**Minutes from January 16, 2024 (rescheduled from January 9, 2024)**

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

**Debbie Lewis Municipal Chambers**

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

An executive session was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5:30pm to receive legal advice related to economic matters.

* *A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *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.*
* *Executive Session began at 5:30pm.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 5 total votes, as Council Member Boggs and Council Member Dyson were absent.*

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* *Council returned from Executive Session at 6:00pm.*
* *A motion to return to Regular Session was made by Council Member Chandler.*
* *A second was made by Mayor Rainwater.*
* *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 Council Member Boggs and Council Member Dyson were absent.*

A City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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, and Council Member Chandler. We had a quorum for tonight’s meeting. (Council Member Boggs came in late)

Staff members that were present were: Danny Stewart – Recreation and Parks Director, Allyson Driggers – City Treasurer, Gale Dollar – Clerk of Court, Tyler Dempsey – IT, Joseph Pigg – IT, – , Lee Lawson – City Planner, Kristine Amara – Human Resources Director, Police Chief Rick Gebhardt, Chief Norman Hritz – Fire Department, Cameron Spencer – Assistant to City Administrator, Lee Bailey – Fire Department, Zack Frank – Fire Department, Larry Sturdivant – Building Official, Kappy Fesler – Business License Official, Tommy Bishop – Public Works Director, Latarsha James, Clerk of Council.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rainwater called the Tuesday, January 16, 2024, City Council Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Pastor Len Driskell of Summerville Church of Christ.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**RECOGNITIONS:**

1. **Citizens of the Month** – Mayor Rainwater recognized our Citizen of the Month Carmela Riether. She asked Carmela to come forward. Mayor Rainwater stated that the City of Hanahan celebrated its 50th anniversary and we decided to update the city seal as well as refresh our lobby with memorabilia of Hanahan’s history. One of the areas that received a refresh was the display case located on the 2nd floor of City Hall. Carmela “Gam Gam” Riether, a South Carolina artist volunteered her time and skills to paint the new seal inside of the display case. This was a tedious 2-day project as she had to climb inside of the case in order to get the painting completed. Thanks to Carmela, our display case will now house the new seal along with other memorabilia for the citizens to enjoy as the years go by.

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 Police Chief Rick Gebhardt to introduce our Employee of the Month. Chief Gebhardt then called up Tara Wilson. Ms. Wilson is a valuable member of the Hanahan Police Department team. She is solely responsible for updating all Police Department forms, creating our social media graphics, and is willing to help with any tasks. She also serves several victims each month, including families of homicide victims. In December and with short notice, Ms. Wilson planned, prepared, and executed the operations for our first annual Holiday Police Delivery Christmas Outreach Program. Using her contacts in the Berkeley County School District, five families with nine children were identified as needing assistance for Christmas. Using donated funds, Ms. Wilson located, purchased, wrapped, and organized gifts for the nine children. She also arranged for Christmas dinners and meal certificates to be delivered to the families. Ms. Wilson went above and beyond during the month of December, acting selflessly to ensure our community outreach reached a new level! The City of Hanahan received positive feedback from the recipients and the public, and her accomplishments were highlighted on Live 5 News. This program would not have been successful if not for her motivation, organizational skills, and commitment to others. Ms. Wilson should be commended for a job well done!

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

1. **New Firefighter(s) Swearing In –** Next, Chief Hritz was called up front for the swearing in of our new firefighters, Aysha Carmon, Josiah Sims, and Chad Walton.

Chief Hritz read their bios, which stated:

* **Aysha Carmon** - Firefighter Carmon was born and raised in the Charleston area and moved to Hanahan five years ago. Her journey into the world of firefighting began as a child, when her mother took her to the North Charleston Fire Museum and introduced her to the powerful impact of firefighting, as depicted in the movie "Fireproof."

Straight out of high school, she took the initiative to visit Hanahan Fire Department. With a genuine desire to contribute to our community and serve as a firefighter, she asked how she could make her dream a reality. Following a successful Chief’s interview, she was given the opportunity to prove herself. Undeterred by challenges, she persisted, and she earned her place among us. Her journey continued with rigorous training, spending 18 weeks in two different fire academies – a testament to her unwavering commitment and resilience.

* **Josiah Sims** - Firefighter Sims’ journey into firefighting is deeply rooted in family tradition and a personal connection to the fire service. Inspired by his grandfather, a retired firefighter, Josiah has embraced the calling to follow in his footsteps and contribute to the noble profession that has been a part of his family's legacy. But Josiah's ambitions extend beyond the traditional realm of firefighting. He harbors a keen interest in expanding his skill set and is actively working towards attaining his SCUBA certification. This additional expertise showcases his dedication to being a versatile and well-prepared firefighter, ready to face the diverse challenges that our dynamic city might present. Josiah, in his own words, expresses his enthusiasm for the role, stating that he is "ecstatic to protect and serve this amazing city." This sentiment encapsulates the essence of what it means to be a firefighter – an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the community and its residents, fueled by genuine excitement and pride in the responsibility entrusted to him.
* **Chad Walton** - Probationary Firefighter Chad Walton was born in Panama, and grew up in Woodlawn, TN. The year 1996 marked his family's relocation to the Charleston area when his father secured a military contracting job at the Naval Weapons Station. He attended Goose Creek High School and after graduation went into the construction and automotive industries. In 2015, his journey took a turn towards disaster response work, culminating in the establishment of Carolina Emergency Response Team in 2020. Specializing in disaster search and rescue and swift water rescue. Another turning point occurred in 2022 when the idea of joining a career department materialized. His passion for helping others in times of need, coupled with his 4-year-old son's unwavering love for the fire department, fueled my decision to apply to the Hanahan Fire Department. Residing in West Ashley with his wife of six years, Firefighter Walton is excited about the prospect of contributing to a career in the fire department, driven by a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

1. **Special Recognition – Hanahan Fire Department Promotion –** Chief Hritz remained upfront to recognize the newly promoted Engineer, Brian Wooten. Engineer Wooten rejoins the Hanahan Fire Department with an impressive 14-year background in public safety. Formerly with the HFD for six years, he brings a wealth of experience after a brief stint with Pepsi. Starting his fire service career at 16 with the Caromi Fire Department, Mr. Wooten has achieved Fire Officer 2 status and wishes to explore paramedic certification. His specialized training includes advanced auto extrication, showcasing his expertise in emergency situations. Beyond his technical skills, Wooten is a dedicated life safety educator, previously contributing to the Public Relations Committee. He played a crucial role in running the Public Safety Explorer Post before the Covid outbreak. As a loving father of two, Engineer Wooten values work-life balance, spending his days off exploring South Carolina with his family. We welcome Engineer Wooten back to the HFD, confident that his leadership and commitment will continue to enhance our department's standards and positively impact our community.
2. New Police Officer Swearing In – Chief Gebhardt was called up for the swearing in of our new police officer, Shawn Padgett.

Chief Gebhardt read his bio, which stated:

* **Shawn Padgett** - PFC Padgett graduated from Summerville High School in 1990 and joined the South Carolina Army National Guard until 1995 when he moved to North Carolina and began his career in Law Enforcement. In 2007, he moved back to South Carolina to continue his career In Law Enforcement. He has gained experience in many areas of Law Enforcement including Patrol, Investigations, Traffic, K9, Crime Scene/ Evidence Custodian, SWAT Training, Firearms Instructor, and Weapons Armorer. He was previously with the Hanahan Police Department in 2020 where he served as an acting supervisor, Firearms Instructor, and School Resource Officer. After a brief departure, he realized he missed working in the communities of Hanahan and came back to what he calls home. He is now assigned to Bowen’s Corner Elementary School where he will continue to work with the youth of Hanahan in partnership with Hanahan Parks and Recreations and other Community Programs. He would like to thank the City of Hanahan Administration and the Hanahan Police Department for allowing him the opportunity to come back and continue building a positive relationship with the citizens of Hanahan and their children.

1. **Special Recognition – Hanahan Police Department Promotions –** Chief Gebhardt remained up front to recognize the newly promoted officers with the police department. He then called upon each police officer and read their biographies (attached with council packet). Lt. Ted “Trey” Davis, Lt. Flor “Chico” Reyes, Sergeant Beth Rowell, and Corporal Monique McCoy.
2. **School Choice Week Proclamation** – Council Member Chandler read the School Choice Week Proclamation, which stated: National School Choice Week was founded in 2011 to promote the concept of all forms of school choice: district schools, district magnet schools, charter schools, private schools, and home schooling. This takes place the last week of January each year and is sponsored by the National School Choice Awareness Foundation. National School Choice Wek informs, inspires, and empowers parents to discover the K-12 education options available for their children, while generating widespread public awareness of the importance of opportunity in K-12 education. There are a variety of school choice options available for many of the 1 million children living in South Carolina. Families in South Carolina can choose from traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and homeschooling. The City of Hanahan recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing students in the City of Hanahan to be successful adults as well as the quality of education being critically important to the economic vitality of the City of Hanahan.

* *A motion to approve the School Choice Week 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 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

**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 January 16, 2024, Consent Agenda were:

1. Approval of the Minutes from the December 12, 2023, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of Emergency Repair Unit 43 (Public Works)
3. Approval of Emergency Repair Unit 52 (Public Works)
4. Approval of Emergency Repair E2704 (Fire Department)

* *A motion to approve the items on January 16, 2024,* *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 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Rainwater called on the Business License Official, Kappy Fesler to come up for the Second Reading 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 approve the Second Reading of* ***Ordinance #11-2023*** *– Amendment to the Business License Class Schedule Budget was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Rainwater invited Cameron Spencer, Assistant to the City Administrator, to discuss the Special Approval for ADC Engineering Regarding CDBG Application.

Cameron stated that the city is applying for this year’s CDBG grant and the due date is January 31, 2024. We received special approval for $4,250.00 from the capital projects fund, posted to contingency budget line to utilize ADC Engineering’s expertise to create a conceptual plan and provide cost estimates for the upcoming application. We have used ADC in 2021 to perform a similar scope of work and development of Steward Street Park. All CDBG projects require qualified professionals to prepare a budget for the scope of work. Mayor Rainwater asked when will the results be published? Cameron stated that the funding will be available in July, but he will get back with them with a timeline.

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* *A motion to approve the* ***Special Approval for ADC Engineering Regarding CDBG Application*** *was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

1. Mayor Rainwater asked Police Chief Rick Gebhardt to come up front for the Adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid Agreements Between the City of Hanahan Police Department and City of Goose Creek Police Department. Chief Gebhardt came forward to discuss that we previously had a MOU agreement with the City of Goose Creek, and this is just to update the document to reflect his name along with the police chief of Goose Creek.

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* *A motion to approve the* ***Adoption of Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid Agreements between Hanahan Police Department and Goose Creek Police Department*** *was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *A second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sally.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

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1. Mayor Rainwater asked Allyson Driggers, City Treasurer to come up front for the Introduction and First Reading of **Ordinance #4-2023** – FY 23-24 Budget (Amendment #2). Allyson stated that:
2. The Genie 80 ft boom lift that is used by the Recreation and Parks Department to hang Christmas lights, repair ball fields lights, and to perform other additional tasks has been inoperable for quite some time due to steering issues. After diagnosis by United Rentals’ onsite mechanic, it was determined that the throttle switch, throttle solenoid, and electrical swivel needed to be replaced. This is what has caused the steering issues and has deemed it inoperable. The manufacturer recommended us to move forward with the repair on the machine because it was in very good shape and otherwise it would never be safe to operate again. A new 80 ft boom lift is approximately $192,000 and a used one is approximately $80,000. The total for this repair is $11,363.83. United Rentals is a state contract vendor and is the preferred mechanic by the manufacturer of the Genie Lift. The cost of the repair will come from the Fleet fund.

*Exp* Increase 50-4020-7001 Transfer from Fleet Fund $11,364

*Rev* Increase 50-3586-0000 Transfer from Fleet Fund $11,364

1. Public works needs to purchase a second garbage truck due to the constant breaking down of several of our current fleet. Over two years ago we ordered a garbage truck through AMICK. This truck has taken over two years to arrive to the City and is expected to arrive in mid-January. We were advised that a “sister” truck to this truck has become available to purchase in March 2024 (vendor AMICK, 2023 International HV, Cummins L9 Diesel truck) and the cost is $240,514. A garbage truck, according to research, has an average lifespan of approximately 5 years. Unit 43 is a 2009 (15 years old) and would be our only spare without adding an additional truck to the fleet. It has been costly to keep that truck running recently and will not be a reliable backup truck. The other trucks are 51 (2019), 52 (2021), and 53 (2021). When this truck arrives, unit 51 will become the spare truck and the everyday fleet will consist of 4 reliable trucks. The consistent truck breakdowns prevent the collection of trash on a regular basis. Without a reliable spare truck, when the fleet requires preventative maintenance and repairs, we can continue serving the city with 4 working garbage trucks.

The Fleet Fund currently has $104,820 in revenue that will cover the cost of the new truck. The additional cost of the truck will come from the Fleet fund balance.

*Exp* Increase 50-4020-7001 Transfer from Fleet Fund $135,694

*Rev* Increase 50-3586-0000 Transfer from Fleet Fund $135,694

1. After discussions with Chief Gebhardt and City Administration, the decision was made to procure safety items for the law enforcement officers of the City of Hanahan in the event it is necessary for our officers to respond to an active shooter or high-risk event within the city limits. The items requested are as follows:

25 - Level IV Active Shooter Vests, with carriers, made by Point Blank.

25 – Level IIIA Ballistic Helmets made by Point Blank.

The above listed items will be purchased from Read’s Uniforms, who is a Point Blank distributor and state contract Vendor (#4400033031). The purchase price of these items is $22,453 and was approved on the November consent agenda. The cost of the vests and helmets will be paid out of fund balance.

*Exp* Increase 10-6005-5991 Special Police Expense $22,453

*Rev* Increase 10-3585-0000 Use of Fund Balance $22,453

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General Fund Total Budget Before Amendment: $15,098,185 *\*Revenues/Expenses*

General Fund Total Budget After Amendment: $15,120,638

Capital Fund Total Before Amendment: $1,272,770 *\*Expenses*

Capital Fund Total After Amendment: $1,419,828

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* *A motion to approve the Introduction and First Reading of* ***Ordinance #4-2023*** *– FY 23-24 Budget (Amendment #2) was made by Council Member Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Hedgpeth.*
* *There was no further discussion or questions.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*

**REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

1. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

* Cole Taylor - 1107 Belvedere Drive stated that he and his wife moved to Hanahan last August and since being here speeding on Belvedere has been an issue where there are kids walking to school each day. From the speed study, it has been determined that speeds have been reached up to 65mph. He asked if there could be speed bumps at least near the school. Mayor Rainwater asked Danny to check and see if Belvedere is on the list to get speed bumps and also asked Chief Gebhardt to talk with Mr. Taylor about the previous speed study.
* Johnnie Harkness – 1036 Dominion Drive asked when the trash be picked up on Berkeley and Corner Street because it has been there for months. Mayor Rainwater asked Tommy Bishop, Public Works Director, to meet with Mr. Harkness after the meeting.
* Tim Crowley – 3023 Evening Tide Drive spoke about how he is looking forward to a productive new year and that it brings everyone in the city together. He mentioned the recent break in that occurred at the Messiah Lutheran Church and how they were able to have service on Sunday on the basis of how the city comes together when put to the test. He also spoke about the Booster Club Oyster Roast that was taking place on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at the Exchange Park in Ladson. This event is sponsored by the Wrenn Group and all proceeds go towards helping the athletic club.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Danny Stewart, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the City Administrators report to Council on behalf of Courtney Soler.

1. Park Bond Projects:
   1. The Hawks Nest Park-

Maintenance Buildings: Windy City has completed the foundation concrete pour for the pole barn building and has started working on the enclosed building foundation.

* 1. Steward Street Park-

Preconstruction meeting held 12/7/2023 with Blu Tide and all other pertinent parties. Mobilization for project to begin on 1/08/2024. Larry is reviewing plans to issue permits, and permits are expected to be pulled by mid-January. The groundbreaking ceremony will be January 11, 2024 at 2PM. Recreation employees will distribute capital project notices to all residences around the park the first week of January. The notice has an image of the park design along with construction activity timelines and information.

1. Phase 3 Tanner Trail timeline:

* Construction activities will take approximately 9 months and estimated completion date of September 2024

1. In this fiscal year’s budget, we were given $100,000 by Berkeley County to update the Bettis Boat Landing. SCDNR has come back with an estimate at approximately $200,000 and has submitted their design recommendations of the boat landing, which are currently under review. We will apply for matching funds from Berkeley County Soil and Water Conservation Funds.
2. 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. The project managers from SCOR are working with Stantec to confirm the timeline will follow the funding requirements.
3. 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.
   1. Council Member Hedgpeth stated that this project is now set to be completed in mid-February because of the rain, according to Council Member Josh Whitley.
4. In the current year’s budget, a capital project to improve the Hanahan Recreation Complex bathroom facilities was approved. The Hanahan Recreation and Parks Department solicited bids for a restroom refresh for the restrooms at the fields 1 through 7. The scope of the project will include replacing all sinks, toilets, and urinals to commercial grade fixtures. The walls and floors will be repaired and repainted. The restroom lighting, stall partitions, and doors will all be replaced. The funds for this project will come from ARPA. W.S. Witte Construction LLC won the bid. The bid total was $86,600 which is under budget. This project will start ASAP and will be finished before our spring season starts. We are looking forward to a much-needed upgrade for the restrooms.

**Upcoming Dates:**

* **Our next regular monthly City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 6:00pm**
* **Annual Review and Envisioning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 8:30am at Cypress Gardens.**

1. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

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 Spurlock.*
* *A second was made by Council Member Boggs.*
* *All were in favor.*
* *There was no discussion.*
* *The motion was called, and the vote was 6-0.*
* *The meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.*

*\*NOTE: The vote count will reflect only 6 total votes, as Council Member Dyson was absent.*