

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2021

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

*J. Robert Brooks, Councilmember
Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember
Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember
David W. McGhee, Councilmember
Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember
Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember*

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Public Power Hour and regular City Council meeting were streamed for public viewing online at: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" on [www.Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/cityofna) and "City of North Augusta Public Information" on [www.YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofna)

PUBLIC POWER HOUR

The June 7, 2021 Public Power Hour began at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole. Also in attendance were J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

- John Felak spoke to Council regarding parking along Carolina Park and Carolina Avenue.
- Jan Menger spoke to Council about a safety issue concerning the Greenway crossing at Pisgah Road.
- Dianne L'Heureux spoke to Council about concerns regarding Riverside Village.
- Saren Bright spoke to Council regarding sidewalks and lighting around her neighborhood at Pershing Drive. She also shared ideas from her neighborhood newsletter.

The Public Power Hour concluded at 5:40 p.m. Copies of speakers' comments are attached, as provided.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of North Augusta of June 7, 2021 having been duly publicized was called to order by Mayor Williams at 6:00 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at the City Facebook page: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" and City YouTube page: "City of North Augusta Public Information" then adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Following the regular meeting, City Council adjourned to the Council Conference Room for an Executive Session. 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 Williams rendered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole.

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachelle Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Cammie T. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Richard L. Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; James E. Sutton, Director of Public Services; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Lillian E. (Libby) Hodges, Director of Planning and Development; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

The minutes of the City Council meeting of May 17, 2021 and the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Study Session were approved by general consent.

ITEM 5. PROCLAMATION: Scoliosis Early Detection Awareness Month

Mayor Williams proclaimed June 2021 as Scoliosis Early Detection Awareness Month. Elisabeth Harkins was in attendance to receive the proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, scoliosis, the abnormal curvature of the spine, is a condition which affect an estimated 6 to 9 million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, primary onset of scoliosis is between ages 10 to 15 with females being five times more likely to require treatment, and scoliosis can cause pain, reduced respiratory function, and

limited mobility in otherwise-healthy children., and approximately 1 in 6 children diagnosed with this disease will eventually require active medical treatment and;

WHEREAS, screening programs allow for early detection and for treatment opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition which has no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, raising public awareness of scoliosis is vital, helping children, parents, and health care providers understand, diagnose, and treat this disease and reduce the pain and suffering of those it affects.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Briton S. Williams, Mayor of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, do hereby claim June, 2021 as

SCOLIOSIS EARLY DETECTION AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, to be affixed this 7th day of June, 2021.

ITEM 6. PROCLAMATION: National Garden Week – June 6-12, 2021

Mayor Williams proclaimed June 6-12, 2021 as National Garden Week in the City of North Augusta.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

WHEREAS, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures sharing our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

WHEREAS, Gardening serves as a challenging and productive activity for all citizens, those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

WHEREAS, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, and teaches that rewards come from diligent efforts; and

WHEREAS, the North Augusta Council of Garden Clubs enriches our city by maintaining Billie's Butterfly Garden, providing a scholarship for a North Augusta High School senior, and sponsoring campers for Camp Wildwood.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Briton S. Williams, Mayor of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of June 6-12, 2021 as

National Garden Week

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, to be affixed this 7th day of June 2021.

ITEM 7. ZONING: Ordinance No. 2021-05 – To Amend the Zoning Map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by Rezoning ±51.20 Acres of Land Owned by Aiken County Board of Education, Aiken County Tax Parcel # 023-05-04-003, from PD, Planned Development, to P, Public Use; Ordinance – Second Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Presnell, second of Councilmember McGhee, Council agreed to consider an ordinance on second reading to amend the zoning map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by rezoning ±51.20 acres of land owned by Aiken County Board of Education, Aiken County Tax Parcel # 023-05-04-003, from PD, Planned Development, to P, Public Use. There were no comments from citizens. Council voted 7-0 to adopt the ordinance on first reading.

Please see a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05
TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA,
SOUTH CAROLINA BY REZONING ± 51.20 ACRES OF LAND OWNED BY AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION, AIKEN COUNTY TAX PARCEL #023-05-01-003,
FROM PD, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT, TO P, PUBLIC USE.

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2007, by Ordinance 2007-22, the North Augusta City Council adopted the North Augusta Development Code and a citywide Zoning Map which is consistent with the City's North Augusta 2017 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5.3, North Augusta Development Code, the North Augusta Planning Commission may recommend amendments to the Zoning Map, provided such amendments are consistent with the City's North Augusta 2017 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the North Augusta Planning Commission, following a April 15, 2021 public hearing, reviewed and considered a request by Aiken County Board of Education, to amend the Official Zoning Map of North Augusta from Planned Development (PD) to Public Use (P). The staff report and results of this hearing have been provided to City Council.

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. A parcel consisting of ±51.20 acres owned by Aiken County Board of Education, is hereby rezoned from PD, Planned Development to P, Public Use. Said property is Aiken County tax map parcel # 023-05-01-003 and specifically identified on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
- II. The Official Zoning Map for the City of North Augusta is hereby amended to reflect this rezoning.
- 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 and final reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

ITEM 8. CITY PROPERTY: Ordinance No. 2021-06 – An Ordinance Granting an Easement to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. for Placement of Facilities to Serve Fire Station One; Ordinance – First Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Brooks, second of Councilmember Carpenter, Council agreed to consider an ordinance on first reading to grant an easement to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. for placement of facilities to serve Fire Station One. There were no comments from citizens. Council voted to adopt the first reading of the ordinance with a 7-0 vote.

Please see for a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO
DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC. FOR PLACEMENT OF FACILITIES TO SERVE FIRE
STATION ONE

WHEREAS, the City of North Augusta is in the process of constructing Fire Station 1 at 311 W. Martintown Road ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the City has requested that Dominion Energy provide underground electric service to the new fire station; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy has requested that the City grant to it an easement upon and across City property that would allow for the placement of equipment necessary for the provision of such electric service; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have reviewed this matter, to include the proposed Deed of Easement and find that it is in the best interest of the citizens of North Augusta that such easement be granted.

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 City grant to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. an easement over and across City property known as Tax Parcel Numbers **007-07-07-003**.
- II. The City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Deed of Easement and any other documents necessary in order to complete this matter.
- III. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption on third and final reading.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

ITEM 9. PUBLIC SERVICES: Resolution No. 2021-19 – Accepting the Donation of Granite Slabs from Tony L. Carr, Jr.

On the motion of Councilmember McCauley, second of Councilmember Toole, Council agreed to consider a resolution to accept a donation of twenty three slabs of granite rescued from salvage and given freely with no encumbrances, strings, or expectations from Tony L. Carr, Jr. There were no citizen comments. Council approved the resolution with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19
ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF GRANITE SLABS FROM TONY L. CARR, JR.

WHEREAS, Tony L. Carr, Jr. wishes to donate salvaged granite slabs, to the City of North Augusta for use in a public space; and

WHEREAS, the City's Property Maintenance Department has expressed an interest in receiving these materials and has identified various projects where these materials could be used, such as benches, walls, art pieces, and waterfalls.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council in meeting duly assembled and by authority thereof, on behalf of the citizens of North Augusta, gratefully accepts the donation of this material.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council wishes to express sincere appreciation to Tony L. Carr, Jr. for this contribution toward helping to build North Augusta's quality of life that is enjoyed by all citizens of the community.

DONE, RATIFIED, AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

ITEM 10. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Resolution No. 2021-20 – Accepting a Deed of Dedication for the Streets, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater Collection, and Associated Easements and Rights of Way, Along with a Maintenance Guarantee and Letter of Credit for Austin Heights, Section 1

On the motion of Councilmember Toole, second of Councilmember Presnell, Council agreed to consider a resolution to accept a Deed of Dedication for the streets, sanitary sewer, stormwater collection, and associated easements and rights of way, along with a Maintenance Guarantee and Letter of Credit for Austin Heights. Section 1. With no comments from citizens, Council adopted the resolution with a vote of 7-0.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20
ACCEPTING A DEED OF DEDICATION FOR THE STREETS,
SANITARY SEWER, STORMWATER COLLECTION, AND ASSOCIATED EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF
WAY, ALONG WITH A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE AND LETTER OF CREDIT,
FOR AUSTIN HEIGHTS, SECTION 1

WHEREAS, Summerfield SC, LLC developed Austin Heights, Section 1 according to the requirements of the North Augusta Planning Commission and the City, and owns the streets, utilities and easements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §5.8.4.3 of the North Augusta Development Code, the Director of Planning and Development and the City Engineer approved the final subdivision plat for recording on March 3, 2021 and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City that, upon approval of a final subdivision plat, the City will, following inspection by the City's Engineering department, accept a deed of dedication for the streets, utilities, etc. for the purpose of ownership and maintenance when said deed is accompanied by a maintenance guarantee; and

WHEREAS, a maintenance guarantee and supporting letter of credit accompany the deed; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has made final inspection of the subject improvements and these improvements meet City standards.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, in meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, do hereby accept a deed of dedication for:

ALL those strips or parcels of land, and appurtenances to said premises belonging or in anywise appertaining therewith, situate, lying and being in the City of North Augusta, County of Aiken, State of South Carolina, in Austin Heights, Section I, being 50' Right of Ways known as Greyton Circle, Bakerville Lane, and Kingburgh Lane, and also Parcel 1 Detention Pond containing 103,993 S.F. or 2.39 Acres more or less, as more particularly shown and described on that certain plat of survey prepared by H&C Surveying, Inc. for Summerfield SC, LLC dated February 27, 2020, and recorded in Plat Book 62, Pages 790-794, in the Office of the RMC of Aiken County, South Carolina. Reference is hereby made to said Plat for a complete and accurate description of said property hereby conveyed.

ALSO, All and singular, those certain water distribution and sewage collection systems, including but not limited to all pipes, mains, manholes, valves, meters and other improvements and appurtenances in any way connected therewith, excluding services lines from the lot lines to the improvements located thereon developed or extending within the lot lines of undeveloped lots situate, lying, and being in Aiken County, South Carolina, in Austin Heights Subdivision, Section I, being more fully shown and designates on that plat prepared by H&C Surveying, Inc. for Summerfield SC, LLC.

ALSO, all water and sanitary sewer easements and appurtenances to said premises belonging or in any way incident or appertaining as shown on the above referenced plats.

ALSO, all easements and appurtenances to said premises belonging or in any way incident or appertaining, as shown on the above referenced plats, including but accepting not limited to:

Easement No. 1 – 1,107 S.F. or 0.03 AC
Easement No. 2 – 1,026 S.F. or 0.02 AC
Easement No. 3 – 3,360 S.F. or 0.08 AC
Easement No. 4 – 719 S.F. or 0.02 AC
Easement No. 5 – 3,672 S.F. or 0.08 AC
Easement No. 6 – 2,479 S.F. or 0.06 AC

Easement No. 7 – 1,668 S.F. or 0.4 AC
Easement No. 8 – 4,547 S.F. or 0.10 AC
Easement No. 9 – 1,012 S.F. or 0.02 AC
Easement No. 10 – 19,642 S.F. or 0.45 AC
Easement No. 11 – 3,221 S.F. or 0.07 AC

This being a portion of the same property conveyed to Summerfield SC, LLC by deed of Dottie Berniece Summers, as Trustee of the Summers Family Trust dated July 11, 1985, on January 22, 2019, and being recorded in the Office of the RMC in Aiken County, South Carolina, book 4763, Pages 1800-1802.

Tax Map and Parcel: portion of 011-05-01-001

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Maintenance Guarantee and letter of credit in the amount of \$155,000.00 are hereby accepted.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

ITEM 11. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Planning Commission Appointment - Recommendation by Mayor

Upon election to the Office of Mayor in April of this year, Briton Williams resigned his position on the City's Planning Commission. Mayor Williams recommended Robert S. "Bob" Bigger be appointed to fill that unexpired term of office through January 2024. With the motion of Councilmember Toole, second of Councilmember Carpenter, Council concurred unanimously with the appointment.

ITEM 12. HUMAN RESOURCES: Resolution No. 2021-21 – To Authorize the Contract for Employment of Interim Planning & Development Director

On the motion of Councilmember Presnell, second of Councilmember Brooks, Council agreed to consider a resolution to authorize the contract for Thomas L. "Tommy" Paradise's employment as the Interim Planning and Development Director. There were no comments from citizens. The resolution was adopted with a 7-0 unanimous vote of Council.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-21
TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYMENT
OF INTERIM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, as a result of the resignation by Lillian E. "Libby" Hodges, former Director of Planning & Development, the Mayor with the authorization of Council has made a determination to employ Thomas L. Paradise as the Interim Planning & Development Director; and,

WHEREAS, an Employment Agreement has been negotiated related to such employment; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the City to move forward with the employment of Mr. Paradise and entering into a Contractual Employment Agreement with him.

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

1. Thomas L. Paradise is to be employed by the City as the Interim Planning & Development Director;
2. That the employment of Mr. Paradise, to include term of employment, salary, duties, compensation and other related matters are specifically covered by the Employment Agreement that is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A";
3. That the Mayor is specifically authorized to execute such agreement on behalf of the City.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS ____ DAY OF June, 2021.

Please see ATTACHMENT #12 for a copy of the Employment Agreement.

ITEM 13. CITY CODE: Ordinance No. 2021-07 – Amending Section 12-21 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of North Augusta by Establishing Specific Exceptions to Said Section; Ordinance – First Reading

On the motion of Presnell, second of Carpenter, Council agreed to consider an ordinance on first reading amending Section 12-21 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of North Augusta by establishing specific exceptions to Section 12-21. Jim Clifford, City Administrator, explained the proposed amendment would change the noise ordinance time of enforcement to 11:59 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings; allow the City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator to approve permits for special events; and allow GreenJackets Baseball to finish games that take longer or even double headers within the City's noise ordinance specified time.

The following citizens offered comments:

Dianne L'Heureux (see attached Speaker Form)
John Felak
Missy Martin
Ryan Abel

Councilmember Toole, with the second of Councilmember McCauley, made a motion for Council to consider an amendment to the ordinance to change the time from 11:59 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The motion failed with Councilmembers Toole, McCauley and Carpenter voting for the amendment. Mayor Williams and Councilmembers Brooks, McGhee, and Presnell voted against the amendment.

After further discussion of Council, Councilmember Presnell, with the second of Councilmember Brooks, made a motion for Council to consider an amendment to the ordinance to change the time from 11:59 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The amendment was approved with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

The first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-07 was approved unanimously as amended with a vote of 7-0.

Please see for a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07
AMENDING SECTION 12-21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
FOR THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA BY ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS TO
SAID SECTION

WHEREAS, Section 12-21 of the City Code for the City of North Augusta was adopted by the Council as part of the 1956 Code with said provision being effective on or after April 9, 1957; and

WHEREAS, said Ordinance has been carried forward in all Codes of Ordinances for the City; and

WHEREAS, substantial change has occurred in the City with the City now having sports venues and entertainment districts that were not present or anticipated at the time that such Ordinance was originally adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that specific exemptions to said Ordinance are necessary and appropriate at this time.

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:

- A. The following specific exceptions to the provisions of 12-21 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of North Augusta are established:

The following areas and usages are exempted from the time limitations of 12-21 (1) (2) (13) with said areas bring subject to time limitations of not between the hours of ~~11:59~~ 11:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. On all other days of the week the time limitations as set forth in 12-21 (1) (2) (13) remain applicable unless specifically waived for an event by the City Administrator or Assistant Administrator.

Such usages are also specifically determined to not be in violation of 12-21 (a) and (b).

- (1) The use of property by the State, or any political subdivision of the State, or any of their lessees, licenses, or permittees for the purpose of promoting, producing or holding cultural entertainment, athletic, or patriotic events including, but not limited to concerts, other musical performances and festivals.
 - (2) The portion of the area known as Riverside Village bordered by Esplanade Ave, Railroad Avenue, Georgia Avenue, and the Savannah River. Such area being considered an Entertainment Zone.
- B. In the event of an official baseball game, taking place in the City Stadium, now known as SRP Park, is delayed beyond the permitted specific time as allowed by the Ordinance, such game may continue to be played and shall be exempted.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2021.

ITEM 14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

City Administrator, Jim Clifford, thanked Libby Hodges for her leadership as Director of the Planning and Development Department and wished her the best as she transitions to another position in the private sector.

ITEM 15. PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

A. Citizen Comments:

- Seve Adigun spoke to Council regarding adding a sidewalk on Five Notch from Pisgah Road to Georgia Avenue and a traffic signal at Gregory Lake Road and W. Five Notch Road.

B. Council Comments:

- Mayor Williams announced a contribution of \$500 was made from the City Council Contingencies Fund to sponsor the Aiken County Public Schools 2021 Graduation Ceremonies.
- Mayor Williams shared his participation the previous weekend at the “Chalk It Up Block Party” on Pershing Drive and a block party on Torry Avenue.
- Councilmember Presnell invited Mayor and Council to his neighborhood’s block party on July 4th.

ITEM 16. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

There being no further business, Council adjourned the regular Council meeting at 7:18 p.m. and voted to move into Council's Conference Room to enter into Executive Session

ITEM 17. LEGAL: Executive Session – Request of the City Administrator


In compliance with Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) the City Administrator requested an executive session for the purpose of:

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim

On the motion of Councilmember Toole, second of Councilmember Carpenter, Council agreed to enter into Executive Session and moved into Council's Conference Room. Discussion was be related to City property identified as Aiken County Tax Parcels #007-07-06-003, #007-07-06-004, and #007-07-06-005.

On the motion of Councilmember McGhee second of Councilmember Brooks, Council voted 7-0 to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. Upon returning to open session, Council did NOT take action on the matter discussed in Executive Session.

APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF
June 2021.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

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Mr. Mayor and Ladies and Gentlemen of Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I would like to bring to your attention a safety matter that relates to the Greenway crossing at Pisgah Road near the intersection with Five Notch Road.

Over the course of several months, my husband and I have observed that the blinking yellow lights that alert motorists to the approach of pedestrian traffic on the Greenway do not seem to be working properly.

On Sunday afternoon, we monitored the intersection for approximately 30 minutes. During that time, we observed both the yellow lights for traffic and the red lights for pedestrians. The yellow light on the right side as you drive toward Five Notch was blinking almost constantly, whether there were pedestrians coming on the Greenway or not. The yellow light on the other side rarely blinked at all even when pedestrians were coming from the direction of I-20 toward Knotty Pine Drive.

The red lights are apparently meant to warn pedestrians of the possibility of approaching vehicles, and the yellow

lights are apparently meant to warn vehicles that there could be pedestrians on the Greenway approaching the crossing. The lights flashed either almost constantly for what appeared to be little reason at all, or flashed randomly, or infrequently, seemingly without any connection to the movement of vehicles on the street or the people on the Greenway.

We observed numerous vehicles approaching the crossing from one direction or the other. Most slowed down considerably, simply out of caution, regardless of what the warning lights were doing. Others seemed to disregard the lights and the fact that this is a pedestrian crossing area, and almost never slowed down at all. These lights seem to operate inconsistently with regard to what we believe their intent is.

Others have recognized this issue as well. While we were monitoring and making our notes, a friend stopped to see if we needed some help. She noticed that we had been there when she passed by and were still there when she returned. We told her what we were doing, and she commented that she, too, recognized that the lights were not consistent.

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My concern is that with this randomness and inconsistency, there is a strong possibility that vehicle drivers and pedestrians might be ignoring the warning lights completely.

I ask that the City evaluate all the lights at this crossing, and make any changes necessary to improve the safety of the area and minimize the potential for a disastrous accident.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Jan Menger
601 Savannah Barony Drive
803-646-4481

Thank you, Mayor Williams, for offering the Power Hour opportunity for residents to share ideas and concerns with you and city council prior to council meetings. I appreciate the gesture, but I must say that we do have a very responsive city council. Honestly, I rarely feel a need to call council members and am appreciative of their time when I do call.

I've been a resident of North Augusta since September of 2009, having spent most of my life across the river.

I have completely embraced this community. And I use that word intentionally. Not only is there a sense of community here, there is a sense of pride in this community. It's evident when crossing the bridge. Roy Kibler is a treasure and keeps our city looking beautiful year round. The attention to detail is unparalleled in the CSRA.

So when the city was offered a deal for a baseball stadium, I was all in for Project Jackson speaking in its favor at nearly every hearing.

During these hearings, residents were assured that attention to noise and lights and traffic would be contained. All of which came to fruition I'm happy to say.

Rarely does a project hit the target straight out of the gate, but we're pretty darn close.

I walk there nearly every day now, frequent the businesses and have a 5 year contract as a Green Jackets season ticket holder. I want Riverside Village to succeed.

The growing pains that I see are centered around cleanliness and parking. I'd also like to weigh in on the issue of changing the noise ordinance. I'm only offering my suggestions in the event they haven't been previously considered.

First – cleanliness

The promenade between Crowne Plaza and the stadium side of Riverside Village seems to be an unclaimed property for clean-up. Cigarette butts, bottle caps, beer bottles with cigarette butts, and someone's lunch have littered this area since before Memorial Day. Cigarette butts are now firmly affixed in the spaces where grout doesn't exist between cement tiles. There are no trash cans, ash trays or other means of containing debris. I'm guessing this is a simple oversight, but it's

not in keeping with the standard operating principles of this city, and someone needs to take ownership of its cleanliness, whether that responsibility resides with the city, the businesses or a combination of the two.

Second – parking

Visitors to Riverside Village have found all kinds of creative ways to avoid parking in metered spaces. Most of them are unsightly, but some are dangerous. The massive electric meter box, enclosed in a brick structure between Swank and Southbound is clearly marked for 1001 Center Street, which is the Riverside Village complex. There are two signs reading “No parking, tow-away zone” on this structure. This appears to be there for good reason, as emergency vehicles need to have access to this meter box in the event of an electrical problem. Yet, cars park there daily, and to my knowledge have never been towed. Either tow the cars, or remove the signs. It makes the city look careless and thoughtless at best, dangerous, at worst.

Perhaps one of the reasons vehicles park in this space is that there is no loading zone for Swank or Southbound. Rezoning some of the parking in the circle in front of the amphitheater to loading only could possibly alleviate this problem. It would provide easy access for uber pick up and golf cart drop off as well.

3 – increasing the hour at which noise is permitted

It was unclear to me what necessitated this discussion, so I looked into some data that may help clarify whether or not there is actually any real need to increase the time for noise. Here are some facts about North Augusta. We have a population of just over 22,000. Of that population 58% are married and have been married for at least 15 years. 43% are families with kids under 18. The median age is just over 40, 3% higher than the rest of the state. Compared to the state, North Augusta is 529% more dense in population than the rest of the state, and much of that density is along the river. None of this should surprise any of you. North Augusta is basically, a close-knit family community, despite some folks idea that our city is flooded with millennials.

So, who actually benefits from moving the noise ordinance to a later hour? At first blush, it might seem that the food and beverage businesses in Riverside Village would benefit. We know that revenue from beverages are the real money makers in food and beverage. So it may seem like a more profitable venture to keep

customers until late into the night. But that's not what the data shows. The most profitable hours for alcohol sales are from 5pm to 8pm Monday-Friday, accounting for 60.5% of a bar's and restaurant's business. A Nielsen survey showed that food and beverage receipts, after any happy hour discounts, averages \$68.99, \$8 above the average for any other part of the day. On the weekend, happy hour income is only around 50% of the total.

We've been fortunate in North Augusta, that, despite the economic downturn expected with a global pandemic, these businesses have not only stayed afloat, they are on track, as a 10% profit margin is normal.

I submit that decisions should be made on sound evidence, just as I do in my job as an educator, rather than on what feels right, or that our gut says is right. Let's work together to continue to move this glorious community into one that works for everyone.

CHALK IT UP

JUNE 5, 2021

NIGHT RIDER

October 1, 2021

6pm-8pm

Greenway North Augusta

Free helmet give away.

****Must register****

BACK PACK CHECK

Before and after school look in your kids book bag. Frequently checking can improve communication with your child's school. By checking we can avoid items such as weapons, narcotics and spirits from entering the school. I once found an ice cream sandwich saved from lunch in my daughter's school bag...Thank God I check that day!

ME NOT MOMMY MONDAY

- 10/11 ALL ABOUT ME
- 10/25 BALANCING ME
- 11/8 INVISIONING ME
- 11/22 BUILDING ME
- 12/6 BINGO WITH ME
- 12/20 PAINT WITH ME

LEAVE THE LIGHT ON

I know leaving the light on does not sound economically wise but, for a moment, I ask you to consider the neighbor who walks home from work at night and needs a well-lit street; or, the delivery driver attempting to navigate your street for the first time. Did you know having a porch light on deters burglars; because it sends a message, someone is home. How about that awkward knock on the door at night? What good is a doorbell camera with poor lighting? Consider a solar powered lighting option to avoid utility bill increase.

COACH SAREN B

Prepare to win with me, Saren B. Together we will balance your foundation by building your Brain, Body and Business.

With Saren B

For more information contact me:

803.226.6751

Saren_b@yahoo.com

Late Bus Please?

Too often I ride down the street and see school aged children making their way to school and from school. I often give them a ride. Obviously, this is not safe for a number of reasons. Please ask your local school board to invoke the Late Bus in order to keep our kids off the street. The late bus would pick up students who missed the bus and provide bagged breakfast. Going to school is cool, however getting to school safely is cooler.

SPEAKER FORM

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 6/7/2021

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

NAME: Dianne L'Heureux

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC: noise ordinance

PLEASE PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF YOUR COMMENTS TO COUNCIL.

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

SUMMARY

consideration for not increasing
time for noise ordinance