



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford (absent)
Mayor Pro Tem Joanna B. Craig
Councilmember Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Stephen R. Smoak
Councilmember Hamilton Boykin
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 Pro Tem Joanna Craig called the Camden City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Hamilton Boykin opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to adopt the regular meeting minutes of November 28, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION -

Council presented a proclamation in honor of the late Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby honoring his 100th birthday and legacy. Those in attendance to receive the proclamations was Lauren Cooke.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Councilmember Boykin, voted unanimously to approve the 2024 City Council Meeting Schedule and the 2024 Holiday Schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

John Allen of Camden, spoke on general topics that he was concerned about. Some topics of his concerns were: Trash pick-up fees, ordinances changes posted online, impact fees, budget prioritizing, the city App, and should council meeting be videoed.

Gurrey Felder of Kirkwood Circle spoke regarding concerns about city staff, the downtown area, Camden Archives and Museum and a letter he wrote to staff and didn't receive a reply.



ORDINANCE 2023-031 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Boykin, followed by comments from council, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance of the City of Camden, South Carolina, repealing and replacing sections 150.07 and 150.30 of Camden, South Carolina Code of Ordinances with the most recent edition of the International Property Maintenance Code, subject to certain amendments, and other matters related thereto.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem for Year 2024

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to approve Joanna Craig as Mayor Pro Tem for Year 2024.

Council/Staff Topics

Councilmember Graham gave information on two programs that the Santee-Lynches is providing through grant funding. The programs are available until September 2024 and are as follow:

The Santee-Lynches Aging Department currently has Veteran grant funding to assist Veterans who are 60 years of age or older with the following services:

- \$300 voucher to assist the Veteran with transportation to/from doctor's appointments and non-essential trips such as the grocery store.
- Rental assistance
- Utility assistance
- Pest Control
- Food boxes

In addition, the aging Department is utilizing American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to provide Pest Control services to seniors who are 60 years of age or older. Since the implementation of this program, we have found a great need for the following pest control services across our four-county region.

- Bed bug treatment
- Roaches
- Flea treatment
- Mice trapping
- Snakes

Also, the SCAC scholarship program is now taking applications for 2024. A \$5,000 one-time scholarship is available to high school students who plan to attend a college or university in South Carolina. Students from Clarendon and Kershaw County are able to apply.

[SCAC Scholarship Programs | South Carolina Association of Counties \(sccounties.org\)](https://www.sccounties.org)



Please contact Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Government for additional information regarding these programs.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 6:00pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk