



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford
Mayor Pro Tem Joanna B. Craig
Councilmember Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Stephen R. Smoak
Councilmember Hamilton Boykin (absent)
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 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Stephen R. Smoak opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Graham, voted unanimously to adopt the regular meeting minutes of May 23, 2023. Councilmember Smoak abstained from voting due to his absence at the May 23rd meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to proclaim June as Small Cities Month and June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Day.

PRESENTATION

Bob Giangiorgi presented a presentation on the Kershaw County Trails mission/purpose, their why, activities, issues, and recommendations. Kershaw County Trails mission/purpose is to advocate for more trails in Kershaw County, communicate availability of existing trails and promote physical movement for children and adults.

For additional information, see presentation titled KC Trails (Run-Walk-Bike-Paddle)

CONSENT AGENDA -none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rusty Major spoke during comment period giving thanks to each Historic Landmarks Commission members for their role in commission duties.

Ernestine Adams spoke regarding the notice she received in her bill in reference to the scheduled public hearing for increases in utilities and voiced her concerns on the timing the notice was mailed and received. Mrs. Adams also suggested a community meeting to inform the public of the increases.



PUBLIC HEARING

William Guerry Felder of Kirkwood Circle, spoke against the proposed utility rate increases and expressed that people are on fixed income and cannot afford increases. Mr. Felder also expressed that he has had issues with sewer and trash pick-up.

Bradley K. Diefendorf of Cantey Pkwy spoke, regarding being opposed to the base change increase with an estimated expiration date, base rate increase based on city being highest provider in the per kwh, and notices should be provided more than two calendar days.

Ann Davis Spoke regarding her concerns of the proposed utility rate increases and request an explanation of when the increases would take place on their bills.

Edward Clowder spoke regarding his concerns of the proposed utility rate increases. His concern is people are on fixed incomes and can't afford increased. He also spoke about community resources and non-profit organization and asked if the city is aware of how many citizens are eligible for these services.

Phyllis Dye of Doby Street, spoke regarding her concerns on trash pick-up and her community looking like a dumping ground. She states that trash pick-up is not on a regular schedule in her neighborhood.

Ordinance #2023-014 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Graham, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance revising the regulations for operating a Taxi Service in the City of Camden.

Ordinance #2023-015 2nd Reading

Council on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance amending and restating certain provisions of the Title II, Chapter 39 of the City of Camden Code of Ordinances pertaining to exemptions; approving the engagement of an Insurance Consultant to advise city retirees on Insurance related matters; and other matters related thereto.

Ordinance #2023-016 1st Reading



Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing the distribution of Local Option Sales Tax Revenues; and other matters relating thereto.

Ordinance #2023-017 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance to authorize the sale of certain real property located in the city of Camden pursuant to auction bid.

Ordinance #2023-018 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to approve Council to consider an ordinance approving the operating and capital budget for the City of Camden, South Carolina for fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and other matters related thereto.

Council/Staff Topics

- Financial Policy – Community Promotions

City Manager Jonathan Rorie presented a brief presentation to council regarding a proposed policy for the funding of community projects, programs and services; a resolution to adopt the policy will be forthcoming.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:02 pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk