

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2023

Briton S. Williams, Mayor

Jenafer F. McCauley, Councilmember – Mayor Pro Tem

David B. Buck, Councilmember

Pat C. Carpenter, Councilmember

David W. McGhee, Councilmember

Eric H. Presnell, Councilmember

Kevin W. Toole, Councilmember

ORDER OF BUSINESS

STUDY SESSION

The Study Session of May 8, 2023 for the City Council of the City of North Augusta, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Mayor Briton S. 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.”

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 Buck, 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; Thomas C. Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Chief John Thomas, Director of Public Safety; Rick Meyer, Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism; Thomas L. Paradise, Director of Planning and Development; Lynda Williamson, Director of Finance; Kayla Ferguson, Interim Manager of Human Resources; Ricky Jones, Manager of Information Technology, and Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

Administrator Clifford led Council's discussion of items for the May 15, 2023 regular meeting. (See Attachment #1)

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

ITEM 2. DEPARTMENT DETAILS:

City department directors and managers provided departmental updates. (See Attachment #2)

ITEM 3. MAYOR'S MATTERS:

(A) FOCUS ITEM(S):

- i. Public Safety Building – Occupy/Lease Building
- ii. Department of Mental Health

Administrator Clifford stated that both items are represented together and introduced Margaret Key Executive Director of The Aiken Center.

Ms. Key introduced Tiffany Birt Midlands Operations Director from DHEC and Tamara Smith Executive Director of Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center. She confirmed that all three (3) representatives would like to propose a partnership for a North Augusta Mental Health Center where the current Public Safety Building would hold all of them and could be a one stop shop center for mental health.

Each representative stated their reasonings as to why they would like to co-locate together. (See Attachment #3A)

Discussion ensued relating to upper and lower entrances, common spaces, and privacy.

Further discussion ensued relative to costs, specifically for improvements to the building and who would be responsible.

(B) Mayor Williams will share reflections and announcements related to current City events and opportunities

- a. Mayor Williams highlighted on the following:
 - Leadership North Augusta – Kickoff Event May 18th at Cavaliers Coffeehouse, 5:30pm
 - Thunder over Evans, Armed Forces Day, May 20th at Evans Towne Center Park, gates open at 5:30pm


The Study Session adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 15th DAY OF
May, 2023.



Briton S. Williams
Mayor

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Paul
City Clerk



DRAFT AGENDA: CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – Municipal Center – 100 Georgia Avenue, 3rd Floor - Council Chambers

The Regular City Council meeting will be streamed for public viewing online at:

- “City of North Augusta – Public Information” on www.Facebook.com
- “City of North Augusta Public Information” on 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. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza at the entrance for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. 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:

- City Council Meeting minutes of May 1, 2023
- Study Session minutes of May 8, 2023

5. PROCLAMATIONS:

- a. National Police Week, May 14-20, 2023
- b. National Public Works Week, May 21-27, 2023

6. PERSONNEL: Employee of the Quarter – January, February, and March 2023 – Lauren Wertz

OLD BUSINESS

7. ADMINISTRATION: Ordinance No. 2023-10 Authorizing the City to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Sabal Designs Limited Company and IRA fbo William Lance Jones IRA, LLC, Related to Property Consisting of Approximately 0.62 Acres and Known as Tax Map and Parcel No. 007-13-01-006 – Second Reading

8. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT: Ordinance No. 2022-12 to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of North Augusta, South Carolina by Rezoning ± 10.73 Acres of Land Owned by R. Greg Kenrick and Jimmy L. Martin, Aiken County Tax Parcels #001-15-02-002 and 001-19-03-001 from PD, Planned Development to TC, Thoroughfare Commercial – Remove from Table; First Reading

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

10. **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 for the records. Speaker Forms are provided on the credenza for speakers desiring that the minutes indicate that they addressed Council on a specific topic. The form will be included as part of the minutes of the meeting. Citizen comments are limited to five minutes.*

B. **Council Comments:**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

DEPARTMENT DETAILS

for May 8, 2023



FINANCE:

- Cycle 1 Disconnect - May 17th and 18th
- Cycle 2 Due Date - May 19th
- City Tax Penalties were applied on May 2nd and notices will be sent out this week.

PUBLIC SERVICES:

- Mosquito Control May 17 – October 18, 2023
- Hammonds Ferry Road – Soccer Complex Water Service
- Commercial Sanitation Dumpster Enclosure Inspections

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- Code Enforcement did a sign sweep over the weekend
- Planning Commission next week

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Jr. Johnson will be the new Captain of Patrol effective June 7th
- August 2023 is the expected go-live date for Smart Cop - the new software for Public Safety
- This past Friday, May 5th, Public Safety Officers and Firefighters were at Hammond Hills Elementary school for Career Day

PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM:

- Bids for the Riverside Village Boat Dock will be received and read publicly out loud this Friday, May 12th, 10am at the Riverview Park Activities Center.
- North Augusta High School Girls Softball team will be hosting Upper State semi-final game of the South Carolina High School playoffs this Saturday at Riverview Park.
- PRT and Property Maintenance are teaming up to provide tree signs that will identify the different tree species along the Riverfront Greenway. The signs will also have a QR code on them. This project is part of the Tree City Growth Award for 2023. **(See Attachment #1)**
- Riverview Park Activities Center hosted a 160-team travel basketball tournament this past weekend. The tournament lasted into Sunday night and with limited staff available the building did not get completely cleaned until today. The Activities Center has hosted 7 travel events so far in 2023, 5 basketball tournaments, 1 volleyball tournament, and 1 pickleball tournament. These events not only produce tourism economic impact for the City of North Augusta but they also allow the City to keep the Activities Center membership rates affordable and competitive. Riverview Park has also hosted 3 travel baseball tournaments in 2023.
- Hammond's Ferry Soccer Complex field update. Combination of factors have contributed to the athletic fields not being up to our normal standards. Issue #1 is the amount of play that our fields are getting year-round. Issue #2, this spring the cool nights have lasted into May and we have yet to have a growing season for the Bermuda grass. In addition to these issues, PRT Maintenance staff has dealt with major irrigation leaks at the soccer complex and soil compaction. PRT spent \$14,000 in the fall adding 40 tons of Soil 3 compost mix to improve field drying ability. We believe that this addition, irrigation repair, fertilization, and aeration of the fields will bring the fields back to the condition that our community is accustomed to. It will be necessary to close the soccer complex for the summer.

- “Down to the River” event, a sports and music festival is scheduled for June 2-3 in Riverside Village. The event begins on Friday, June 2nd with a Critical Nice Bike ride, the Hammond’s Ferry mile road race with cash prizes awarded to the winners, and nationally recognized recording artist Jordan Feliz concert in the Sharon Jones Amphitheater. Saturday, June 3rd features an Urban trail 5K and 10K run and paddle races on the Savannah River.

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- Knobcone Avenue Sidewalk
- Bluff Avenue Streetscape
- Detention Pond Maintenance
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- See the following page for the Employment Opportunities list



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Center Program Coordinator – PRT

Grade: 10
Salary/Pay Rate: \$18.90 - \$22.68/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Communications Technician – Public Safety

Grade: 9
Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Engineering Inspector – Engineering & Public Works

Grade: 13
Salary: \$21.69 - \$26.03/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Firefighter – Public Safety

Grade: 4
Salary/Pay Rate: \$13.31 - \$15.97/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Grounds Worker II – PRT

Grade: 6
Salary/Pay Rate: \$15.17 - \$18.20/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Grounds Worker II – Property Maintenance

Grade: 6
Salary/Pay Rate: \$15.17 - \$18.20/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Heavy Equipment Mechanic – Sanitation

Grade: 9
Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Laborer – Streets and Drains

Grade: 4
Salary/Pay Rate: \$13.31 - \$15.97/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Part-time Center Program Coordinator – PRT

Grade: UN
Salary/Pay Rate: \$14.06/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Public Safety Officer – Public Safety

Grade: 15
Salary/Pay Rate: \$22.04 - \$26.45/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Trades Worker – Streets & Drains

Grade: 8
Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.03 - \$20.44/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Utility Technician – Water/Wastewater

Grade: 9
Salary/Pay Rate: \$17.96 - \$21.56/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Vehicle Operator I – Sanitation

Grade: 6
Salary/Pay Rate: \$15.17 - \$18.20/hour
Closing Date: Until Filled

Riverfront Greenway Tree Walk

40. Shademaster Honey Locust

Gleditsia tricanthus f. inermis 'Shademaster'



**North Augusta City Council Remarks
May 8, 2023**

Margaret M. Key
Executive Director
Aiken County Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Services (Aiken Center)

Tiffany Birt, BSN, RN
Midlands Operations Director
Community Health Services
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Tamara Smith
Executive Director
Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center
South Carolina Department of Mental Health

Mental Health, DHEC, and Aiken Center propose that we collectively partner with North Augusta to establish a North Augusta Health Services Center – a one-stop-shop under one roof—for Mental Health, Substance Use Treatment, Recovery Support, and some basic Health Services through DHEC as core partners.

We would welcome the opportunity to investigate the feasibility of that location being in the current Summary Court/ CID building that will be vacated with the completion of the new Public Safety Headquarters. We realize that there would be a number of steps ahead to know if this is a feasible location and partnership.

Representative Bill Hixon reminded me this past week that co-located public health services like this have a history in North Augusta—it is not a new idea. It was needed then and is needed now. And such a center was successfully operational for a time beginning in 1982. I appreciated that important bit of history. Today ready access to critical health services is more important than ever.

We envision hope-filled prevention, treatment, recovery support, and health & wellness-promoting space. We sincerely desire to partner with the City of North Augusta toward that end.

Additional comments from Tamara Smith and Tiffany Birt.

Tiffany Birt Operation Director - DHEC

Good evening to Mayor Williams, City Council members, staff, and North Augusta community members. My name is Tiffany Birt, and I am one of the Operations Directors for DHEC's Midlands Region, and I am also a Registered Nurse at DHEC.

The Midlands Region is one of the four regions that comprise the Department of Health and Environmental Control. In the Midlands region, Aiken County is one of the counties that I oversee. Today, I've come here to speak in favor of the co-location of health services to include agencies like DHEC, Aiken Center, and the Aiken Barnwell Mental Health. The co-location of these services will offer many benefits to the city residents of North Augusta. In Aiken County, we currently have a health department that is located on Beaufort Street in Aiken, SC. At the health department, we offer services such as Preventive Health Services which includes Family Planning, STD services, Immunizations which includes COVID, Monkeypox, and other routine immunizations for adults and children, Maternal Child Health, TB, Vital Records, and the Women, Infants, and Children Program. In many years past, we had a health department located in North Augusta which was a great benefit for those who resided in North Augusta. As many of you know, the city of North Augusta has significantly grown over the years. If you have ever done a little research, you will find that the land mass of Aiken County is comparable to the state of Rhode Island, and that Aiken County is the fourth largest county in South Carolina by land area. These are important factors to consider when deciding to offer a health center with multiple agencies and resources for residents since transportation is a barrier for . In public health, we understand that social determinants of health such as health care access can greatly hinder the overall health of a community. As a resident of North Augusta for over 30 years and a public health servant, I truly have a vested interest in ensuring that this vision of DHEC becomes a reality. Our vision is healthy people living in healthy communities. The co-location of a health center would be one step closer to narrowing the gap that social determinants such as healthcare

access and transportation create. Thank you for your time and attention.

Tamara Smith Executive Director – Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center

Aiken Barnwell MHC is a community mental health center operating as part of the SC Department of Mental Health. We are a state agency. 50% of our budget is provided via general allocations through SCDMH via General Assembly. The other 50% is earned via revenue/contracts.

We provide an array of outpatient mental health services to children, adolescents, families and adults in Aiken and Barnwell counties.

We have three offices. Our main office is in Aiken, and we have two satellite offices- Barnwell and North Augusta. We've been delivering services in North Augusta since 1978.

We provide services to approximately 1000 individuals in North Augusta and approximately 6000 contacts (total) to these individuals.

We currently lease the building at 431 West Martintown Rd, NAUG. (formerly known as the Trotter Building). Currently, we have no room for growth/expansion. Offices are small and don't allow for the delivery of group room and limited family therapy. There is limited parking at this location to accommodate need.

1 in 5 individuals experience a MH issue- Approximately 5000 individuals in North Augusta have a MH issue/need. 50% of individuals with a serious mental illness are diagnosed with a co-occurring disorder (Mental illness/substance use). Individuals with serious mental illness on average die 25 years earlier.

We support co-location and one-stop model with providers as it provides an opportunity for growth, expansion, privacy, and collaboration. NAPS headquarters is: easily accessible, offers privacy, offers opportunity for growth/expansion and collaboration.