

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2020

Robert A. Pettit, Mayor

*J. Robert Brooks, Councilmember
Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember
Fletcher L. Dickert, Councilmember
David W. McGhee, Councilmember
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of North Augusta of December 7, 2020 having been duly publicized was called to order by Mayor Pettit at 7:01 p.m. and then adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Per Section 30-4-80, (e) notice of the meeting by email was sent out to the current maintained "Agenda Mailout" list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Mayor Pettit rendered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Mayor Pettit, Councilmembers Brooks, Dickert, McGhee, Presnell and Toole. Councilmember Carpenter was absent.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Cammie T. Hayes, Director of Finance and General Services; Richard L. Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; James E. Sutton,

Director of Public Services; Libby E. Hodges, Director of Planning and Development; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology; and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk. Members of the public and media were also present.

The minutes of the Study Session and Regular Council meeting of November 16, 2020 were approved by general consent.

ITEM 5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Ordinance No. 2020-34 – Amending Article 3, Zoning Districts, of the North Augusta Development Code, Chapter 18 of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina Code of Ordinances; Ordinance – Final Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Dickert, second of Councilmember Presnell, Council agreed to consider on final reading an ordinance to amend Article 3, Zoning Districts, of the North Augusta Development Code, Chapter 18 of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina Code of Ordinances. There were no comments from citizens or Council. The final reading of the ordinance was approved with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Please see a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-34
AMENDING ARTICLE 3, ZONING DISTRICTS, OF THE NORTH AUGUSTA
DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH
CAROLINA CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2007, by Ordinance 2007-22, the North Augusta City Council adopted the North Augusta Development Code which is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and which incorporates all City zoning and land development regulations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5.3.3.2 Text Amendments in Article 5, Approval Procedures, of the North Augusta Development Code, any person, property owner, board, commission, department or the City Council may apply for a change in zoning ordinance text; and

WHEREAS, the North Augusta Planning Commission, following a October 15, 2020, public hearing, reviewed and considered a request by the Planning and Development Department to amend Article 3, Section 3.8.6 entitled "NP, Neighborhood Preservation Corridor Overlay District," of the North Augusta Development Code to allow Special Exceptions within the overlay. The Planning Commission report has been provided to City Council for consideration.

The Mayor and City Council have reviewed the request as well as the report from the Planning Commission and has determined that the change to the text of the Development Code is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF, THAT:

I. The North Augusta Development Code, Chapter 18 of The City of North Augusta, South Carolina Code of Ordinances, Providing for New Zoning and Land Development Regulations for the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, is hereby amended and shall read as described in the following section. The section of the Code affected by the proposed amendment is identified by the section number.

A. Article 3, NP, Neighborhood Preservation Corridor Overlay District, Section 3.8.6.2, Permitted Uses, is amended to read:

3.8.6.2.1 Permitted nonresidential uses may be located on the first floor only. Upper stories may be used for residential and accessory storage uses only unless allowed by Special Exception. Parking is not permitted as a principal use.

And

3.8.6.2.3 Uses which require a special exception may be granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals with conditions.

B. Any other needed formatting will be edited to reflect new page numbers, titles or item numbering associated with the text changes outlined herein.

II. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

III. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption on second reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

ITEM 6. ELECTIONS: Ordinance No. 2020-35 – Complying with Sections 10-1 and 10-2 of the Code of Laws of North Augusta, South Carolina by Setting the Dates for Municipal Party Primaries, Conventions, and Partisan General Elections, Times for Filing of Nominating Petitions, Certification of Candidates by Parties and Certification of Candidates by Municipal Election Commission; Ordinance – Final Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Brooks, second of Councilmember Toole, Council agreed to consider on final reading an ordinance complying with Sections 10-1 and 10-2 of the Code of Laws of North Augusta, South Carolina by Setting the Dates for Municipal Party Primaries, Conventions, and Partisan General Elections, Times for Filing of Nominating Petitions, Certification of Candidates by Parties and Certification of Candidates by Municipal Election Commission. There were no comments from citizens and Council. The ordinance was approved on final reading with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

Please see a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-35
COMPLYING WITH SECTIONS 10-1 AND 10-2 OF THE
CODE OF LAWS OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
BY SETTING THE DATES FOR MUNICIPAL PARTY PRIMARIES, CONVENTIONS,
AND PARTISAN GENERAL ELECTION, TIMES FOR FILING OF NOMINATING
PETITIONS, CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES BY PARTIES, AND
CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES BY MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF, THAT:

- I. The 2021 Municipal General Election for Purposes of electing the mayor and three members of City Council for the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, with a run-off, if necessary, on May 11, 2021.

- II. The filing and certification dates are hereby set for the 2021 Municipal Party Primaries and General Election as follows:
 - A. The time for entry of candidates into party primaries or conventions shall commence at 9:00 A. M., December 14, 2020, and shall end at 12:00 Noon, December 21, 2020. Entries shall be made to the chairperson of the respective parties.
 - B. Primary elections, if selected by a party, shall be held on February 9, 2021, with a run-off, if necessary, on February 23, 2021.
 - C. Conventions, if selected by a party, shall be held no later than February 9, 2021.
 - D. The deadline for filing nominating petitions to the Municipal Election Commission shall be 12:00 Noon, February 10, 2021. Candidates may file by petition with no less than 5% of qualified electors.

- E. The deadline for parties to certify candidates selected by primary or convention to the Municipal Election Commission shall be 12:00 Noon, February 26, 2021.
 - F. The certification of the candidates by petition, primary, or convention by the Municipal Election Commission shall be no later than 12:00 Noon, March 1, 2021.
- III. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.
- IV. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption on second reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

ITEM 7. FINANCE: Resolution No. 2020-56 – A Resolution Authorizing Distribution of a One-Time Bonus Payment to Employees in Lieu of a Merit Based Increase in 2020 and Authorizing Distribution of a 2% Merit Based Employee Pay Increase in 2021

On the motion of Councilmember McGhee, second of Councilmember Presnell, Council agreed to consider a resolution authorizing distribution of a one-time bonus payment to employees in lieu of a merit based increase in 2020 and authorizing distribution of a 2% merit based employee pay increase in 2021. Councilmember Brooks stated he was not in favor of the resolution because it the one-time bonus payment in 2020 did not allow for a pension benefit for employees. Council approved the resolution with a 5-1 vote. The Mayor and Councilmembers Dickert, McGhee, Presnell and Toole voted to adopt the resolution. Councilmember Brooks voted against the resolution.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-56

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF A ONE-TIME BONUS PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES IN LIEU OF A MERIT BASED INCREASE IN 2020 AND AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF A 2% MERIT BASED EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASE IN 2021

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2019, City Council adopted a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020 which included a 2% merit based employee pay increase effective July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City determined that amendments to the General Fund and Riverfront Central Core Funds were necessary due to the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2020, City Council adopted a balanced budget adjustment retaining the 2% merit based employee pay increase with the implementation date subject to review of the City’s financial performance amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the City’s current financial performance as of October 31, 2020, the City estimates a transfer of surplus to the Capital Projects Fund in excess of the amount transferred in the prior year; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to proceed with a one-time 1% bonus payment to eligible employees in lieu of the budgeted 2% mid-year retroactive merit based increase for 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2020 City Council adopted a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on December 31, 2021 that includes the 2% merit based increase originally anticipated to be distributed in 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Augusta, in meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, that:

1. Funding for the one-time 1% bonus payment to eligible employees is to come from the City’s operating funds not to exceed \$90,000 from the General Fund, \$5,000 from the Stormwater Fund, \$16,000 from the Sanitation Fund, \$19,000 from the Utilities Fund and \$600 from the Riverfront/Central Core Fund.
2. Implementation of a 2% merit based employee increase will be effective with the first full payroll in January 2021 and will be distributed based on annual performance evaluations for 2020.
3. Funds for the one-time 1% bonus payment in 2020 and 2% merit based increase in 2021 shall be distributed in accordance with the criteria presented in Exhibit A.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS THE ___ DAY OF _____, 2020.

EXHIBIT A

Eligibility Criteria for a One-Time Bonus Payment

1. Employee must be an active employee at the time of distribution and have a hire date prior to October 1 of the bonus year.
2. Employee must have met standards on their most current performance evaluation.

3. Full-time employees with hire dates prior to July 1 of the bonus year will receive 100% of the bonus payment. Part-time employees with hire dates prior to July 1 of the bonus year will receive 50% of the bonus payment.
4. Full-time employees with hire dates of July 1 to September 30 of the bonus year will receive 50% of the bonus payment. Part-time employees with hire dates of July 1 to September 30 of the bonus year will receive 25% of the bonus payment
5. Any deviation from these criteria are to be reviewed by the Human Resources Manager and approved by the City Administrator.

Eligibility Criteria for a Merit Based Pay Increase

1. Employee must be a full-time active employee at the time of distribution.
2. Employee must have had an annual performance evaluation and met standards for the year prior to the distribution.
3. Merit is not to be in addition to other merit increases such as salary adjustment on grade, promotion, or raise budgeted to begin in the distribution year.
4. Any deviation from these criteria are to be reviewed by the Human Resources Manager and approved by the City Administrator.

ITEM 8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Planning Commission Recommendation Memorandum #20-033 and Project Staff Report: ANZ20-036 Mayfield Drive, Greenway Extension; Receipt of Information

At the November 19, 2020, Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed the zoning for application ANX20-036, Mayfield Drive parcel 005-10-05-016. The Commission unanimously recommended a P, Public Use zoning for the parcel. Council agreed by general consensus to receive the report for information.

ITEM 9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Jim Clifford, City Administrator, announced due to an increase in COVID-19 outbreaks and in line with Governor McMaster's extension of the State of Emergency for the entire state, Council's next meeting on December 21, 2020 will be held virtually.

ITEM 19. CITIZENS COMMENTS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

A. Citizen Comments:

Stetson Corbitt (Please see attached Speaker Form.)

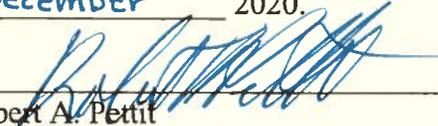
B. Council Comments:

Councilmember McGhee announced it was the Lions Club's decision to cancel this year's Christmas Parade due to COVID-19 concerns and the limited number of registered participants.

Councilmember Eric Presnell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF
December 2020.



Robert A. Pettit
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

SPEAKER FORM

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 12/7

THIS FORM WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

NAME: Stephen Corbett

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC: Voting

PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR COMMENTS TO COUNCIL.

(For example: I support the resolution because ...)

SUMMARY Question for voting protocols during primary

