

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 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

SPECIAL CALLED STUDY SESSION

The Special Called Study Session of August 23, 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 Special Called Study Session adjourned 6:51 p.m. Council voted to reassemble in Council's Conference Room for an Executive Session at 7:00 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, and Presnell. Councilmember Toole was absent.

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; 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.

Mayor Williams made the following announcements:

- South Carolina Department of Transportation has constructed a new median on Austin Graybill Road near the intersection with Highway 25. This construction requires a new traffic pattern that has caused concern for many citizens. There are two new roads across from the Park and Ride that allow access to the Market Plaza Shopping Center as usual. The City will provide details on Social Media.

- The City is planning a "River Event" in spring 2022 and needs suggestions from citizens. He encouraged residents to share their ideas through August 31.
- Looking ahead - The City offices will be closed Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day Holiday. Council will meet Monday, September 13 for a Study Session at 6:00 p.m.; and Monday, September 20 for Public Power Hour at 5:00 p.m. and for a regular City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ITEM 1. CITY CODE: Review of the City Code of Ordinances; Chapter 22 – Traffic and Vehicles

Assistant City Administrator, Rachele Moody, led Council in a discussion of Chapter 22 of the City Code of Ordinances. With thoughtful deliberation Council agreed there are problems and there should be some revisions to the current Code primarily as it relates to parking at Riverside Village. The current time allowed to pay a \$20 parking violation is two days then an additional \$20 late fee is assessed. All Councilmembers concurred two days does not allow enough time for tickets to be paid and would like to see this changed. There was further engagement concerning the need for more golf cart parking. Suggestions were considered for the use of wheel locks or even towing for repeat offenders with unpaid citations. Councilmember Presnell suggested the first parking violation should be given as a warning. Councilmember McGhee reflected that when Riverside Village was built loading zones were not highlighted with painted yellow curbing for the sake of beautification. He added now may be the time to reconsider that choice since there seems to be a problem. Councilmember Carpenter recalled some citizens have difficulty locating the number painted on the on street parking spaces. Councilmember McCauley requested City staff research other cities of similar size to identify how they are managing parking issues.

Please see ATTACHMENT #1 for a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation.

On the motion of Councilmember McGhee, second of Councilmember Presnell, Council agreed to reassemble in Council's Conference Room for an executive session for the purpose stated in Item 2.

The Special Called Study Session adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

ITEM 2 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:

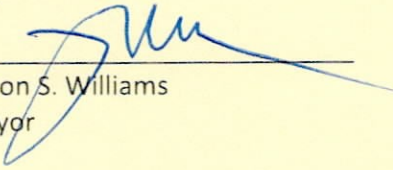
(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal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

Discussion is related to contractual agreements involving parking and to include review of the Medac parking agreement and the Master Parking Agreement for Riverside Village.

Councilmembers and staff attending the executive session were Mayor Briton Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, and Presnell; Jim Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly Zier, City Attorney; Cammie Hayes, Chief Financial Officer; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

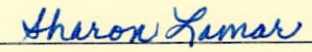
Upon returning to open session, Council did NOT take action on the matters discussed in Executive Session.

APPROVED THIS 20th DAY OF
September, 2021.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

For Discussion: Chapter 22 – Traffic & Vehicles

City Council Study Session
August 23, 2021



Parking Citation Process

- Citations can be issued anywhere in the City
- Paid parking enforcement only in Riverside Village
- Parking citation issuance significantly increased in October 2019 with Riverside Village enforcement
- Feedback received from City employees and residents regarding fine structure & processes



8-23-21

Sec. 22-13 Parking Violation Fines

All City fines are \$20

- Overtime parking
- Improper parking
- Parking where signs prohibit
- Parking on yellow curb
- Parking in loading zone
- Parking on sidewalk
- Parking at fireplug
- Parking against traffic
- Other parking violation

State fine: \$500

- Parking in handicap zone without permit

8-23-21



Parking Citation Process

- Citation issued to vehicle by Public Safety Officer
- Municipal Court collects fines
 - In person
 - Online (<https://northaugusta.citationportal.com>)
 - Mail
- If unpaid after two days, fee is doubled (new fee is \$40)

8-23-21



Unpaid Fines

- Remain on the books unpaid
- No code provision for wheel locks (boots)
- No code provision for towing (for unpaid fines)
- No additional per-ticket fine increase
- Can add up infinitely

8-23-21



Changes for Consideration

Fines

- Adjust fines; don't have to all be same amount
- Adjust late fee; possible graduated fee

Process

- Increase payment period beyond two days
- Additional enforcement mechanisms
 - Wheel locks
 - Towing

8-23-21



Next Steps

- Council guidance re: fine structure
- Council guidance re: processes
- Potential code amendment

8-23-21

