

City Council Meeting
Work Session
January 11, 2021

Mayor Pro Tempore Brian Garrison called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Mayor Womack. The press was notified by email on January 8th, 2021. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing this meeting was virtual. The meeting could be viewed by live stream at www.youtube.com. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Council Discussion:

Face Covering Ordinance: The governor extended the State of Emergency on January 7, 2021. Council stated during the adoption of the Ordinance that they would revisit it at each meeting to determine if it needs to be repealed or amended. Councilmembers do not want to make any changes at this time. Cases in the County have increased. We have the highest rate per population in the State. Over 45% of our deaths have occurred since 12/1/2020.

About 33% of our tests have been positive in Pickens County. We have been at 25+% positive since November.

Councilman Dykes said we had 8100 cases and now up to 12088 with 175 deaths. We have 4000 additional cases. We should not back off.

Councilwoman Webb agreed with Councilman Dykes but worried about the trend. We need to wait until next month and see what happens.

Councilman Garrison agreed with Councilmembers Dykes and Webb.

Councilman Moore agreed, we need to try and control it a little better. Some people have said they appreciate the ordinance. We are encouraged to do more.

Councilman Robinson agreed

Councilwoman Breazeale said she thinks it should be stricter.

Councilman Garrison asked Chief Byers if there had been any calls from business owners trying to enforce the ordinance. Chief Byers was not aware of anything.

Mr. Steese said we had several calls to city hall about businesses not enforcing the ordinance or they were not happy that they were enforcing the ordinance.

There was no further discussion.

Development Impact Fee Committee: Mr. Steese asked Councilwoman Webb if there were any updates. The timing and COVID has prevented a meeting.

Strategic Planning – Our original one was for three years. We wanted to get with the new Mayor and Council after they had time to work together. The three core principles were quality places, services, and community. Jeff Shacker with MASC assisted us with the last plan and he is willing to assist us again. Would like to meet on February 16 or 17 from 10-2. Let Mr. Steese know if those dates would work. It will be a few weeks before the budget retreat. This would tie into our budget schedule for this year and our budget retreat that would take place in March.

Councilman Garrison said it was helpful to have Mr. Shacker moderate and direct the conversation and he should help again. There was no further discussion.

Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
January 11, 2021
Page 2

2021 Road Paving List: Public works has reviewed this. We didn't get to all of the roads last year due to South 2nd and Dogwood Lane. We held some funds until we got C-funds from Pickens County and the Rural Grant. We can now release those funds to get work done. South 2nd will be part stormwater, sidewalk and bridge repair. The roads are coordinated by subdivision or area.

Currently we have \$425, 000 in road maintenance fund. We should receive between \$200,000-\$225,000 in 2021.

We are trying to address neighborhoods or clusters of roads to get the most from our funds and not have to return for several years. Canaan Land and Dale/Peachtree/Skyland Cluster would be the top priority. We will need to send the paving out to bid and hopefully award in March.

Councilman Dykes asked if all the roads would be done.

Mr. Steese commented that we don't know what the cost will be. There are some underlying issues with roads that may drive up the cost.

Councilwoman Webb has ridden these roads and there maybe some milling that will have to be done. Really upset on Brentley it has utility issues that has caused the road to sink in. This will drive cost up. Roots of trees are breaking up the pavement around Couch Lane.

Mr. Steese commented that in Chadwick there are some stormwater issues that will need to addressed.

Councilwoman Webb said there is a lot of block cracking that happens with age. Alligator cracking is caused by subgrade.

There was no further discussion.

No agenda items to discuss.

Project updates from Staff

Op/Main/fire – Mr. Steese showed pictures of the progress. The windows are in, mudding sheet rock, tile going in. Equipment is being delivered so they have all crews working at this location. They have pulled people from the fire station. There are electricians and HVAC people working at station one. Hoping to get rough-in inspection done and then sheet rock will come in. There have been delays from COVID and weather. Op/main about a month out, and 6+ weeks in fire station.

Budget Update:

Business license are up \$105,009 over 2019. Hospitality level with where we were last year. Accommodations down about \$11,925 without football and basketball in Clemson it has affected this number.

Stormwater projects: Eric Greenwood gave an update.

Completed the swells at Carson Place. Monitoring them to see how they flow and if they are complete or if they will need further work. Moving on to work in Huntington North.

Council Meeting Minutes

Work Session

January 11, 2021

Then the focus will be on Couch Lane. Due to the weather we have been having it is going to take a while.

Dogwood/South 2nd hired Troy Rosier, engineer he is working on the plans and the project will start in the spring.

Eddie will be getting with Troy to see if he has bid ready to go out.

No further discussion

Grass Collection – Eddie Fortner stated the public works committee will be meeting soon. We are looking at other cities are doing about grass clippings. The committee will bring back a recommendation to council.

Councilman Dykes asked about the leaf truck. Eddie explained the old truck had motor go out. We are getting quotes to see what will be the cost to rebuild. Asking for a new truck in the budget. There was some build up on the vacuum and it caught on fire as it was pulling in the fuel depot. The leaves ignited.

No more discussion

Any department updates: Christman Short, Interim Director for the Rec said that the recreation committee will meeting on the 14th at 8:00 a.m. at the gym.

Judge Snow commented that the court admin has sent out an order from the chief justice suspending all in person court activity. Working with Judge Sterling to set up a virtual court room using both court rooms so we can keep the court system moving and not have a big back log.

Councilman Dykes stated that is a good move.

We are starting to see our police and fire have access for the COVID vaccine and they started taking the shot. The governor announced today that citizens over 70 can get shot after Jan. 13th.

Councilman Dykes commented that is was time to submit for the achievement awards to show case our community. We have done this in the past, but never won. It is a good opportunity to show what the city has done. The deadline is 1/27/2021. It would be worthwhile for department heads to get together and submit something.

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lisa S. Chapman, CMC
City Clerk

Mayor Butch Womack

Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2021

Councilman Garrison, Mayor Pro Tempore called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Mayor Womack. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing this meeting was virtual. The meeting could be viewed by live stream at www.Youtube.com. The press was notified by email on January 8th, 2021. Lisa Chapman, City Clerk served as the recording secretary.

Councilman Garrison wished everyone a Happy New Year. Council met in executive session prior to the meeting and no action was taken. Wished Mayor and family a speedy recovery.

Councilman Robinson gave the invocation followed by the pledge.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as written.

Reports from council members:

Ward 1: We will have a recreation committee meeting Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Bagwell gym.

Ward 2: Need to be praying for the Mayor and his family. This is an eventful and traumatic time in our nation. We need to unite and support our country. There will be a public works committee meeting coming up soon.

Ward 3: Looking forward to a productive new year. Hope there will be a calm transition with new President. There are so many with the virus we have to look at this more seriously.

Ward 4: The COVID has been so bad. Now we are seeing it so close to home. We have to take it seriously, wear your mask and protect yourself and others. Had a lady call him that has had the virus and it was terrible for her. Pray for our nation.

Ward 5- Happy New Year. Hope it will be prosperous. Continue to wear mask, pray for each other. Pray that things will go how God intends.

Ward 6 Amen to all the above.

Councilman Garrison called on City Administrator, Stephen Steese for his report. City Hall and City buildings will be closed January 18th for MLK day. This will go out on social media. Statement of Economic Interest forms are due by the end of March for council. Beginning last week, we had access to the vaccine for COVID for police and fire. Some have already had the shot. Governor McMaster announced people 70 up can get shot as of January 13th. Mr. Steese went over mask ordinance. At this time Council does not wish to change. The data has not improved. Our county is the highest in the state.

Councilman Dykes stated he was very disappointed in this past month's numbers; things are so much worse. There are 4000 additional cases and 64 deaths since we put the ordinance in place. Please wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands. If this does not change, we need to look at the ordinance again and add fines, make it more enforceable.

Councilwoman Breazeale commented that she was in grocery store and they announced if people didn't have a mask, they would give you one.

Councilman Moore stated that if we don't practice guidelines, and businesses don't enforce, we are going to have a shut down again. Some how it has got to slow down.

Councilwoman Webb commented that we have only had the ordinance in place for a short time. She would not recommend that we drop the ordinance but would recommend it be strengthened.

Citizens wishing to address council: None

Old business: none

New business: Item 11

Any action taken to approve or amend the decision of the employee grievance committee.

Councilman Dykes stated in reference to the employee grievance that was filed, he respects the recommendation from the committee but would like to make a motion to reject the employee grievance committee's decision. A second to the motion from Councilwoman Breazeale.

Councilman Moore commented that there was a lot of confusion during this, one authority telling the employee one thing and another authority telling him something else. Thinks we should amend to what we discussed.

Councilman Robinson commented will be able to follow this up with another motion.

Councilman Garrison called on Attorney Brian James to clarify. We need to dispense the current motion or amend.

Councilman Garrison commented that we can have a motion to amend now or we can continue to discuss and vote or make the amendment after the vote.

Councilman Moore made a motion to amend the original motion made by Councilman Dykes to award the employee the full amount of earned PTO. Councilwoman Breazeale made the second.

Councilman Robinson said would that be paying in full?

Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2021
Page 3

Councilwoman Webb stated that she was sorry there was confusion among the department heads and our personnel and the understanding of the employee, she would be willing to support the motion.

There was no further discussion. Councilman Moore called for the question.

The question has been called for to vote on the amendment, agreeing to pay the full PTO to the employee. The amendment passed 6-0.

Councilwoman Webb called for the question to vote on the original motion as amended to reject the grievance committee recommendation and pay the employee the entire PTO time earned. The motion passed 6-0.

Councilman Garrison asked Attorney Brian James to make sure the motions were done correctly. He said everything was correct.

There were no new resolutions.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Dykes at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Butch Womack

ATTEST:

Lisa S. Chapman, CMC
City Clerk