



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 27, 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
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Jonathan Rorie
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young
Finance Director Debra Courtney
Attorney Lawrence Flynn (absent)
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

Councilmember Joanna B. Craig opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to adopt the Camden City Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Proclamation was presented to members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church honoring their 200th Anniversary.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Quarterly Report – Building Department
2. Resolution #2022-028 authorizing consumption of beer and wine at The Downhome Blues Festival.
3. Resolution #2022-029 committing the City of Camden to provide a local funding match for MASC Hometown Economic Development Grant.

Council, on motion by Councilmember Craig, seconded by Councilmember Davis, voted unanimously to approve Consent Agenda items 1-3.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Walters, resident of Mill Street, expressed her concerns about the utility rates at each of her rental units. She pays the bulk of the utilities and most of her residents are elderly and/or single moms and can't afford the high utility bills.

Bobby Atkinson, resident of Mill Street, spoke regarding the rise in utility rates.



Mr. Atkinson, resident of Mill Street spoke regarding the City of Camden’s growth and was concern about the direction of which it was heading. Mr. Atkinson stated the City is becoming congested.

Mary Brandenberger, resident of Hunter Hill Road, spoke regarding her concerns about the high utility bills and unanswered utility questions. She also made suggestions as to what she thought could possibly fix the utility rates.

Mary Brooks, resident of Haile Street, expressed her concerns about the utility rates and stated she lives in the county and should not have to pay a high utility bill.

Lenora Gamble Pearson, resident of Roberts Street, spoke regarding her concerns about getting better tasting water, sidewalks being covered with weed, grass and un-kept and questions why there was only one cable company provider.

Ella Williams, resident of Wilder Street, ask that the city fix the chair lift or move council meeting to the Robert Mills Courthouse.

ORDINANCE #2022-019 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Craig, 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. Council voted unanimously to approve ordinance #2022-019. Mayor Pro Tem Graham abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

ORDINANCE #2022-020 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, seconded by Councilmember Davis, 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 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, 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.



ORDINANCE #2022-022 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Graham, seconded by Councilmember Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authoring the sale and conveyance of five parcels of real property to Habitat for Humanity of Kershaw County; authorizing a Memorandum on Understanding between the City of Camden and Habitat for Humanity of Kershaw County; and other matters relating thereto.

Council/Staff Topics

City Manager Jon Rorie provided an update on the price of natural gas and also stated that most questions regarding the electric rates increase for FY 2023 can be found on our website at www.cityofcamden.org.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 4:40 pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk