



City of Fountain Inn
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2020 - 6:00 PM - 200 N. Main Street, Council Chambers
Virtual Online Meeting Via Zoom

The following members of City Council were in attendance: Mayor George Patrick (GP) McLeer, Jr., Mack Blackstone, Phil Clemmer, Anthony Cunningham, Anjeanette (AJ) Dearybury, John Mahony and Jay Thomason

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, members of the public were not allowed to attend this meeting in person. The meeting was live streamed. Information concerning the live stream was posted on the city's website. Members of the public had the ability to register in-advance to "attend" the virtual meeting.

Call to Order – Mayor McLeer

Invocation – Dr. Jim Spencer, Pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum – Persons wishing to speak must email the City Clerk at sandra.woods@fountaininn.org with their name and phone number they will be calling into the meeting with. During the Public Comment Period, we will unmute the callers to allow them to speak up to 3 minutes in the order that they signed up. You may sign up until 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

No one signed up to speak.

Presentations

- Thank you - Johanna Inman, Ideal HR
- Introduce Rebecca Ward, Human Resource Director
- Promotion -Naomi Reed, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director
- Promotion - Stephanie McCarthy, Assistant Finance Director

Consent Agenda – There will be no discussion of Consent Agenda items unless a Council member so requests in which event the item in question will be considered separately.

- June 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- Preliminary May 2020 Financial Report

Motion by Councilmember Mahony, second by Councilmember Blackstone to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously 7/0

**City Administrator's Report – Shawn M. Bell
(Attached)**

Unfinished Business

**Second Reading – AX-2020-004 - Jenkins Bridge Road; Zone –
TMS#0562020100606 to R12; assign to Council Ward 5**

Mayor McLeer stated that he would like to move AX 2020-004 to after executive session. Council did not oppose the Mayor's request.

**Second Reading - Ordinance 2020-004 Providing for the acquisition and financing of
motor vehicles and related equipment to be used for public sanitation**

Mr. Bell stated this ordinance authorizes the city to use bond council and financial advisors to borrow an amount not to exceed \$475,000 for the purchase of an automated side load garbage truck and a knuckle boom truck to be financed for 5 years.

BB&T was the lowest bid with an interest rate of 1.42%.

Motion by Councilmember Blackstone, second by Councilmember Mahony to approve Ordinance 2020-004 on Second Reading. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

**Second Reading - AX 2020-005 Greenpond Road, Zone TMS# 0562010102104, I-1
Industrial and assigned to Council Ward 5**

Mr. Bell stated that AX 2020-005 would annex 1.42 acres near Greenpond Road into the City limits of the Fountain Inn; zone TMS# 0562010102104 to I-1, Industrial District and assign parcel to Council Ward 5. The Planning Commission voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of the annexation and zoning at the June 2, 2020 meeting. Fountain Inn City Council annexed 209 Greenpond Road, an adjacent parcel, on March 9, 2020 (AX2020-003). No one spoke regarding the application. However, the applicant is the private landowner and the request for annexation is in relation to the adjacent Industrial District zone. Both the developer and private property owner are in favor on the annexation based on recent email correspondence with staff.

Motion by Councilmember Thomason, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve AX 2020-005 on second reading. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

New Business

R 2020-007 – A Resolution recommending individuals wear face coverings in public buildings and retail and food service establishments.

Mr. Bell read the resolution:

The City Council strongly urges and encourages the following:

1. Face Coverings be worn by all customers while inside the enclosed area of any Public Building or Retail Establishment; and

2. Retail Establishments should require staff to wear Face Coverings while working in areas open to the public and areas in which interactions with other staff are likely in which social distancing of at least six feet cannot be observed; and

3. Foodservice Establishments should require staff who interact with customers (including, without limitation, delivery personnel) to wear Face Coverings while working.

4. “Face Covering,” in this resolution means a uniform piece of cloth, fabric, or other material that securely covers a person’s nose and mouth and remains affixed in place without the use of one’s hands. Face Coverings include, but are not limited to, bandanas, medical masks, cloth masks, scarves, and gaiters, provided that they are worn such that they securely cover the person’s nose and mouth.

Motion by Mayor McLeer, second by Councilmember Mahony to approve R 2020-007.

Councilmember Blackstone stated that he was not in favor of R 2020-007.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Mahony Aye
Councilmember Thomason Nay
Councilmember Dearybury Aye
Councilmember Clemmer Aye
Councilmember Blackstone Nay
Councilmember Cunningham Nay
Mayor McLeer Aye

The motion carried 4/3.

E 2020-004 – An Emergency Ordinance to continue a declaration of a state of emergency

Mayor McLeer explained that this ordinance is an extension of what we are currently doing and allows for Council to continue to meet virtually.

Mr. Bell reviewed the previous emergency ordinances and stated that this ordinance will expire in 60 days.

Motion by Councilmember Clemmer, second by Councilmember Cunningham to approve E 2020-004 on first and only reading.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Mahony Aye
Councilmember Thomason Aye
Councilmember Dearybury Aye
Councilmember Clemmer Aye
Councilmember Blackstone Aye
Councilmember Cunningham Aye
Mayor McLeer Aye

The motion carried unanimously 7/0 on first and only reading.

Special Events/Rentals – Covid-19

Mayor McLeer stated this topic is basically a Council discussion.

Mr. Bell stated the city is currently continuing the Sounds of Summer music series and the Farmers market is still operating. The Special Events staff has mandated that all Farmers Market vendors wear face masks and have encouraged the customers also wear face masks. Staff has faced the vendors to outside, arrows have been installed and things are going well.

Mr. Bell stated that he has checked to see what other communities are doing.

- Mauldin cancelled events through July.
- Greer cancelled all events.
- Travelers Rest cancelled all events.
- Simpsonville will start back up in August. They have had movie nights and have drawn circles in the grass to keep people distanced from each other.
- Greenville cancelled all events.
- Laurens held fireworks, no other events.

Staff has reviewed the Accelerate South Carolina guidelines and have implemented many of them. One of the guidelines is to limit gatherings to 250 people. The last Sounds of Summer on June 26th was around 250 people. There were previous events that we think had more than 250. June 19th was the largest crowd of season.

He stated staff would like to keep Sounds of Summer going but would like input and decision from Council.

Mayor McLeer opened floor:

Cunningham, Blackstone, Thomason, Dearybury, Clemmer and McLeer stated that they would like to continue the events, but let the public make their own choice whether to attend or not attend.

Mayor McLeer stated that Staff has taken measures to protect themselves and they have ample signage to make another s aware to protect themselves.

Executive Session

Mayor McLeer stated that when council meets in executive session the live feed will discontinue. Once Council is back in session the live feed will resume.

Motion by Councilmember Blackstone second by Councilmember Cunningham to meet in executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee in the Administration Department
- Development Agreement concerning property located at Greenville County Tax Map #0562010100302
- Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the City concerning Project Smoke
- Discussion of negotiations incident to a proposed contractual arrangement with a business located on North Main Street
- For the receipt of legal advice concerning the potential acquisition of right of way

Upon returning to open session, council may act on items discussed during Executive Session.

Back in regular session.

Mayor McLeer asked for a motion to approve the item discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by Mayor McLeer, second by Councilmember Blackstone to approve what was discussed in Executive Session concerning the City Administrator.

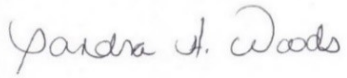
Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Mahony Aye
Councilmember Thomason Aye
Councilmember Dearybury Aye
Councilmember Clemmer Aye
Councilmember Blackstone Aye
Councilmember Cunningham (Left the meeting)
Mayor McLeer Aye

The motion carried 6/0.

Motion by Councilmember Blackstone, second by Councilmember Clemmer to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously 6/0.

Council Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra H. Woods". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Sandra H. Woods, CMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Agenda Date: July 9, 2020

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Shawn M. Bell, City Administrator

Administration

- Census 2020 ([2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov))
 - As of July 5th, the national self-response rate was 61.9% and the South Carolina self-response rate was 56.3%
 - Fountain Inn's was 62.3% (above both national and state)
- Wayfinding Signage Project
 - Installation of Trailblazer Signs
 - 11 smaller signs on July 16th
 - 13 larger signs on August 4th
- New websites
 - Staff is reviewing the RFP responses for redesign of City and Natural Gas websites
- Woodside Connector
 - Design Consultant, AECOM, has an internal call to review revised plans and resubmitting them to SCDOT this week
 - Proposed Let Date: February 2022
- Woodside Streetscape
 - FING received a request from SCDOT to mark and plot our gas lines on the SCDOT plans and mark all locations where construction conflicts are present
 - Coordination with other utility providers is also underway
 - SCDOT still in the Right-Of-Way (ROW) acquisition phase
 - Proposed Let Date: June 2021
- Recommendations to Improve Race Relations in the City of Fountain Inn:
 - Work with our new HR Director to:
 - Incorporate active recruitment strategies, implicit bias training, and other practices to recruit diverse staff in each department... both entry level and management
 - Utilize ADP's recruitment module which does not include a criminal background question... "Ban the Box"
 - Implement racial/gender sensitivity/equity training for all City staff
 - Review/create policies related to citizen-staff interactions
 - Work with new Planning & Development Director to:

- Develop initiatives that encourage and support Black and minority owned businesses... both existing and start-up
 - Recruit more diverse businesses on Main Street and throughout the City
 - Plan events that are free from the barriers which would make any interested individual feel excluded, uninvited, or unwelcome
- Go back to regularly scheduled neighborhood roundtable meetings/community conversations, and listen to the needs of our minority communities
 - Look into scheduling professionally facilitated discussions
- Work with Police Department to:
 - Encourage more minority participation in the Citizens Police Academy and Citizens Review Board
 - Find ways to increase Community Policing Strategies

Special Events and Community Development

- 2020 Special Events
 - Farmers Market open every Saturday morning from 8am-noon until September 12th in Commerce Park
 - Sounds of Summer (formerly Dancing on Depot) will continue every Friday evening until September 4th
 - Jeff Lynch Bike Night Wing Fest to be held on September 11th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. on Main Street

Natural Gas

- Deliveries for June 2020
 - Gas volume of 38,298 Dekatherms
 - Gas consumption for June 2020 was down over 1.6% from June 2019, but over 11.8% from the June five-year average
- Services for June 2020
 - 83 new applications for service
 - 9,581 active customers
 - 14,389 feet of new gas main lines have been installed year-to-date
 - 222 new service lines have been installed for a total of 11,885 feet year-to-date
- Gas Prices/Rates
 - Rate comparisons not done in the summer months
 - Price of natural gas for the month of July settled at \$1.495 per Dekatherm, which represents a 15.2% decrease over June's price of \$1.72 per Dekatherm
- COVID-19 Response
 - Disconnections for nonpayment started on July 6th
 - All Billing Office personnel are back working from the office

- Field employees are now entering customers' homes and have been provided the appropriate PPE; however, employees are to decline entry if they do not feel comfortable doing so
- Beginning the process of starting an optional bill round-up program to help customers who may need financial assistance paying their gas bill
- Natural Gas Director, Eduardo Noriega, has been appointed for a 3-year term to the American Public Gas Association (APGA)
 - APGA is the only not-for-profit trade organization representing America's publicly owned natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs)
 - APGA represents the interests of over 700 public gas systems before Congress, federal agencies, and other energy-related stakeholders by developing regulatory and legislative policies that further the goals of their members
- FING has purchased and in the process of rolling out new meter reading software and hardware
 - The upgrade was required due to the old software no longer being supported by the vendor, and the meter reading equipment being old and outdated

Police

- Sergeant Chupp was promoted to the newly created Detective position
 - Sergeant's exam taking place on July 13th to promote from within for the vacant Sergeant position
 - Advertising for Police Officer position soon due to vacancy caused by promotions
- Accreditation process has begun
- National Night Out has been scheduled for October 6 (usually in August)
- 5K has been rescheduled for October 31st
- Roof replacement is nearly complete
- 404 people were tested for COVID-19 at Fountain Inn Elementary School on June 18th
- Hosting the Mobile Training Unit from the SC Criminal Justice Academy on August 13th and August 20th
 - Topics include de-escalation, conflict management, and prejudice & personality

Parks & Recreation

- Abbreviated Baseball/Softball season has concluded
- Summer Volley-Mania
 - Runs through July 20th
 - 34 participants in 2019; 91 participants in 2020
- Football
 - Registration is underway through July 15th, but will likely extend through August 1st

- Activities Center
 - Senior adults only from 7:00 a.m.-noon; closed to the public from noon-1:00 p.m. for cleaning/sanitizing and then open only for volleyball programming from 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
 - Exercise classes resumed on June 22nd following the same schedule as above
 - No seniors or senior programming (quilting, painting, puzzles, etc.) are allowed after noon
 - Upgrades/renovations have begun and are expected to be complete towards the end of September
- Emanuel Sullivan Sports Complex
 - Sidewalk along Woodside Avenue to McDonald's is complete

Planning & Development

- New Businesses
 - WingNuts Grill & Bar has opened on Trade Street
 - Steam Coffee & Cream has reopened under new ownership on S. Main Street
 - Howards Pharmacy opening soon on Weston Street
 - Cake to Dye For opening soon on Fairview Street
 - Gio's Pastry Shop opening in late August/early September on S. Main Street
 - Village Play opening in late July/early August on N. Main Street
 - Georgia Street Café has reopened under new ownership
- Working with new HR Director to develop job description/advertisement for new Director position

Judicial

- Panagakos Asphalt Paving has performed demolition on the unfinished portions of the building's parking lot, and they are setting up a proof roll for this week

Public Works

- Roadway & Sidewalk Inventory Assessment
 - Alliance Consulting Engineers have performed a desktop roadway & sidewalk inventory and conducted a field assessment of the roadway & sidewalk conditions
 - Meeting scheduled for July 21st to review the data and their findings
- One vacant CDL Driver position and one vacant Crew Worker position

Fire

- Fire Station #3
 - Preparing to have a survey completed for approximately three acres of land needed from Greenville County School District at the intersection of Scuffletown & Jones Mill Road
 - Have worked with architects/engineers to come up with a preliminary site layout and ballpark cost estimate

Chamber of Commerce

- Annual Banquet was slated for August 13th, but they are looking to reschedule due to COVID-19