



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Jonathan Rorie
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Young
Attorney Lawrence Flynn
Chronicle-Independent Martin Cahn
and interested citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford called the Camden City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford opened the council meeting with the invocation.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Graham, voted unanimously to approve the proposed agenda as presented for April 23, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council, on motion by Councilmember Boykin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to adopt the regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Council on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to proclaim the month of May 2024 as Historic Preservation Month. William Rusty Major, member of the Historic Landmarks Commission was in attendance to receive the proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Councilmember Boykin, voted unanimously approve the following Consent agenda items:

- Resolution #2024-007 to support Black River Road and Hwy 521/Century Blvd.
- Resolution #2024-008 to authorize a lease-purchase financing in an amount not exceeding two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000), and other matters relating thereto.
- Quarterly Reports – January – March 2024 Archives & Museum, Building Department, Finance Report, Fire Department, Human Resource, Municipal Court



Planning Department, Police Department, Public Works (Utilities), Revolutionary War Visitor Center, Tennis Center, Tourism Marketing & Development.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edward Edgerton of Marietta Lake Road spoke regarding his concerns of the utility rates and ask council to show grace when considering increasing the fees.

Ordinance 2004-010 2nd Reading

Council, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance regarding an application for a special property tax assessment for a historic property; and other matters related thereto. 826 Broad Street. Councilmember Graham abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

Public Hearing

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to enter into a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the City of Camden's proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Tauni Hawker of Edingburgh Castle Lane spoke regarding her concerns roads. She suggested seeking federal money to fund local paving projects rather than raising millage on taxpayers.

Carol Wetzel of Hackamore Lane spoke regarding her concerns of increase millage being unfair to those on fixed income.

After hearing no further comments and discussion, and a call for public comments; Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Councilmember Smoak, voted unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:09 pm.

Ordinance 2004-011 1st Reading

Council, on motion by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Craig, voted unanimously to approve an ordinance authorizing the operating and capital budget for the City of Camden, South Carolina for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; Authorizing and implementing a schedule of rates and charges, including the imposition of an electric system infrastructure fee; and other matters related thereto.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Councilmember Graham, voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 6:11pm to receive Legal Advice – Threats Re- Amortization Period.

REGULAR SESSION

Council, on motion by Councilmember Smoak, seconded by Councilmember Graham, unanimously agreed to re-enter Regular Session at 6:35 pm. No action taken.

Council/Staff Topics - none

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the Council Meeting at 6:40pm.

Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk