**Minutes from December 12, 2023**

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

**Debbie Lewis Municipal Chambers**

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

A City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00pm. The agenda was posted on the City of Hanahan webpage, and a copy of the agenda was posted on the lobby bulletin board at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. An updated agenda was also posted within the 24-hour timeframe. Mayor Rainwater presided. Council Members that were present at tonight’s meeting were – Mayor Pro Tem Sally, Council Member Hedgpeth, Council Member Boggs, Council Member Spurlock, Council Member Chandler, and Council Member Dyson. We had a quorum for tonight’s meeting.

Staff members that were present were: Courtney Soler - City Administrator, Allyson Driggers – City Treasurer, Gale Dollar – Clerk of Court, Tyler Dempsey – IT, Joseph Pigg – IT, Katelyn Pippin – Recreation, Lee Lawson – City Planner, Kristine Amara – Human Resources Director, Police Chief Rick Gebhardt, Chief Norman Hritz – Fire Department, Cameron Spencer – Assistant to City Administrator, Latarsha James, Clerk of Council.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rainwater called the Tuesday, December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Pastor Justin Cabit of Restoration Community Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Chandler led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

1. **Citizens of the Month** – Mayor Rainwater recognized our Citizen of the Month Thomas Furse. She asked Thomas to come forward. Mayor Rainwater stated how each year there is a lot of preparation that is put in to make sure the City of Hanahan has a successful parade and many may not know but Thomas is the behind-the-scenes man along with the Exchange Club that gets it done. Each year, Thomas organizes this event and ensures that the citizens of Hanahan have an enjoyable time. He ensures that the participants have completed their entry forms and has constant communication with any possible weather changes or other delays. Even on the day of, Thomas can be seen working at the beginning of the parade line to ensure everyone is aware of their spot in the parade. Because of the dedication that the Exchange Club members and Thomas has to the City of Hanahan, our parade is a success year after year, and we are forever thankful for his dedication. Mayor Rainwater asked Thomas what the biggest reward and biggest challenge is with planning the parade and he stated that the biggest challenge is the weather, and the biggest reward is being able to relax once it actually starts.

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

1. **Employees of the Month** – Mayor Rainwater then called up Public Works Director, Tommy Bishop to introduce our Employee of the Month. Tommy then called up Ryine Bartley. Tommy stated that after speaking with his fellow Public Works associates as well as other City of Hanahan associates, Ryine Bartley has stood out as a quiet leader, teammate, mentor, and motivator to everyone he encounters. Ryine has a pleasant demeanor that brightens any situation as well as a "can do" attitude towards any task that he is asked to do. He has served the City of Hanahan for over seven (7) years faithfully and pridefully.

Certificates of appreciation and a gift card was presented to Ryine. Pictures were taken with Council.

1. **Special Recognition – Hanahan Fire Department Promotion -** Mayor Rainwater invited Fire Chief Hritz to recognize the newly promoted Battalion Chief, Chris Evans. Chief Hritz explained that the promotional testing consisted of four candidates and now Battalion Chief Evans scored high enough to be promoted. Chief Hritz stated that Battalion Chief Evans has been with Hanahan Fire Department since 2017 and is very dedicated to serving the community that he grew up in. Chief Hritz called Battalion Chief Evans to the front to be pinned for his promotion and pictures were taken with Council.
   1. Chief Hritz also had another special recognition for the evening. He stated that Hanahan Fire Department hosted their Christmas party and awards were given out, but he had a special award to be given. This award is known as the Fire Chief’s Award which is given to someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty for the department. The selection of this candidate is made by the Chief and this year’s award is presented to Kristine Amara, Human Resources Director. Chief Hritz said that collectively they have hired 21 employees in 11 months, and he couldn’t have done it without her help.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**There were no citizen comments.**

**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 November 14, 2023, Consent Agenda were:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the November 14, 2023, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of Emergency Repair, Dispatch AC Repair

* *A motion to approve the items on December 12, 2023,* *Consent Agenda, was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Rainwater asked Lee Lawson, City Planner, to come up to discuss We will now move on to New Business and I will call on our City Planner, Lee Lawson to come up for the Introduction, First Reading, and Public Hearing of **Ordinance #10-2023** – Hanahan Land Development Ordinance (Amendment to Section 2.5). Lee stated that this will be a change to the third-party review, and it only affects subdivisions that will have private infrastructure put in. The previous wording allowed the developer to find the third-party engineer whereas now the city does it so there is no conflict of interest.

* *A motion to hold a Public Hearing for* ***Ordinance #10-2023*** *– Hanahan Land Development Ordinance (Amendment to Section 2.5) was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*
* *A motion to close a Public Hearing for* ***Ordinance #10-2023*** *– Hanahan Land Development Ordinance (Amendment to Section 2.5) was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *Council Member Chandler asked if this only pertains to items that do not comply with Berkeley County’s engineering? Lee stated that it will apply to any private infrastructure that is put in and would primarily be roads, sidewalks, and sometimes stormwater. Council Member Chandler also asked if there is a final review conducted by Lee, Larry or the third-party without our knowledge? Lee stated that they will be the intermediary between the third-party and communicating with staff and sending letters between the engineer and the applicant.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*

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* *A motion to approve the Public Hearing, Introduction, and First Reading of* ***Ordinance #10-2023*** *– Hanahan Land Development Ordinance (Amendment to Section 2.5) was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *Mayor Pro Tem Sally stated that it looks like paragraph F has been changed to paragraph D which was crossed out and says the same thing. Lee stated that he had to renumber the section, but it is the same. Mayor Pro Tem asked for further clarification as to why the change is being made.*
* *Council Member Chandler asked if this allows the third-party to modify ordinances? Lee stated that it does not and just allows them to look at plans and engineering plans for roads, sidewalks, or stormwater to make sure that it meets our standards, the city’s standards, and will also do inspections to make sure what’s put in or on the ground is the plan.*
* *Mayor Pro Tem Sally asked if the fee schedule was already established. Lee stated that there is a fee schedule for third-party engineers, but it was a flat fee based on half the permits because the engineer will never look at the water or sewer because that is always going to be public. This will reduce the amount that they will be paid, and it would be better to do it on an hourly basis.*
* *Mayor Rainwater stated that she had an issue with the fee portion and would like to recommend a change for council because section B states that the fees are available upon request and E says they have to accept responsibility for the fees. Not a fan of them having to accept responsibility for fees that they have not seen, and the fees should be provided more than a flat fee. Lee stated that they will be given a packet with the engineering process and the fees and will be advised up front. Mayor Rainwater asked if the words “upon request” can be taken out. Lee stated if it was then it would have to go back to the planning commission. Any verbiage that needs to be changed will have to go back through the planning commission.*
* *Council Member Hedgpeth stated that the tree ordinance was changed a few years back where a palm tree was declared a tree, and some wording was changed, and it did not go back to the planning commission. Lee stated that it should have gone back for changes. Council Member Hedgpeth also asked if this will slow down permitting because an outside engineer could be busy, and you would just have to get a place in line. Lee stated that it possibly could, but we don’t get that many with subdivisions that have streets in them.*
* *Mayor Rainwater stated that she was unsure as to how this would protect future residents and Lee stated that this ordinance actually would protect them, and developers would have to come up with an alternative method that meets the intent. The purpose of this is to protect the citizens by making sure that the roads are designed to the standard and that they are in accordance with the approved plan, which will reduce the maintenance of the street.*
* *Council Member Boggs asked if there was a way to change the verbiage of upon request without going back to the planning commission.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*

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1. Mayor Rainwater called on the Business License Official, Kappy Fesler to come up for the Introduction, First Reading, and Public Hearing of **Ordinance #11-2023** – Amendment to the Business License Class Schedule. Kappy stated that this happens every odd year in accordance with the Municipal Association. The class changes will be effective for the following renewal which is in February. The updates are based on the statistical data on business licensing and the IRS. Example, the food service went from a rate one to a rate two and what that means is that there is no effect on the rate and the monies are the same and it’s just for classification purposes.

* *A motion to hold a Public Hearing for* ***Ordinance #11-2023*** *– Amendment to the Business License Class Schedule 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 7-0.*
* *A motion to close a Public Hearing for* ***Ordinance #11-2023*** *– Amendment to the Business License Class Schedule was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *A second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*

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* *A motion to approve the Public Hearing, Introduction, and First Reading of* ***Ordinance #11-2023*** *– Business License Class Schedule was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs*
* *Council Member Hedgpeth asked if we have any business that will be affected by the rate changes. Kappy stated that we do not.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*

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**REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

1. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

* Johnnie Harkness – 1036 Dominion Drive addressed council about the verbiage in **Ordinance #10-2023.** The way the verbiage is written is that there is a 3rd party reviewing the other plans and that adds time and expense to the project, which isn’t necessary. The subcontractor needs to have the certification that meets the job requirements. Mayor Pro Tem Sally stated that the person is going to work for us and not the contractor who is putting the road down and looking out for our best interest and the residents. Council Member Hedgpeth confirmed that it will be a PE that certifies the plans and does the inspections. Mr. Harkness stated that the original engineer will certify stamp the work and then we are going to have it done again. Mayor Pro Tem Sally said that we are just doing the inspection and plan review. David Pieper came up to clarify that it is a third-party inspection just like structural component. They are certifying that the work is done properly based on the engineer’s stamp. Mr. Harkness asked what the cost is going to be because it has not been mentioned. David said by the standard and code we have to get a third-party to review for the protection of the city and this person (engineer) will work for us (the city).

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Courtney presented her monthly report to Council. As a part of her presentation, she asked various department representatives to discuss the end of the year events and the success of each one.

* Katelyn Pippin – Katelyn stated that the city hosted its annual tree lighting event, and the attendance was higher than any other year. There were 51 craft vendors, 11 food vendors, 4 dancers, musical performances, jazz bands and of course Santa. For the first time there was a trackless train that was sponsored by the Wrenn Group and that was a big hit. Katelyn also talked about Breakfast with Santa. There were 73 kids that participated. They were able to partake in a pancake breakfast, cookie decorating, and write letters to Santa who also made an appearance.
* Chief Hritz – The City of Hanahan hosted their Recruitment School. During this process, a training officer was hired to help with recruitment. This school was designed to recruit and train uncertified individuals that were interested in being fire fighters. The training was 14 weeks long and was merged with St. Paul’s Fire Department.
* Chief Gebhardt – Hanahan Police Department conducted a speed survey to monitor the speeding on Belvedere. Chief Gebhardt presented a PowerPoint that went into detail about the times in which speeding was more prevalent. Officers will continue to patrol the area to help reduce the amount of speeding.
* David Piper talked about the parks project going on within the city. In reference to the Hawks Nest, we have the pole barns laid down and pouring will begin this coming Friday (December 15th). Special inspections have already been done but there are some more to do once Larry returns from training. The Steward Street Park is moving forward, and work is set to begin January 8, 2024, and the company has 270 days to complete the work. The hours of construction will be explained to those living around the park and contractors won’t work past 6pm.
* Courtney discussed Phase 4 of the Tanner Trail with the COG. There are currently no delays and will still take 9 months with an expected completion date of September 2024. The timeline starts with permitting and not actually shovels in the ground. Council Member Hedgpeth asked if we would possibly lose the grant with it now being winter and work has not begun. Courtney advised that the timeline has been approved and allowable within the grant.
* The next project is the Boat Landing, and we were able to get back that SCDNR is helping us by putting together a proposal for the Bettis Boat Landing which we will do a major renovation. This is a donation from Berkeley County to put towards this and their contribution was $100,000. The estimate for the project is $206,000 and we have been told by Berkeley County that we can apply for a grant for the remaining $106,000 specifically to go towards things like boat landings. The Hanahan Recreation Complex rotten wood capital project (approved in this year’s budget) has been awarded to IPW Construction and they should be finished by the week of December’s Council Meeting.
* Ken Childress gave an update on the capital projects at the Hanahan Complex. 4 years ago, all of the athletic fields were updated to Hanahan blue, and the elevated portion of the buildings needed to be repaired. A bid was put out because we don’t have staff to repair that.
* The city won a grant to finish the curb and gutter along Yeamans Hall Road in the area we refer to as the Town Center. The South Carolina Office of Resilience is managing this Downtown Storm Water Improvement Project, and they just awarded the design bid to Stantec, for surveying, landscape architecture, and engineering. There was a meeting with SCOR and Stantec where they discussed some changes to the scope of the project and Stantec will provide a new proposal as of 12/6. Once this is completed, we will proceed to the negotiation phase. It is helpful to note that the project will require a bit of starting over when it comes to permitting, drainage reports and two public meetings which will be organized by Stantec.
* Berkeley County 1 cent sales tax project: Tanner Ford Blvd and Foster Creek Road intersection work is still under way. This is not a city project, but we have been in contact with the contractor and learned that there are still not any significant delays, and the completion date continues to be 1/30/2024. There will be some traffic shifts starting 12/18 and in January, if there are a lot of days with very cold weather, this could affect the final paving.

**Upcoming Dates:**

* **City offices will be closed December 25th and 26th for the Christmas holidays and Monday, January 1, 2024, for New Years.**
* **Our next regular monthly City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:00pm**

1. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

* Council Member Chandler wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
* Council Member Boggs stated how everyone has done great this year.
* Council Member Spurlock stated there will always be a vocal minority that will paint the town bad and say the sky is falling but Hanahan is a great city because of everyone and the staff.

There were no further comments from Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

* *There being no further business to discuss tonight, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *All were in favor.*
* *There was no discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 7-0.*
* *The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.*