

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2022

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

Public Power Hour was streamed for public viewing online at: "City of North Augusta – Public Information" on [www.Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and "City of North Augusta Public Information" on www.YouTube.com.

PUBLIC POWER HOUR

The January 3, 2022 Public Power Hour began at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, Presnell, and Toole. Also in attendance were Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology, J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

- Jimmie Crawford spoke to Council about installing speed bumps on certain neighborhood streets within the City limits.
- Kent Sullivan spoke to Council concerning a proposed development on Martintown Road near the Rapids subdivision.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of North Augusta of January 3, 2022 having been duly publicized was called to order by Mayor Williams at 6:00 p.m. and also streamed online for public viewing at "City of North Augusta – Public Information" on www.Facebook.com and on the City YouTube page: "City of North Augusta Public Information" then adjourned at 6:39 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 Williams rendered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor shared comments about former Mayor Tom Greene.

"Former Mayor Tom Greene passed away on Sunday night in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tom was on City Council for 14 years and was Mayor of North Augusta from 1985-1997. He has an amazing four terms.

He spearheaded the formation of NA 2000 and chaired that organization for its first 14 years because he saw a need for a broad base strategic plan for North Augusta and a non-governmental organization to coordinate its implementation. Another example of his vision and legacy is the 14 mile Greenway Trail which was named for him. The recreational impact of the Greenway cannot be overstated when we talk about quality of life for our citizens. The Greenway has been a game changer. Tom served this community that he loved for 48 years in various roles. He truly left his mark.

For me personally, early on in my community involvement, he made me feel that I was worthy to be at the table and that he respected by opinion and ideas. He was gentleman and someone who I always tried to learn from in regards to the skills needed when working with others.

North Augusta has lost a great man, a Christian man, and on behalf of all of us at the City, our prayers go out to his children – Thomas, Susan, and Lynn and to all of his family."

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

Also in attendance were James S. Clifford, City Administrator; Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Richard L. Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; Ricky L. Jones, Manager of Information Technology, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of December 20, 2021 were approved by general consent.

ITEM 5. COMMUNITY PROMOTION: Recognition of 2022 Winners of the Mayor's Writing Contest

Mayor Williams recognized Natalie Bodkin, fifth grader from Mossy Creek Elementary School, and Bryanna Rich, sixth grader from North Augusta Middle School, for their winning entries in the 2022 Mayor's Writing Contest for fifth through twelfth graders.

ITEM 6. PERSONNEL: Bruce Meigs, Retirement – Recognition of Service to the City of North Augusta

Mayor Williams recognized the retirement of Bruce Meigs, Public Utilities Heavy Equipment Operator, with 35 years of service to the City of North Augusta.

On behalf of City Council and City Staff, I want to congratulate Public Utilities Heavy Equipment Operator Bruce Meigs on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for 35 years of dedicated service to the citizens of North Augusta. Bruce began his career with the City in 1986 in the Public Utilities Department. During his years of service Bruce provided technical skills training to employees and was known for his professionalism and dedication to provide exemplary customer service. Bruce has served as an integral component to maintaining the integrity of the City's utility systems. Bruce's hard work and dedication to serve is an example we should all strive to follow and he will truly be missed by his City family. Our well wishes and thoughts are with Bruce and his family for happiness and good fortune throughout his retirement.

(Mr. Meigs was unable to attend the meeting.)

ITEM 7. PERSONNEL: Walton "Buddy" Satcher, Retirement – Recognition of Service to the City of North Augusta

Mayor Williams recognized the retirement of Walton "Buddy" Satcher.

North Augusta Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Department Center Coordinator, Buddy Satcher is retiring from the City of North Augusta today, January 3, 2022.

Buddy's path to becoming an employee with the City of North Augusta is an interesting story. Buddy's previous career included managing Health Central Fitness Center for University Hospital and working as a physical education teacher and coach in the Aiken County School District. Buddy became interested in the youth athletic programs with the City of North Augusta and enrolled his children in our programs in 1998. He served as a volunteer coach in our basketball and softball programs and his knowledge of athletic programs and facilities was very evident. Buddy coached

our Girls 12U South Carolina Recreation & Parks Association All-Star basketball team to a state title in 2001. Buddy fell in love with the City of North Augusta and moved his family here during this time. The investment of his time as a volunteer in our programs eventually landed him as an employee in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism department.

Buddy was hired on April 24, 2013 as a Part Time Center Coordinator at the Riverview Park Activities Center. Buddy's performance and experience on the job earned a promotion to full time Center Coordinator on June 15, 2016.

Buddy has been that constant face in the Riverview Park Activities Center that members know so well. Buddy has worked the front desk welcoming members and guests, taken his share of athletic program registrations, handled the many questions front office phones receive on a daily basis, and made sure all the exercise and cardio equipment is performing as designed. He has been a frontline customer service representative. Buddy has also been the keeper of the building as he constantly makes sure that membership matters and that young people understand that rules must be followed. He has assisted with the operation of the youth basketball program, assisted with the 4&5-year-old baseball and softball programs, and filled in as necessary in any position as needed.

Buddy's variety of skill sets made him the perfect fit for the Center Coordinator position. He has worked many evenings and weekends at the Riverview Park Activities Center working basketball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, dog shows, cat shows, health fairs, and more. He not only worked the events but he also assisted in the event set-ups and break downs as well as keeping the building clean and operational.

ITEM 8. CITY PROPERTY: Ordinance No. 2021-26 – To Convey a Portion of Tax Parcel 005-13-06-004 to the Wando Woodlands Property Owners Association, Inc.; Ordinance – Second Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Carpenter, second of Councilmember Presnell, Council agreed to consider an ordinance on second reading to convey a portion of tax parcel 005-13-06-004 to the Wando Woodlands Property Owners Association, Inc. There were no comments from citizens. Council approved the second reading of the ordinance with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Please see a copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-26
TO CONVEY A PORTION OF TAX PARCEL NUMBER 005-13-06-004
TO THE WANDO WOODLANDS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2007 Wando Partners, L.P. conveyed ± 2.52 acres to the City of North Augusta identified as Tax Parcel Number 005-13-06-004, and

WHEREAS, the conveyed property was identified as "Common Space" and includes a detention pond that services the development; and

WHEREAS, the Wando Woodland Property Owners Association, Inc. would like to use and develop a portion of Tax Parcel Number 005-13-06-004 consisting \pm 0.17 acres as recreational space for the residents of the development; and

WHEREAS, the use of this \pm 0.17 acres by the Wando Woodland Property Owners Association will not affect the City of North Augusta's ability to maintain the infrastructure of the detention pond.

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 Administrator is authorized to sign the deed and necessary documents for the conveyance of 0.17 acres of Tax Map Parcel number 005-13-06-004, to the Wando Woodland Property Owners Association.
- II. All 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 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 _____, 2022.

ITEM 9. LAW AND JUSTICE: 2022 Jury List – Motion to Accept

On the motion of Councilmember Toole, second of Councilmember McCauley, Council agreed to accept the 2022 Municipal Jury List containing the names of all registered voters and the names of individuals with a South Carolina driver's license in the City of North Augusta jurisdiction. The 2022 Jury Box was accepted as required by State law with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

ITEM 10. PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM: Resolution No. 2022-01 – Authorizing the City of North Augusta to Enter into a Contract for Tourism Website Development and Hosting

On the motion of Councilmember McCauley, second of Councilmember McGhee, Council agreed to consider a resolution to authorize the City to enter into a contract for tourism website development and hosting. There were no comments from citizens. Council approved the resolution with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01
AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA TO ENTER INTO A
CONTRACT FOR TOURISM WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND HOSTING

WHEREAS, the City of North Augusta desires to contract with a firm for development and hosting of a new tourism website for the City; and

WHEREAS, nine (9) firms responded to a "Request for Proposals" in April 2021; and

WHEREAS, all proposals were reviewed, scored and ranked by a committee of City staff and the top three (3) ranked proposals/firms were selected for virtual interviews, presentations and Q&A with City staff in December 2021; and

WHEREAS, after much review and consideration, Madden Preprint Media, LLC dba Madden Media has been selected to design and host a new tourism website for the City of North Augusta; and

WHEREAS, development and hosting of a tourism website is an acceptable "tourism-related expenditure" of state accommodations tax funds designated for advertising and promotion of the City and this project is supported by the City's Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

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. The City Administrator is authorized to execute such documents as necessary to enter into a contract with Madden Media for development of a new tourism website to include maintenance and web hosting.
2. The total project costs, to include: website design and development, initial year of hosting and maintenance, and brand development with logo design, as not to exceed \$50,000 and shall be funded by designated advertising and promotion funds within the Accommodations Tax Fund. \$30,000 has been designated by the City's Accommodations Tax Committee from the 2020-2021 year for the project with the balance to come from additional unspent advertising and promotion funds.
3. The recurring expenditures related to maintenance and hosting of the tourism website in future years will be requested during the annual budget process 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 JANUARY, 2022.

ITEM 11. ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS: Resolution No. 2022-02 – Accepting an Emergency Watershed Protection Program Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Pole Branch Watershed Remediation

On the motion of Councilmember Brooks, second of Councilmember Carpenter, Council agreed to consider a resolution to accept an Emergency Watershed Protection Program Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Pole Branch watershed remediation. Tom Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works, explained Tanya Strickland, Stormwater Superintendent, and James Sutton, Director of Public Services, were instrumental in applying for this USDA grant to repair a very serious erosion and water shed issue at Pole Branch near a key City interceptor. The problem area is the result of a tropical storm which damaged an area parallel to I-20 between Exit 5 and Five Notch Road. The approximate \$2.3 million grant includes engineering and construction and requires a 25% match from the City. The City hopes to provide in-kind services of personnel and equipment for the match. There were no comments from citizens. Council approved the resolution with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02
ACCEPTING AN EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR THE POLE BRANCH WATERSHED REMEDIATION

WHEREAS, in September 2020, the region was inundated by rainfall from Tropical Depression Sally, resulting in severe erosion along Pole Branch and threatening the integrity of the Pole Branch Interceptor sanitary sewer line; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Augusta (City) applied for and was awarded an Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to design and construct improvements along a portion of Pole Branch to remediate the damage, re-establish, enlarge and reinforce the historic stream channel; and

WHEREAS, the grant budget includes:

Construction Costs: \$2,730,000

(75% NRCS \$2,047,500 + 25% City of North Augusta \$682,500)

Technical Assistance (TA) Costs: not to exceed \$204,750

(100% NRCS)

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that most, if not all of the City's financial obligation will be provided by in-kind services of labor and equipment from the Public Services and Public Works Departments.

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 the City Administrator is authorized to execute any and all documents required by NRCS for the purpose of accepting such grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any additional financial obligation in excess of in-kind services shall be subject to approval from City Council as to amount and funding source.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

ITEM 12. ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS: Resolution No. 2022-03 – Authorizing a Professional Engineering Services Contract for the Pole Branch Watershed Remediation

On the motion of Councilmember McGhee, second of Councilmember McCauley, Council agreed to consider a resolution to authorize a professional engineering services contract for the Pole Branch watershed remediation. This resolution is a tandem action with Item 11. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program Grant will reimburse the City 100% up to \$205,000 for the engineering design services. There were no comments from citizens. Council approved the resolution with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Please see a copy of the proposed resolution below:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03
AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR
THE POLE BRANCH WATERSHED REMEDIATION

WHEREAS, Resolution 2022-001 authorized the City Administrator the execute an Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a grant to remediate erosion in a portion of the Pole Branch Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the grant scope includes a Technical Assistance element for project design to prepare construction drawings and specifications, an operation and maintenance plan, a quality assurance/inspection plan, and an engineer's estimate of the project construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the grant budget includes up to \$204,750.00, 100% reimbursable, for Technical Assistance; and

WHEREAS, per Resolution No. 2016-35, the City entered into an on-call professional engineering services contract for storm drainage capital projects with Cranston Engineering, P.C. (Cranston); and

WHEREAS, Cranston has submitted a Scope of Services and Fee Proposal in the amount of \$73,500.00 to perform field survey and conceptual design; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Engineering & Public Works recommends that issuance of a Work Authorization to Cranston to be in the best interest of the City.

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, Cranston shall be authorized to perform Professional Engineering Services for the Pole Branch Watershed Remediation for the amount of \$73,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for this Work Authorization shall be from the Stormwater Utility Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE City Administrator is authorized to execute any documents required for the entering into of this contract.

DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

ITEM 13. ANNEXATION: Ordinance No. 2022-01 – To Change the Corporate Limits of the City of North Augusta by Accepting the Petition Requesting Annexation by the Landowner and Annexing ±0.26 Acres of Land Located at 331 Belair Road and Owned by Nex Ventures Realty, Inc.; Ordinance – First Reading

On the motion of Councilmember Presnell, second of Councilmember McGhee, Council agreed to consider an ordinance on first reading to change the corporate limits of the City of North Augusta by accepting the petition requesting annexation by the landowner and annexing ±0.26 acres of land located at 331 Belair Road and owned by Nex Ventures Realty, Inc. Councilmember Toole recused himself from the discussion of this ordinance. There were no comments from citizens. Council approved the first reading of the ordinance with a unanimous 6-0 vote and one recusal.

Please see ATTACHMENT #13 for a copy of Councilmember Toole's recusal form.

A copy of the proposed ordinance below:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01

TO CHANGE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA BY ACCEPTING THE PETITION REQUESTING ANNEXATION BY THE LANDOWNER AND ANNEXING ± 0.26 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 331 BELAIR ROAD AND OWNED BY NEX VENTURES REALTY, INC.

WHEREAS, Section 5-3-150(3) of the Code of Laws of the State of South Carolina provides that: "Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, any area or property which is contiguous to a municipality may be annexed to the municipality by filing with the municipal governing body a petition signed by all persons owning real estate in the area requesting annexation. Upon the agreement of the governing body to accept the petition and annex the area, and the enactment of an ordinance declaring the area annexed to the municipality, the annexation is complete"; and

WHEREAS, the zoning classification recommended for the properties proposed for annexation has been reviewed for consistency with the Future Land Use Classification of the properties as specified in the Land Use Element of the North Augusta 2017 Comprehensive Plan;

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:

- IV. The City Council hereby accepts the Petition for Annexation as submitted by the Property Owner.
- V. The following described properties shall be annexed into the City of North Augusta:

A portion of the parcel containing ±0.26 acres located at 331 Belair Road, Tax Parcel Number 012-09-02-045, being shown and designated as Lot 19 Bock 11 of Belvedere Ridge on a plat recorded in Plat Book 1, page 154, records of the RMC for Aiken County, South Carolina. This being the parcel identified as "Parcel No. 1" in the deed from Midfirst Bank to Nex Ventures Realty, Inc. recorded in deed book 4818 page 956 at the RMC for Aiken County, South Carolina.

Tax Map & Parcel No.: 012-09-02-045

- VI. The zoning classification shall be R-10, as shown on a map identified as "Exhibit B" titled "Zoning of Property Sought to be Annexed to the City of North Augusta,"
- VII. All ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.
- VIII. 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 _____, 2022.

ITEM 14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

None

ITEM 15. PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

A. Citizen Comments:

Al Jenkins, Regional Director for Senator Tim Scott, introduced himself to Council.

B. Council Comments:

Councilmember Carpenter shared her impressions of the students' writings and their heartfelt concern for the homeless in our area. She also noted the pot holes have reappeared at Knobcone and Pisgah roads.

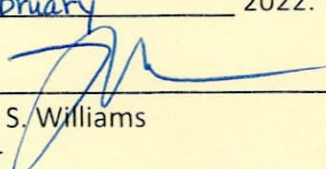
Mayor Williams announced the following:

- City Council is scheduling a planning workshop to take place in Newberry, South Carolina on Wednesday, January 26 for the purpose to consider future planning for various projects. This will be an open meeting. No votes or formal actions will be taken.
- Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 17th, the next Council will be a Study Session on Monday, January 31st.
- There will be a "Meet the Mayor" event this month. The date and location are pending confirmation.
- Citizens are encouraged to visit the mayor's page on the City's website, www.northaugusta.net/mayor, to sign up to become involved in the work of the City.

ITEM 16. ADJOURNMENT

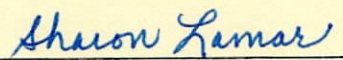
The regular City Council meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF
February 2022.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

RECUSAL STATEMENT

Member Name: Kevin Toole
 Meeting Date: 01-03-2022
 Agenda Item: Section New Bos. Number: 13
 Topic: Annexation

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37.) A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required.

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: Professional relationship with
applicant

Date: 01-03-2022

[Signature]
 Member

Approved by Parliamentarian: _____