

**CITY OF ABBEVILLE, SC  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

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

**Members Absent:** Jason Edwards

**Staff Present:** R. Blake Stone – City Manager, Fran Strickland Anderson– Assistant City Manager, Laura Snelling – CFO/City Clerk, Mike Clary – Deputy Administrative Officer, Emily Bledsoe – Opera House & Events Director

**Staff Absent:** Thomas E. Hite, III – City Attorney

**Media Present:** Henry Green – Press and Banner

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Edwards.

**PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTION**

**1. SC Commerce Presentation- Growing Rural Communities Grant**

SC Commerce gave a presentation discussing their Leadership Interview Summary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss a motion was made by Councilmember Gambrell and seconded by Councilmember Jackson to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 6:18 p.m. With no objections the **motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Laura A. Snelling  
Chief Financial Officer/City Clerk







## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Jason Walker addressed the Council regarding his opposition towards public alcohol consumption at Special Events and Festivals.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, or an appointment to a public body. (Annual Review)

Discussion of the public agency's position in adversary situations. (Business License Enforcement)

Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. (Public Utilities Lawncare Maintenance Contract)

Receipt of Legal Advice. (Alcohol at Festivals and Events)

A motion was made by Councilmember Thomas and seconded by Councilmember Crawford to go back into Open Session. With no objections the **motion passed unanimously**.

## **LEGISLATIVE**

### **ORDINANCES**

#### **Ordinance No. 13-2023 First Reading**

An ordinance of the City of Abbeville, South Carolina, amending Chapter 3 – Alcoholic Beverages: Section 3-2 Public Drinking.

A motion was made by Mayor Edwards and seconded by Councilmember Greeson to approve Ordinance No. 13-2023 as amended replacing individual zones with the entire event area. The **motion passed 6-2**, with Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Crawford opposing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gambrell and seconded by Councilmember Sutherland to approve Ordinance No. 13-2023 with all amendments, including replacing individual zones with the entire event area and a requirement to list the city as an additional insured. The **motion passed 7-1**, with Councilmember Thomas opposing.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

**Report No. 22-2023 Approval Requested**  
Public Utilities Lawncare Maintenance RFQ

A motion was made by Councilmember Greeson and seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to approve Report No. 22-2023, awarding Commercial Lawn & Turf the bid for Public Utilities Lawncare Maintenance. With no objections the **motion passed unanimously**.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to discuss a motion was made by Councilmember Thomas and seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adjourn the City Council meeting at 9:33 p.m. With no objections the **motion passed unanimously**.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura A. Snelling  
Chief Financial Officer/City Clerk