



City of Fountain Inn
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020 - 6:00 PM
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

Call to Order – Mayor McLeer

Invocation – Mayor McLeer

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.

Mayor McLeer asked to move E 2020-005 to the top of the agenda. There was no objection from Council.

2020-005 Extend Emergency Ordinance

City Attorney, David Holmes explained that this is an extension of the previous ordinance for another 60 days. This ordinance allows the city to continue to conduct meetings electronically and to allow the City Administrator to have discretion about opening and closing facilities.

Motion by Councilmember Cunningham, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve E 2020-005.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Mahony ✓
- Councilmember Thomason ✓
- Councilmember Dearybury ✓
- Councilmember Clemmer ✓
- Councilmember Cunningham ✓
- Councilmember Blackstone ✓

Mayor McLeer ✓

The motion carried unanimously.

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.

- August 4, 2020 Special Called Meeting
- August 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- Preliminary June 2020 Financial Report

Mr. Bell stated Item C will only be the June 2020 Financial Report. July is not complete at this time. During last month's meeting Council approved a preliminary June Financial Report, but there have been updates since the June meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Mahony, second by Councilmember Clemmer 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, 2020-006 – Expanding the Hospitality District

Mr. Bell stated currently, alcoholic beverages are allowed by special permit in the City's Hospitality District, which is currently defined as Depot Street beginning at the property boundary for The Center (also known as the Visitor Center, Chamber of Commerce, Museum) to Jones Street and Trade Street from its intersection with Main Street to The Center; as well as, Main Street from its intersections with Fairview Street and Jones Street.

Ordinance 2020-006 adds Trade Street from its intersection with Weston Street to The Center and McKnight Street from its intersection with Fairview Street to Trade Street, including the adjacent sidewalks, to the City's Hospitality District. The City already has a special permit process in place for events that desire alcoholic beverages for the current Hospitality District, which includes the City Administrator and Chief of Police signatures.

Motion by Councilmember Mahony, second Councilmember Blackstone to approve Ordinance 2020-006 as presented.

Mayor McLeer stated this ordinance does not impact any residential areas and it also helps current restaurants to be included in city events.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilmember Mahony ✓

Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020

Councilmember Thomason ✓
Councilmember Dearybury ✓
Councilmember Clemmer ✓
Councilmember Cunningham ✗
Councilmember Blackstone ✓
Mayor McLeer ✓

The motion carried 6/1.

New Business

R 2020-008- MASC Grant Match

Mr. Bell stated the Municipal Association is offering a Hometown Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$25,000. The City would be responsible for 10% (\$2,500). The grant and local matching funds will be used for a mural(s) at the Emanuel Sullivan Sports Complex or public art to be displayed downtown. The deadline to apply is September 25th and the grant will be awarded by October 31st.

Motion by Councilmember Cunningham, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve R 2020-008 MASC Grant Match.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

HR-01 – Non -Discrimination & Anti-Harassment Policy

Mr. Bell stated our HR Director, Rebecca Mejia Ward is reviewing our handbook and will have a new handbook to be presented to Council soon. We would like for Council to adopt important policies as they are ready.

Mr. Bell reviewed the HR-01 with Council and stated that an anti-harassment training has been scheduled this month. The guest speaker will reference and train employees on this policy.

Motion by Councilmember Cunningham, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve HR-01.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Mahony ✓

Council Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020

Councilmember Thomason ✓
Councilmember Dearybury ✓
Councilmember Clemmer ✓
Councilmember Cunningham ✓
Councilmember Blackstone ✓
Mayor McLeer ✓

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Website proposal from Civic Plus

Mr. Bell stated an RFP for website design was issued on June 1st and due back on June 15th. Fifteen responses were received. After review, the committee narrowed down to the top two vendors. Follow up interviews were scheduled, and the committee chose CivicPlus.

The city budgeted the following for the website:

City \$50,000
Gas \$25,000

CivicPlus cost for year one is \$35,349 for both websites with two additional modules, CivicRec and CivicClerk.

The cost for year two is still under budget at \$12, 262.

CivicPlus only does governmental websites. After four years, CivicPlus will redesign at no charge. There are other modules we may be interested in later.

Motion by Councilmember Cunningham, second by Councilmember Dearybury to approve CivicPlus as our website vendor.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Laurens Electric Invoice

Cost to re-locate electric poles and guidewires cost \$18,172.52.

Motion by Councilmember Mahony, second by Councilmember Cunningham to approve the Laurens Electric Invoice.

Roll Call Vote:

- Councilmember Mahony ✓
- Councilmember Thomason ✓
- Councilmember Dearybury ✓
- Councilmember Clemmer ✓
- Councilmember Cunningham ✓
- Councilmember Blackstone ✓
- Mayor McLeer ✓

The motion carried unanimously.

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.

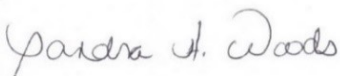
- a. Discussion of city's position on impending litigation and receive legal advice.
- b. For the discussion of a proposed contract concerning the provision of natural gas service and the receipt of legal advice in relation thereto.
- c. For the receipt of legal advice concerning a pending claim against the city and other matters covered by the attorney client privilege related, thereto and the discussion of the city's position with regard to that claim.
- d. For the receipt of legal advice concerning a potential development agreement concerning the provision of sewer service.
- e. 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".

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

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

Mayor McLeer stated no vote were taken during executive session.

Motion by Councilmember Mahony, second by Councilmember Blackstone to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.



Sandra H. Woods, CMC
Municipal Clerk

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Agenda Date: September 10, 2020

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Shawn M. Bell, City Administrator

Administration

- Census 2020 ([2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov))
 - As of September 3rd, the national self-response rate was 65.3% and the South Carolina self-response rate was 59.2%
 - Fountain Inn's self-response rate was 65.7% (above both national and state)
 - 2020 Census officials are currently working on their nonresponse follow-up operation
 - With the nonresponse follow-up, approximately 80% of South Carolina households have now been counted
- Wayfinding Signage Project
 - Work is underway to begin Phase 2
- Woodside Connector
 - Consultant is moving forward with development of right-of-way plans
 - Proposed Let Date: February 2022
- Woodside Streetscape
 - Right-of-way acquisition and utility coordination is underway by SCDOT
 - Proposed Let Date: June 2021
- Woodside Village
 - Staff is reviewing a proposed rework of the existing Planned Development from a developer interested in moving this project forward
- Human Resources
 - Anti-Harassment & Legal Updates Training has been scheduled for all employees
- Community Conversations
 - Scheduling discussion forums regarding racial equity with Mt. Zion Baptist Church and New Life in Christ Missionary Baptist Church

Special Events and Community Development

- 2020 Special Events
 - Farmers Market open every Saturday morning from 8am-noon until October 24th in Commerce Park
 - Masks are required
 - Working with the Chamber on a Sip & Stroll event to celebrate Small Business Saturday

- Merry Market vendor applications have gone out

Natural Gas

- Deliveries for August 2020
 - Gas volume of 39,678 Dekatherms
 - Gas consumption for August 2020 was up over 2.4% from August 2019, and up over 12.9% from the August five-year average
- Services for August 2020
 - 126 new applications for service
 - 9,669 active customers
 - 19,800 feet of new gas main lines have been installed year-to-date
 - 339 new service lines have been installed for a total of 17,901 feet year-to-date
- Gas Prices/Rates
 - FING's August 2020 residential rate was right in the middle of the NC/SC/VA utilities surveyed
 - Price of natural gas for the month of September settled at \$2.579 per Dekatherm, which represents a 39% increase over August's price of \$1.854 per Dekatherm
- COVID-19 Response
 - The main lobby is currently closed, but customers can utilize the drive-through window, building drop box, or make payments online
- Operations
 - Ryan Nodine, a 25-year veteran of FING, has retired
 - Two vacancies currently being advertised
 - A new Operations and Maintenance Manual for field operations was bid out and awarded to Energy Vision
 - Bell Engineering is working on our yearly update of the gas modeling system
 - Conversations and preliminary design is underway for the CNNG interconnect project
 - Currently working on 27 subdivisions, either installing main, service lines, or both

Police

- Currently advertising for Police Officer position (vacancy caused by promotions/newly created position)
- New patrol vehicles being striped and equipped... will be on the road this month
- Roof replacement is nearly complete
- Successful first year of the Greenville County Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU), of which Fountain Inn is a part of
 - 135 arrests and 450 pounds of seized narcotics

- Hosted the Mobile Training Unit from the SC Criminal Justice Academy on August 13th and August 20th
 - Topics included de-escalation, conflict management, and prejudice & personality
- Hosted the SCMIT/SCMIRF “response to resistance” training simulator on August 24th - 30th

Parks & Recreation

- Flag Football began on September 7th
- Fall baseball & softball and Tackle Football begins on September 14th
- Fall Volleyball begins on October 1st
- Activities Center
 - Upgrades/renovations are ongoing and are expected to be complete towards the end of September/beginning of October

Planning & Development

- August 2020 Permitting
 - 49 construction permits with a total valuation of \$24,613,133
 - 118 inspections
 - 28 business license transactions
- New Businesses
 - Village Play and Cheeky Tees now open
 - Howards Pharmacy scheduled to open in October on Weston Street

Judicial

- Parking Lot
 - City Staff has completed landscaping and concrete work “in-house”
- Municipal Court Assistant is out on medical leave
 - Part-time Police Records Technician is assisting on a temporary basis

Public Works

- Greenville Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee Municipal Match Program
 - King Asphalt will begin milling Quail Run Trail on October 7th
- Roadway & Sidewalk Inventory Assessment
 - Staff is reviewing draft
- Partnering with BeIFlex Staffing Network out of Mauldin for entry-level Public Works staffing needs, which will allow us to identify talent for possible full-time hires
 - Sanitation Department is already utilizing two employees

Fire

- Fire Station #3
 - Working with School District on agreement to acquire the property
 - Working with Greenville County on Fire Service Area millage increase application
- Mutual Aid/Assistance
 - Sent two Firefighters to assist with the large plastics fire in Chester County
 - Sent two Firefighters to assist with hurricane relief in Louisiana

Chamber of Commerce

- Main Street Business Association meeting set for September 17th at 8:30 a.m. at WingNutz
- Annual Banquet set for September 24th at Farmers Market Pavilion
- Skeet Shoot fundraiser set for November 19th at the Clinton House

Younts Center for Performing Arts

- John Conlee – November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous

- Fountain Inn Chorale Board of Directors has decided to cancel the Fall and Christmas 2020 concerts due to COVID-19
- Fountain Inn Fury D-Team Football Home Schedule:
 - September 29th against Riverside at 5:30 p.m. at Rudolph Gordon School
 - October 6th against Berea at 5:30 p.m. at Rudolph Gordon School
 - October 27th against JL Mann at 5:30 p.m. Hillcrest High School