23 – A Ceremony of Remembrance 5:30-6:30 at City Hall.
* 5/30/23 - Budget Hearing, Introduction, and First Reading at 6:00pm.
* 6/13/23 – June Council Meeting at 6:00pm.
* 50th Anniversary Events: many tentative events/ dates except for Saturday, 9/23 from 4:00-9:00pm, which is the city’s BIG 50th Anniversary event.

Courtney then wished to thank Berkeley County Council Member Dan Owens who was in attendance this evening for the generous $150K donation from the county. She stated that it will be used at Bettis Boat Landing and likely for overages at the Steward Street Park project.

There were no additional comments/questions.

1. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

* Council Member Chandler had a question for Danny regarding K Hope Creative, the Corporate Sponsor, he asked if we are talking $48-$50K per. Danny replied that when we solicit for sponsors and donors, that fee charged will help cover some of her (K Hope Creative) costs as well. He went on to mention that he feels confident that we can do it all for $45K. Danny said that is for the entire project. Council Member Chandler had no additional questions.
* Meeting Chair Hedgpeth also wished to express his appreciation to Berkeley County Councilman Dan Owens. Councilman Owens stated that he hopes after budget that he/they (the County) will have another $100K for us.

There were no further comments from the council.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

* *A motion to go into an Executive Session was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *No action will be taken while in the Executive Session.*
* *NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*
* *Executive Session began at 6:44pm.*

Meeting Chair Hedgpeth stated that we are back from Executive Session and no action was taken in Executive Session.

* *A motion to return to Regular Session was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Ten Sally were absent.*
* *The Executive Session began at 8:00pm.*

Once back in Regular Session Council Member Boggs stated that he moves to suspend the employee without pay, as discussed in Executive Session, and authorize the City Administrator to implement actions necessary to carry out the decision of Council, including terminating the employee’s access card and credit card access during the suspension. The suspension shall be in place until Council has its next meeting to discuss this personnel matter.

* *A motion to suspend the employee without pay was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 5-0.*
* *NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

* *There being no further business to discuss tonight, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Mayor Rainwater and Mayor Pro Tem Sally were absent.*
* *The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.*

Our next regular monthly City Council Meeting will be June 13, 2023, at **6:00pm**.