



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Stephen Smoak
Councilmember Joanna B. Craig
Councilmember Deborah H. Davis (absent)
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Jonathan Rorie
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young
Finance Director Debra Courtney
Attorney Lawrence Flynn
Chronicle-Independent Gee Whetsel
and interested citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford called the Camden City Council Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Graham opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Councilmember Craig, voted unanimously to adopt the Camden City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Graham abstained from voting due to his absence at the August 23, 2022 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- City Council recognized Mary Beth Tanner as Miss Camden 2023.
- City Council recognized Madison Knoerr as Miss Camden Teen 2023
- City Council recognized Bill Ligon for his 23 years of service on the Camden Planning Commission
- Proclamation was presented to the Hobkirk Hill members proclaiming September 17 – 23, 2022 as Constitution week.
- Proclamation was presented to Byron Johnson proclaiming the week of September 18-24, 2022 as Adult Education and Family Literacy week.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Quarterly Report – Fire Department
2. Quarterly Report – Revolutionary War Visitor Center
3. Façade Grant – 1035 Broad
4. Façade Grant – 301 DeKalb Street

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Council member Craig, voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Alexander, resident of Campbell Street, expressed his concerns about safety at Boykin Park. At stated at previous council meetings Mr. Alexander said that something needs be done soon to resolve the issues at the park.

Barbara Copeland resident of Liberty Hill Road, presented a petition signed by residents of Camden with signatures totaling \$1,250 of Camden residents who are concerned about the utility rates. Copeland suggest the city should hold a public forum session so citizens may ask questions and receive answers during this session.

Mary Brandenberger, resident of Hunter Hill Road, spoke regarding her concerns of unanswered utility questions.

Alfreda Weathers, resident of Sunnyhill Drive, expressed her concerns about the utility rates and wanted to know how the city could cancel the utility contract.

ORDINANCE #2022-019 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted to approve an ordinance approving the application for a Special Property Tax Assessment for a Historic Property; and other matters related thereto. (1105 Broad Street).

Approval of the ordinance will freeze the assessed property value for 15 years once the project is complete. This will prevent any increase in the amount of taxes collected from this property for the 15 year period. After discussion from Council and comments from City Planner Shawn Putnam, Council voted unanimously to approve ordinance #2022-019. Mayor Pro Tem Graham abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

ORDINANCE #2022-020 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, seconded by Councilmember Craig, followed by comments from Main Street Program Manager Katherine Spadacenta, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance amending certain provision of Title IX, Chapter 99 of the City of Camden Code of Ordinances pertaining to Special Events and Performances; and other matters related thereto.

ORDINANCE #2022-021 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, seconded by Councilmember Craig, followed by discussion from Council and comments from City Planner Shawn Putnam, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance to authorize the sale of real property located in the City of Camden to King Street of Camden, LLC (1304 Lyttleton Street). The sale of this property at \$900,000 to private owners will result in a positive impact on the budget by generating additional property tax and utility revenue once the property is developed.



RESOLUTION #2022-027

Council, on motion by councilmember Craig, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, voted unanimously to approve a resolution to provide certification as provided by the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act of 2013 (S.C. Code Section 12-67-109 Et. SEQ) for the Building at 1035 Broad Street.

FY 2023 Budget Amendment

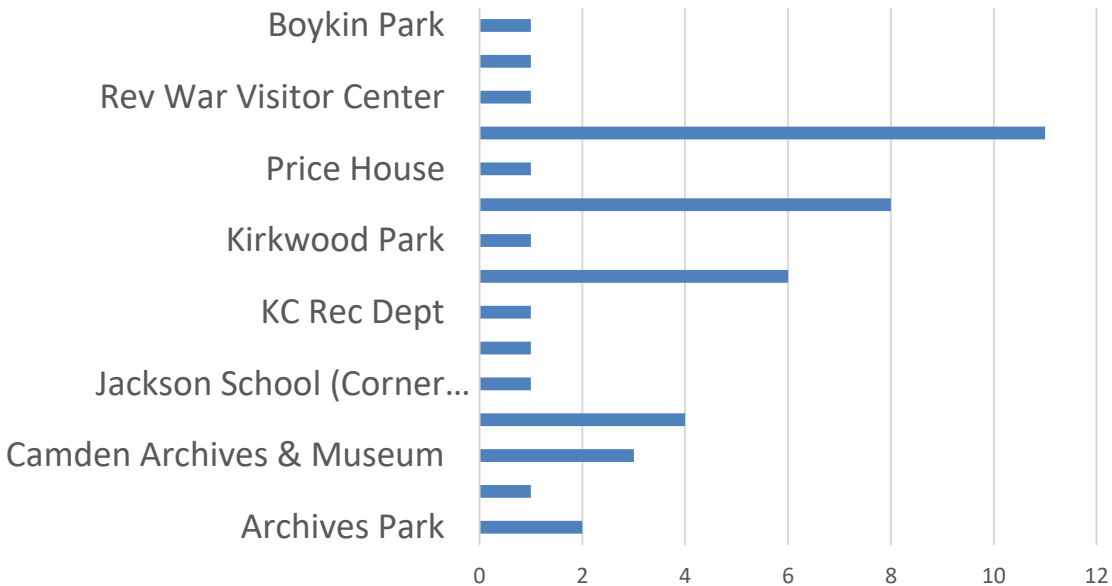
Council, on motion by councilmember Craig, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, voted unanimously to approve a FY 2023 Budget Amendment 22-01 to purchase Parks Department equipment. The proposed budget amendment re-allocates funds from the Project Improvement Fund and Local Option Sales Tax Fund Balance (LOST) to purchase equipment. The budget amendment results in a \$55,000 reduction in LOST Fund Balance.

COUNCIL TOPICS

1. Leader’s Legacy Recognition Review

Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young provided an update on the city’s Leader’s Legacy bench recognition program. Staff suggested taking Rectory and Monument Square off the list of options for park bench locations because those areas are full.

Leader’s Legacy Benches: 43 Total





EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council on motion by Councilmember Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 4:45 p.m. to discuss a potential real estate transaction.

REGULAR SESSION

Council unanimously agreed to re-enter regular session at 5:25 a.m.

ACTION RELATING TO THE DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

No Action Taken

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 5:27 pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk