

# North Augusta



*South Carolina's Riverfront*

## MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 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

### STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of June 14, 2021 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, 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." The Study Session adjourned 7:59 p.m.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meetings was sent out by email to the current maintained "Agenda Mailout" list consisting of news media outlets and individuals or companies requesting notification. Notice of the meetings 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.

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; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

### **ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Items for the June 21, 2021 Council Meeting- Council Discussion**

City Administrator, Jim Clifford, led Council's discussion of items for the June 21, 2021 regular meeting.

Please see ATTACHMENT #1 for a copy of the proposed DRAFT items.

**ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:**

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates.

Please see ATTACHMENT #2 for a copy of the "Department Details June 14, 2021."

**ITEM 3. MAYOR'S MATTERS:**

(A) Mayor Williams shared some items related to his "*Mayor's 100 Day Plan*" for the City of North Augusta. He announced the "Meet the Mayor" event planned for Tuesday, June 15 will need to be relocated. The new location will be announce on the City's Social Media and website Tuesday morning. He shared about his visit to the Grand Opening of the OTB-Bargain Outlet. He reminded citizens of North Augusta Forward's Third Thursday scheduled for Thursday, June 17. Finally, he announced Main Street will be one of the topics of the next Study Session, June 28, 2021.

(B) Mayor Williams introduced the Focus Items:

(1) The RECing Crew - Presentation to Council

Rick Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, introduced the Miracle League project by sharing a video and then introduced Pam Stickler, President and Founder of The RECing Crew. The RECing Crew is a non-profit organization established in 2002 by families and friends of those with disabilities to provide leisure and recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities from the CSRA area. The organization reaches families from three counties in Georgia and South Carolina. Ms. Stickler shared The RECing Crew's dream to build a Miracle League field at Riverview Park.

Also, speaking on behalf of The RECing Crew and the proposed Miracle League field were:

Don Bickley  
Don Howard  
Sandy Katterjohn  
Bella Waters  
Will Buchannan  
Trey Ruczko

Please see ATTACHMENT #3B i for more information about The RECing Crew and Miracle League.


(2) Public Safety Headquarters – Council Update

Jim Clifford, City Administrator, updated Council on the status of Public Safety Headquarters. The costs to build the new Public Safety Headquarters building at E. Buena Vista Avenue have increased dramatically since last presented to Council in September 2020. These costs are associated with the construction of a retaining wall and soil stabilization. There are other concerns with the easement and lack of future building and parking expansion. Mr. Clifford reminded Council of a property formerly considered for the project at Georgia Avenue. After reviewing a "Site Prep Side by Side Comparison", Council discussed the pros and cons of the Georgia Avenue property and compared it to the E. Buena Vista Avenue property. A consensus of Council was reached to consider a resolution granting staff authority to present to the Planning Commission for zoning the properties on Georgia Avenue P, for Public Use.


Please see ATTACHMENT #3B ii for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Minutes of Study Session of June 14, 2021

APPROVED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF  
June 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Briton S. Williams  
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Lamar  
City Clerk



**DRAFT: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

June 21, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

The Power Hour and regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)

*CITIZEN COMMENTS: Citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council on each item listed on this agenda. The Mayor will call for comments prior to Council’s discussion. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance to the Council Chambers. Speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic should complete the form. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*

*CITIZEN ASSISTANCE: Individuals needing special assistance or sign interpreter to participate in the meeting, please notify the Administration Department 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
3. **ROLL CALL:**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Council Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2021 and Study Session Minutes of June 14, 2021
5. **PERSONNEL:** Patrick Yonce, Retirement – Recognition of Service to the City of North Augusta

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6. **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 – Second Reading
7. **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 – Second Reading

**NEW BUSINESS**

8. **PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:** Resolution No. 2021-22 – Authorizing Proceeds from the 2021 North Augusta vs. Midland Valley Baseball Game at SRP Park to be used to Purchase New Batting Cage Nets at Riverview Park
9. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Resolution No. 2021-23 - Establishing and Agreeing to Participate in the Lower Savannah Regional HOME Consortium
10. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Resolution No. 2021-24 – Authorizing Receipt of Proceeds from Project Lifesaver of North Augusta and Designating the Proceeds for the Project Lifesaver Program
11. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Resolution No. 2021-25 – A Resolution to Adopt the Update of the Aiken County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2021
12. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Resolution No. 2021-26 – A Resolution to Commit the City of North Augusta’s Participation in a Retail Recruitment Training Program
13. **ADMINISTRATION:** Resolution No. 2021-27 – To Authorize the City to Enter into an Agreement to Become a Host for the Veteran’s Local Government Management Fellowship Program

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

15. PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

A. Citizen Comments - *At this time, citizens may speak to Mayor and City Council regarding matters not listed on the agenda. Speakers shall give their name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance to the Council Chambers. Speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic should complete the form. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*

B. Council Comments -

16. ADJOURNMENT



*Thank you for attending tonight's meeting of the North Augusta City Council.  
To assure every citizen's privilege to speak to City Council and to maintain proper decorum  
the following sections of the City's Code of Ordinances are reprinted.*

Sec. 2-57. Order and decorum generally

(a) By council members. While the council is in session, the members must preserve order and decorum, and a member shall not, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the council, or disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the council or its presiding officer, except as otherwise herein provided.

(b) By other persons. Any person making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while addressing the council shall be forthwith, by the presiding officer, barred from further audience before the council, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote of the council.

Sec. 2-58. Sergeant-at-arms

The public safety director or such members of the public safety department as the director may designate, shall be sergeant-at-arms of the council meetings. They shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the presiding officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the council meeting. Upon instructions of the presiding officer, it shall be the duty of the sergeant-at-arms, to place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest, and cause such to be prosecuted under the provisions of this Code, the complaint to be signed by the presiding officer.

Sec. 2-62. Addressing council--Permission required; exceptions

Any person desiring to address the council shall first secure the permission of the presiding officer so to do.

Sec. 2-63. Same--Procedure

Each person addressing the council shall step up in front of the rail, shall give such person's name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records, and unless further time is granted by the council, shall limit the address to five (5) minutes. All remarks shall be addressed to the council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the council and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the council, without the permission of the presiding officer. No question shall be asked a council member except through the presiding officer.

Sec. 2-64. Persons authorized to be within rail

No person, except city officials or their representatives shall be permitted within the rail in front of the council chamber without the express consent of the council.

## DEPARTMENT DETAILS

for June 14, 2021



### FINANCE:

- Utilities Updates: Cycle 1 Disconnect 6/16 and 6/17  
Cycle 2 Due Date 6/18  
Cycle 1 Due Date 7/6  
Cycle 2 Disconnect 7/7 and 7/8

### PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Utility staff will be conducting smoke testing of the wastewater pipe system within Hammond Hills Subdivision from June 21 – July 2, 2021 subdivision. Staff will deliver notices to customers within the test area. Smoke testing is a method used to locate defective pipes that may allow ground or surface water to enter into the collection.

### **SMOKE TESTING OF WASTEWATER LINES**

The City of North Augusta will be smoke testing its wastewater lines in various areas of the City from March 29 through August 28, 2020. Smoke test will assist our inspections crew in locating defects in the collection system. City staff will provide residents with written notice several days prior to conducting the smoke test.

During testing, smoke will appear coming from roof vents, building foundations or other areas outside of your home; this is a normal occurrence as part of the test.

The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. We recommend that you run water in fixtures that are not frequently used.

The smoke that is being used is manufactured for this purpose, leaves no residual stains, not toxic and is harmless to humans and animals.

If you have any questions or concerns please call (803) 441-4240.

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- The Planning Commission will hold a Study Session and Regular meeting on Thursday, June 17.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals will not hold a July meeting.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Public Safety has 9 employees in Fire Academy classes that are hosted by Aiken Public Safety. These classes will run 8 weeks.
- Third Thursday this week... Public Safety will be at First Baptist Church with fire trucks and the K-9 unit.

#### PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:

- Summer camps have started out strong with 202 participants in the True North Cross Training Camp and 18 campers in Adventure Camp. This is week one of 9 straight weeks of Adventure Camp at the Community Center.
- Riverview Park will play host to the South Carolina RBI State baseball tournament for 8U, 10U, and 12U age groups this Friday-Sunday. Riverview Park will also host Girls Softball tournament Saturday & Sunday for 8U, 12U, and 18U. All of the baseball and softball teams participating are recreation league all-star teams.
- Free concerts this Friday & Saturday at the Sharon Jones Amphitheater. Friday night's concert will feature 20 Ride, a Zac Brown tribute band and Saturday night will consist of area artists Coach, Pure Indigo, and Easily Amused.
- Parts to repair the Creighton Park playground structure have been ordered. We are uncertain of the time frame of delivery but will move as fast as we get the parts.
- PRT and Storm water are teaming up together to participate in North Augusta Forward's Third Thursday. Mandy Nelson and Michaela Day will have a table and tent set up in Wade Hampton Park with department information, environmental education, and give away items.

#### ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Rapids HOA Sidewalk Extension, Phase 3

#### HUMAN RESOURCES:

##### **Center Coordinator – Parks, Recreation & Tourism**

Grade: 8

Salary/Pay Rate: \$15.75/hour

Closing Date: 06/15/2021

##### **Communications Technician I – Public Safety**

Grade: 9

Salary/Pay Rate: \$16.61/hour

Closing Date: 06/25/2021

##### **Firefighter – Public Safety**

Grade: UN

Salary/Pay Rate: \$9.43/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

##### **Grounds Worker II – Property Maintenance**

Grade: 6

Salary/Pay Rate: \$14.03/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

##### **Public Safety Officer – Public Safety**

Grade: 15

Salary/Pay Rate: \$20.38/hour

Closing Date: Until Filled

#### ADMINISTRATION:

- Fire Station 1 Update

# The REcing Crew

**Fun choices for everyone!**

*The REcing Crew is a non-profit organization and Community Partner with the United Way. It was established in 2002 by the families and friends of those with disabilities to provide leisure and recreational opportunities for individuals with Disabilities from the CSRA area.*



516 Georgia Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
803-426-1284  
[www.therecingcrew.com](http://www.therecingcrew.com)  
[info@therecingcrew.org](mailto:info@therecingcrew.org)

*Leisure and Recreational Programs  
For Individuals with Visual,  
Hearing, Intellectual and/or  
Physical Disabilities.*

FIND US ON



- Art & Music
- Ballet
- Baseball & Basketball
- Bocce Ball
- Boxing/Karate/MMA
- Bowling
- Crew Chorus
- E-Crew
- Gymnastics
- Jazz & Modern Dance
- Jazzercise
- Miracle League
- Music Therapy
- Social & Community Activities

*These programs enhance the physical, emotional and social growth of those who participate.*





## The REcing Crew

The REcing Crew is a non-profit 501 c 3 organization that has been offering leisure and recreational programs for those with special needs since 2002. We currently offer 16 programs and served over 6000+ individuals last year that live in Aiken, Barnwell & Edgefield Counties in South Carolina as well as Burke, Columbia and Richmond Counties in Georgia.

### Awards & Recognition:

**2008 Giving Your Best Award:** News Channel 6, Georgia Bank & Trust, Solvay Advance Polymer and Walton Rehabilitation Institute

**2011 Time to Care Award:** WRDS-TV New 12

**2013 Citizen of the Year:** North Augusta Chamber of Commerce

**2014 South Carolina Angel Award:** South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond

**2020 Community Heroes Award:**  
Atlanta Braves

**2020 House Achievement Certificate:** SC House of Representatives in recognition 'Community Hero Award'



516 Georgia Avenue  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
Phone: 803-426-1284

E-mail: [p.stickler@therecingcrew.org](mailto:p.stickler@therecingcrew.org)  
ID#26-2858759  
[www.therecingcrew.com](http://www.therecingcrew.com)

## Miracle League Field

### **The Miracle Complex**

A Miracle Field is a universally accessible, soft-surface baseball diamond for athletes who have a disability. The field lets athletes play baseball without barriers such as grass or rutted base paths. The surface also accommodates wheelchairs & other assistive devices and helps prevent injuries. Our Miracle Field Complex will be built in Riverview Park, an inclusive environment that offers all of the amenities at Riverview Park.

### **The Buddy System**

The Miracle League has "buddy" system pairing each player with a community volunteer to help them bat, run bases and field the ball. Each player bats, runs and scores each time! Buddies will be volunteers from local business and organizations. There is also a Competitive League that lasts 4 innings, is played with outs, strikes, and the runs count!



### **Funding the Field!**

The North Augusta Miracle League Capital Campaign will have a variety of sponsorships levels that offer different benefits to our donors. As a sponsor, donors will receive recognition on all Miracle League media, tax-deduction benefits and more.

## MORE THAN JUST BASEBALL!!

In addition to the field being used for baseball, this Miracle League Complex will be designed to be a multipurpose facility. We envision other therapeutic recreational activities on-site such as:

- Miracle League Tournaments
- Kick Ball
- Pickle Ball
- Soccer
- Bocce Ball
- Movie Nights
- Holiday-themed Activities

The REcing Crew will partner with other agencies who provide services to children and adults with disabilities by offering the field for their use for special programs, outdoor activities, classroom programs and more.





*What is The Miracle League? It's Hope, Determination  
a display of Human spirit that is unequalled.  
And of course...there's baseball.*

There is something about playing the game that lights up a youngster's eyes. But for children facing serious physical and mental disabilities that opportunity can often be difficult to achieve. Baseball diamonds weren't exactly designed with wheelchairs and crutches in mind.

The Miracle League removes the barriers that keep children with mental and physical disabilities off the baseball field and lets them experience the joy of America's favorite pastime. Since the main barriers for these children arise from the natural grass fields used in conventional youth leagues, Miracle League teams play on a custom-designed, rubberized turf field that accommodates wheelchairs and other assertive devices while helping to prevent injuries.

But it's more than playing a game. The Miracle League is about making new friends, building self-esteem and being treated just like other kids. To help the athletes, the Miracle League uses a "buddy" system – pairing each player with an able-bodied peer. The result is a bond that cannot be described. The Miracle League serves children who suffer from any physical or mental disabilities, which causes them to be excluded, whether intentionally or not, from conventional youth Baseball leagues. According to the 2000 Census Bureau, there are 19.7 million Children in our country, including Puerto Rico and Canada who have disabilities between the ages of 5 and 19 and with young adults that number increases substantially.

The first Miracle League field opened in Conyers, Georgia in April 2000. Word spread and by 2002, fields opened in South Carolina, Alabama, West Virginia, Illinois, and California. There are presently 330 plus Miracle League Organizations across the country including Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Australia serving over 450,000 children and young adults.

The Miracle League has an aggressive plan to help local communities build Miracle League complexes around the globe.

*Our players may not be able to run the bases or hit the ball as well as some of their peers, but they have an equal amount of love and determination to play baseball. We want to help them achieve that dream.*

Every Child Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball!



# North Augusta

*Council Study Session – 14 June 2021*



## Public Safety HQ

### Facts:

- Previous Council added Public Safety HQ as the #1 priority on the CPST IV ballot initiative
- City participated in a \$10.5M bond initiative to jump-start the project
- City previously purchased properties on GA Avenue for the purpose of PSHQ/Courts/FS#1
- City previously made a decision to separate Fire Station #1 and build at 311 W. Martintown Road
- Previous Council directed staff to site the PSHQ and Courts on City-owned property on E. Buena Vista
- City is conducting due diligence of E. Buena Vista site
- City has received requests for purchase of GA Ave properties for commercial development
- **Estimated site and construction costs for this project have increased dramatically since last presented to Council in September 2020**

### Assumptions:

- City Council and Citizens would be open to lower cost construction alternatives

*North  
Augusta*

## Rendering #1 (E. Buena Vista)



*North  
Augusta*

## Rendering #2 (E. Buena Vista)



## E. Buena Vista Site Challenges



- Retaining Wall
- Soil Stabilization
- Easement
- Lack of building expansion
- Lack of parking expansion



## GA Avenue Site Option





## Rendering #1 (Georgia Avenue)

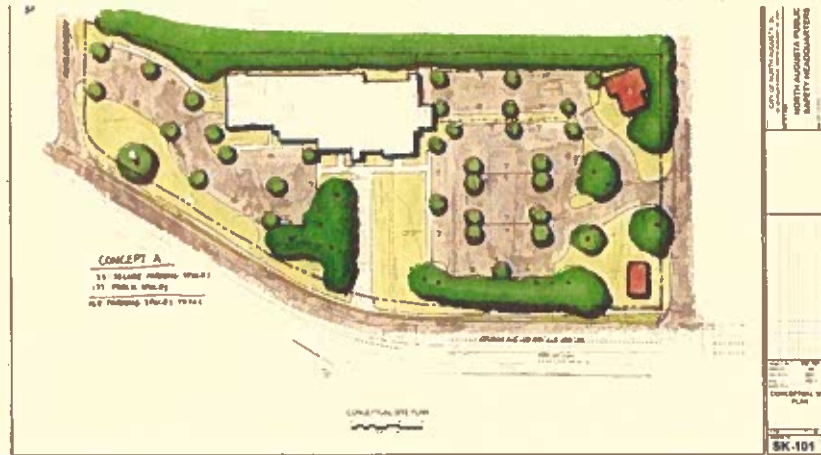


## Rendering #2 (Georgia Avenue)





# Georgia Avenue Site Plan



# Site Prep Side by Side Comparison



	E. Buena Vista	Georgia Avenue
Underground Retention	\$329,115.03	\$329,115.03
Retaining Wall	\$446,731.94	
Soil Stabilization	\$937,204.58	
Import Soil Costs	\$266,561.85	
Erosion Control	\$87,684.82	
Road improvements	\$116,913.09	
Demolition		\$217,350.00
Veneer Changes		\$75,000
JLA Redesign of sitework		\$60,000
Totals	\$2,184,211.33	\$681,465.03



## Total Costs Side by Side Comparison

	E. Buena Vista	Georgia Avenue
Land Purchase	-\$660,000	
Design Services	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
Construction Costs	\$14,426,853	\$12,924,106.71
IT, Sec, A/V, FF&E, Support	\$1,675,000	\$1,675,000
Project Contingency	\$607,315	\$607,315
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,299,168</b>	<b>\$16,456,421.71</b>



## Recommendation

### GA Avenue Location

#### Pros:

- Central location in the City
- Preferred location by Public Safety
- Lower overall cost to the City (\$842,746.29)
- Expansion capability exists in future years if needed
- Allows for the legacy structures on Observatory Ave to be maintained

#### Cons:

- Delays the overall project at least 4-6 months
- Unknown if community is supportive of this new concept
- Potential loss of commercial tax base





## Next Steps (Georgia Ave site)

- City Council Resolution granting staff authority to present to Planning Commission for Public zoning
- Provide sketch plan review to Planning Commission in July
- Community engagement with Punch & Judy Players, Historic North Augusta, Neighbors
- Develop plan for "legacy" buildings fronting Observatory Road

### Risk Decisions:

- Provide guidance to designers to move forward on design work for GA Ave site (mitigates time loss)



## COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ GUIDANCE