

**CITY OF ABBEVILLE, SC  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023**

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**Members Present:** Mayor Pro-Tem Benjamin P. Greeson, Jr, Councilmembers Christopher R. Crawford, James Jackson, A. Faye Thomas, Jason Edwards, John Sutherland, Louise Aikens, Mathew H. Gambrell

**Members Absent:** Mayor Trey Edwards (Virtual Attendance)

**Staff Present:** R. Blake Stone – City Manager, Fran Strickland Anderson– Assistant City Manager, Laura Snelling – CFO, Mike Clary – Deputy Administrative Officer/City Clerk, Thomas E. Hite, III – City Attorney

**Staff Absent:**

**Media Present:** Henry Green – **Press and Banner** Robert Jordan- **Index Journal**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Greeson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Greeson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was given by Councilmember Thomas.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilmember Gambrell and seconded by Councilmember Crawford to approve the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on June 29, 2023. With no objections the **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

2022 Audit - Marcy Loucks, McKinley Cooper & Co.

## CITY MANAGER REPORTS

### Report No. 16-2023 Information Only

Long Branch Sewer Rehabilitation Project

### Report No. 17-2023 Information Only

New Businesses to Abbeville

## NEW BUSINESS

Jefferson Davis Park – Councilman Gambrell

It was discussed that some community feedback had been received concerning the direction of Jefferson Davis Park as a Dog Park. Some alternative ideas for the Park were put forward such as concrete ping pong and chess/checkers tables. City Manager Stone noted that changing the project would require a vote by Council and that the project was funded through PARD Grant Funds.

AYA Wall of Fame – Councilman Gambrell

Councilman Gambrell brought to the groups attention that there were many individuals which would be great candidates to bring forward to nominate to the Wall of Fame. It was noted by City Manager Stone that this round of nominations could include 6 Nominees with four to be added to the wall this year and the remaining two in the following year. Nominations are to be brought forward at the August meeting.

Future Events and Festivals

City Manager Stone noted that this agenda item has been brought forward for the Council's consideration to provide input for next year's events and festivals. Discussion centered around the need to ensure that the brick and mortar businesses on the square are notified of road closures well in advance. It was brought up that the City does currently send certified letters to all downtown business owners as well as notifications through email, text, and Facebook. For private events on the Square, it was discussed to have a minimum two month time period between Council approval and the event. It was also discussed that WCTEL's local channel, WZLA, and the Press and Banner could be utilized to notify the public about potential road closures.

### Alcohol at Events

City Manager Stone noted that the topic had been brought up due to interest in the community to allow private events to have alcohol at events on the square and other public properties. There has also been concerns from the community about alcohol consumption at public events. City Manager Stone noted that he and the City Attorney could sit down and develop an update to the City's Code of Ordinances to bring before Council that would allow Council to approve alcohol requests on a per event basis. Some concerns brought forward by the Council included the need to have insurance, liability for the City, and possibly having designated zones to ensure we don't detract from the family friendly nature of public events. It was also brought forward that the City does permit alcohol consumption at more private event facilities such as the Livery Stable that are publicly owned and renters are required to obtain insurance. The council then discussed that events on the Square are more public in nature than those in the Livery Stable. City Attorney Hite noted that there could be more information on liability, etc. brought forward at the August meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comments were given.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gambrell and seconded by Councilmember Jackson to enter Executive Session. With no objections the motion passed unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion of matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services (Downtown Development)

Discussions of the public agency's position in adversary situations (Vehicle Accidents)

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss a motion was made by Councilmember Gambrell and seconded by Councilmember J. Edwards to adjourn the City Council meeting at 8:49 p.m. With no objections the **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Michael T. Clary  
Deputy Administrative Officer/City Clerk