

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF MAY 2, 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/cityofna) and "City of North Augusta Public Information" on [www.YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofna).

PUBLIC POWER HOUR

The May 2, 2022 Public Power Hour began at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Mayor Williams, Councilmembers Brooks, Carpenter, McCauley, McGhee, and Toole. Councilmember Presnell was absent. Also in attendance were J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources, Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology, and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

1. Joel Ozburn spoke to Council regarding a safety issue on a curb at Riverside Village near the Chop House and the WOW Club entrance, a traffic concern on West Avenue, and a traffic concern on the S curve on Bluff Avenue.
2. Fred Ilardi spoke to Council regarding jet skis speeding on the river, parking garage use in Riverside Village, and tax questions related to a Riverside village property.

3. Councilmember McGhee shared two concerns he received from a North Augusta citizen. An inquiry was made concerning adding a Blessing Box at Summerfield Park. He also shared an observation that handicap access is limited at the Dog Park.

The Public Power Hour adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of North Augusta of May 2, 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 6:17 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.

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

Also in attendance were Rachele Moody, Assistant City Administrator; Kelly F. Zier, City Attorney; John C. Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Ricky L. Jones, Manager of Information Technology, J.D. McCauley, Manager of Human Resources; and Sharon Lamar, City Clerk.

The minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 18, 2022; and the Study Session of April 25, 2022 were approved by general consent.

ITEM 5. PERSONNEL: Employee of the Quarter – January, February, and March 2022 – Kim Newcomb

Mayor Williams recognized Kim Newcomb as the Employee of the Quarter for January, February and March with these words-

As the PC Support Technician assigned to assist the City's Public Safety Department, Kim has driven to Public Safety Headquarters multiple times per week, every week, throughout this entire quarter. Kim has not once complained, has never hesitated to come to help, and has always been a joy to be around, no matter how simple or obvious the solution to our problems. Kim has helped us through an email transition, installed multiple new machines, diagnosed EDispatch problems after hours, and has installed equipment in new patrol cars. These few things are a short list of what Kim does for Public Safety on a regular basis. This quarter has been demanding of Kim and she has risen to the occasion to go above and beyond in her duties.

The January – March, 2022 quarter has been an example of how great an asset Kim is to the City of North Augusta and it is further an example of how she conducts herself on a regular basis. Since she has been employed with the City, we have always known Kim to have a positive attitude and to always be willing to help in any way that she could.

ITEM 6. PROCLAMATION: National Travel and Tourism Week, May 1-7, 2022

Mayor Williams proclaimed May 1-7, 2022 as National Travel and Tourism Week.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, travel, hospitality, and recreation reflect The Power of Travel in North Augusta, South Carolina and our community's economic prosperity, and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic devastated every sector of the travel industry with staggering lows in 2020 compared to 2019, and

WHEREAS, North Augusta's hospitality and travel industry cannot recover without the full return of business and leisure travel, as well as meetings and events, and

WHEREAS, our hospitality and tourism businesses represent small business, and are the fabric that make North Augusta memorable, and are dependent and grateful for our community's support throughout this pandemic crisis; and

WHEREAS, visitors enjoy North Augusta as South Carolina's Riverfront, experiencing the North Augusta Greenway, the Nike Peach Jam, Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee, Palmetto Peach Half Marathon, SRP Park, the many offerings of Downtown and Riverside Village, and during the holidays, the Christmas tree lighting celebration; and

WHEREAS, North Augusta presents unique and memorable offerings with, exceptional dining, shopping, and beautiful views along the Savannah River, and

WHEREAS, the Power of Travel and Tourism will revive and is vital to move us forward to a more prosperous future.

THEREFORE, I, Briton Williams, Mayor of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 1-7, 2022 as

National Travel and Tourism Week

and urge the citizens of North Augusta to join me in this special observance.

ITEM 7. MAYOR'S MATTERS: Council's Accountability Review

Mayor Williams recounted the Council's 90 Day Plan which highlighted the priorities of Communication, Downtown, and Tourism along with other accomplishments since the new Council was elected May 2021.

Please see ATTACHMENT #7 for a copy of the Mayor's comments.

ITEM 8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator, Rachelle Moody, shared registration for participation in the Rockin' and Raftin' Festival River Event scheduled for June 4 is currently open and available on the City's website. There is no Board of Zoning Appeals meeting this month. This year's Household Hazardous Waste Collection event will be Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Kroger parking lot on Knox Avenue.

ITEM 9. PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

A. Citizen Comments:

None

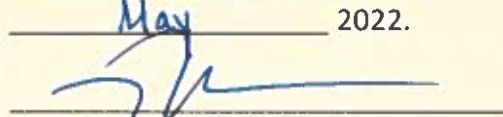
B. Council Comments:

- Councilmember Presnell commented the Community Trash Bash was a great event on April 23. The citizen involvement and work completed was impressive.
- Councilmember McCauley announced North Augusta Forward is hosting Downtown Spring Fest on Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT


The regular City Council meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF
May 2022.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Lamar
City Clerk

May 2, 2022 – Council's Accountability Review

As Mayor on behalf of Council I want to take a few minutes and discuss the previous year. As I have said often this is a new Council and I mean that because although Council person McCauley and I are the only two actual new elected members I believe citizens can see the excitement and a new vigor from each Council member. We all are engaged and working together which is exciting. Each of us up here realize that we got some votes due to our popularity. However, being popular does not mean you will be an effective leader on Council-we all have seen communities where that is true. What matters at the end of the day is that we must hold ourselves accountable for what we do as elected officials-our citizens deserve that from us.

For the 7 of us what is important is have we done what we said we would do or at least can you see the effort of us striving to accomplish what we said.

This is not about bragging or patting ourselves on the back. This is about elected officials being held accountable to the community they represent. Our citizens should be pleased we are doing this because some communities have a great staff that are longing for leadership and to use their abilities but their Council is splintered. Some communities have a good Council but don't have the abilities with in the staff to make the vision happen. Not in NA- we as a Council are leading with a vision and focused goals and holding our selves accountable and we have an amazing Administration, Directors and Staff that are talented and knowledgeable in their roles and they are able to take these priorities and make them happen.

We had a 90-day plan that centered around 3 main priorities- Communication, Downtown, and Tourism. We never said we would do everything in 90 days but it was a goal to see how many things could we at least get started in some form or fashion that we may be working on over the next year.

Let's take a look at some highlights of those 3 Priorities:

Communication- this one was big and really set the tone for this year and as we move forward. This priority really was about giving people a voice- an opportunity to share, an opportunity for us to listen- to insure we were transparent.

A big part of that was changing the Study Sessions to off Monday nights from Council meetings. This did 2 things- gave Council time to study and learn about topics and issues as well as having Directors give updates which have been very useful for not only Council but citizens as well. The 2nd thing it did was allow us to once again give the Agenda and Supporting Documents out a week in advance of Council meetings so citizens had time to ask questions to Council the week before.

The other game changer was Public Power Hour. A time each month for citizens to come in front of Council in an informal setting to share issues. Again, a chance for us to listen. We have had 20 citizens come forward to share with us.

Citizen Involvement Form- We have had 18 submittals since this went live in September 2021. Again, we have given folks a chance to get involved and take ownership of feeling like I am helping make my community better. Just look at the large turnout at our first Quarterly Trash Pickup up at Hamburg-Carrsville African American Heritage District. Two citizens, Mrs. Baskett and Mrs. Hooper both had filled the form out and helped us promote it and participated in making it happen at that location.

We had 4 Meet the Mayor Events where myself and 2 Council members went to different areas of the city and met with citizens.

The VLOG I have done periodically which gives citizens highlights of what Council has done that things that are going on in the community.

Making the decision to move the Police HQ to Ga. Ave. This will be a huge benefit for our community when it is done. We are never going to get agreement on every decision made but the one thing we could control was, did we listen and give citizens a chance to share their views, good or bad on the project. And we did. Citizens not only had 6 opportunities but we actually took a number of the ideas and have put them into the design and development of the project.

Downtown:

Critical as we move forward-it has to become a destination- a place to hang out. And as the Carpet Shop property is going to be developed we will have a gateway connection between Riverside Village and the downtown which will be huge for our economy.

Council invested \$70k into LED lighting-very environmentally conscious and cost effective

Council invested \$30k phase 1 into amenities. Can't revitalize a downtown without trash cans, park benches and bike racks

White cross walk painted on street and pylons at the Ga. Ave and Pine Grove Intersection- Is it perfect? No. Is it a start? Yes

Mural Review Design Committee was formed and we now have our first Mural and its driving people into downtown to get a picture taken in front of it.

Using the Trolleys again at each Third Thursday-people love the Trolleys

Council went out on one of the Third Thursday and met the local merchants who were participating and thanked them for their business.

Tourism:

Approved funding for a new tourism website

Approved hiring a new Tourism Director

Gave citizens a change to decide on a River Event and vote on what the event would look like with Food, Music and Race on the River

Understand Council has done a lot more than this but these were specific to the 3 priorities that I just reviewed.

I think you can look at the scorecard and see that yes we have made progress in what we said we would do. Can we do more- Yes, can we do it better- Yes. However, we have set a good foundation for us to move forward in to this year. Does the priorities change as we move forward- Absolutely- not.

Communication will always be ongoing. We have to look at the initiatives that have worked and see how to make them work better. We also have to look for new ways to communicate.

Downtown will always be ongoing. It has taken Greenville over 20 years to get their downtown the way it is now- and they are still working on it. We want to lay the foundation for future Councils and Mayors to tweak and fine tune what we are doing so it truly can be the heartbeat of our community.

Tourism will always be ongoing. A website and Tourism Director was only the start. Now it's time to really go to work on tourism.

In closing, we have a long way to go but we have started off on the right foot. We thank you for your trust in us and we don't take it lightly. NA Futures is Bright.