City Council Meeting Agenda

LAURENS CITY HALL
126 EAST PUBLIC SQUARE, LAURENS SC 29360
Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

I. Ordering the Business of Council
   1. Call to Order
   2. Invocation*
   3. Pledge of Allegiance*

   Mayor Nathan Senn
   Councilor Alicia Sullivan

II. Public Participation & Heating
   1. Family Promise of Laurens County
      Presentation of the program and how it is supporting families with children.
      Naomi Broadway, Director

   2. Historical Markers Committee
      Presentation of text proposed for markers for Possum Hollow and Charles Ducket Household.
      Elma Morrison, Chairperson

   3. Public Comment.
      Those requesting to address City Council during the public comment period must sign up to speak prior to the meeting being called to order, and all are requested to limit their remarks to no more than three (3) minutes, subject to the discretion of the Chair.

III. Proclamations & Commendations
     April 2021: Child Abuse Prevention Month
     Mayor Nathan Senn

IV. Reports & Communications
    1. Police Department
    2. Fire Department
    3. City Councilor Reports
       Request for Renaming of Street
    4. Mayor’s Report

     Chief Chrisiss Lantimore
     Chief Bill Hughes
     Councilor Casandra Campbell
     Mayor Nathan Senn

COUNCIL BUSINESS

V. Consent Agenda
   All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion and subsequent omnibus vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Council member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

   1. Approval of the Council Agenda for April 20, 2021
   2. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of March 16, 2021

VI. Old Business

*Please stand if you are able.
1. Ordinance 21-03-03 (Second Reading)  

Thomas J. Thompson, City Attorney
Amending R-3 Classification in the City of Laurens Code of Ordinances for Zoning to have a minimum lot width of fifty feet and side yard setback minimum of five feet.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Public Announcements

IX. Executive Session

Discussion about the possible sale of City-owned real estate.

X. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn  
Mayor Pro Tempore

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Viewing of City Council Meetings: All meetings of the Laurens City Council are available to be viewed by the public and are streamed live on the City's YouTube channel, which may be accessed at the following address: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KxQTFrEnXmGpLTvvaorpQ

A link to this channel will be posted on the City of Laurens' web site and Facebook page prior to each meeting.

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Addressing City Council: Those wishing to be included on the Council's Agenda during the Public Participation & Hearing portion of regular city council meetings must submit a written request to the City Administrator no less than one (1) week prior to each meeting, which are usually held on the third Tuesday of each month. Forms for requesting to address City Council are available at City Hall and will gladly be provided upon request. Those who are included on the Council’s agenda are requested to limit their remarks/presentation to no more than five (5) minutes, subject to the discretion of the Chair.

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Statement Regarding Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The City of Laurens wishes to ensure that its programs, services, and activities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. All City Council meetings are wheelchair accessible. Persons who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Laurens should contact the City Administrator at (864) 984-3933.

We would appreciate advance notice of at least 48 hours for any requests to receive an agenda in an alternate format or other types of auxiliary aids and services.

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Note: All minutes are drafts until approved at the subsequent meeting of City Council. The City of Laurens will post the approved minutes on their web site within 30 days of approval.
About Us: The City of Laurens, South Carolina is a thriving, growing city of approximately 9,000 residents and it is located in the heart of Laurens County, the gateway to the Upstate region. The city, which was originally incorporated in 1845, serves as the seat of county government, and has played an influential part in shaping the history of our state, from the time of the American Revolution, throughout the twentieth century, and into the present day. As a center of manufacturing and industry, the City of Laurens has seen a rebirth from what was once a town dominated by textile mills to its present status as a forward-thinking city with a wide variety of manufacturing and industrial employers. It is a place which celebrates and values its history, while striving to welcome and encourage growth and the prosperity of all of its citizens and businesses.
The Municipal Association of South Carolina is planning to host the 2021 Annual Meeting on Hilton Head Island as an in-person event 7/21/2021-7/25/2021. The meeting will consist of educational sessions that are relevant to municipal officials. In an effort to maintain the safety of our members, the event will be different from past annual meetings.

The agenda will be abbreviated and there will not be any breakout sessions. MASC is not planning the typical exhibit hall for this event and the social events are limited to an opening reception, the delegates' luncheon and a dessert reception on Saturday night. Attendees will be required to wear face coverings while in the meeting areas.

The Association will mail out the registration brochure to all council members in May. Registration will go through our online registration process as it has in previous years. I am your representative to make reservations for the city. The Association will have a random drawing to assign appointment times for me to make reservations. I will be making these reservations during my assigned appointment time on June 8 or 9.

Each council member should be thoughtful when planning and registering for the event. I can't register anyone who has not firmly committed to attending the event. This helps to ensure that the maximum number of people can register for the meeting and book hotel rooms while avoiding unnecessary cancellations.

Annual Meeting Schedules:

- Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2021
  7/21/2021 - 7/25/2021

- Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2022
  7/13/2022 - 7/17/2022
• Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2023
  7/19/2023 - 7/23/2023

• Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2024
  7/17/2024 - 7/21/2024

• Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2025
  7/16/2025 - 7/20/2025

• Municipal Association of SC Annual Meeting 2026
  7/15/2026 - 7/19/2026
CHARLES DUCKETT HOUSE

Charles Duckett (1860 – 1947), a prosperous black businessman from Laurens, South Carolina, designed and built this one-story residence in 1895. The house reflects the success Duckett found in running his multiple businesses, including a funeral home and a lumber yard. His lumber company was the only one owned and operated by an African-American in the South at the time. In addition to being a carpenter and contractor, he took an active part in the civic affairs of Laurens and in the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Duckett stood for truth, honesty, and integrity. He had a kind and sympathetic heart that went to all less fortunate than him, regardless of creed or color.
POSSUM HOLLOW

This corner of Hampton and Caroline Streets was once a center of religion and education in Laurens, South Carolina.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized shortly after the Civil War in 1868 and comprised one of the first totally African American congregations in Laurens. It was designed by ex-slave and local African American architect, Columbus White who became a trustee and treasurer of the church. Two bishops of the African American Episcopal Church have come from Bethel. In 1907 the Romanesque Revival building was constructed.

Columbus White was also the architect of the Saint Paul Baptist Church in 1912. Saint Paul was the first African American Baptist Church in Laurens.

Thomas Sanders came to Laurens in 1895 and opened a school at a home on Hampton Street and began his teaching career. Near the Saint Paul Baptist Church he later directed the construction of the Hampton Street School, affectionately known as “Possum Hollow School”. Sanders worked tirelessly to increase educational opportunities for African American citizens of Laurens.
Good Evening, My name is WILBERT MORRISON;

I am a concerns citizen of Laurens County.
To Mayor Senn and the City Council.

Thank you for allowing me to address you.

today.

On March 29, 2021 we lost a very find citizen a Barber and entrepreneur of Laurens County, Mr. Willie C. (Moddie) Foggie, who served this community for over 50 years.

I am here tonight to ask if you to set aside January 27, 2022 as Willie (Moddie) Foggie DAY. This is his birthday and because of COVID-19, this will give us time to work on
the event for that day, and prayerful the COVID-19 will be over.

Call 981-3259
Home 984-3994
April 14, 2021

To the Honorable Mayor Nathan Senn and Laurens City Council

Over the course of the last fourteen months, I have written weekly articles in the Laurens County Advertiser on various honorable men and women who had dedicated their lives to the serving of our community.

I am from this community, having been born in the basement of the Laurens County Hospital when it was on Farley Avenue and during segregation of the 1960’s. I may be part of the last generation that has personally dealt with southern apartheid as a way of life; where we had in this city, separate doctor’s waiting areas, water fountains, and we had to walk through the back doorways of city businesses.

I herewith formally request that the Mayor and Laurens City Council consider my request to rename South Harper Extension Mr. C.D. Beasley and Mrs. Lucinda Sherman Beasley Memorial Drive.

I also would request that you consider and rename two additional streets. First from the intersection of Main Street and North Harper Street, beginning at the Backstreet Park to the intersection of North Harper Street and Fleming Street to the Dr. Ralph Pughsley Memorial Drive; and secondly, the street from the eastern side of the Public Square where it intersects with North Harper Street to the Judith and Earl Franklin Memorial Street; or the Judith Franklin and Earl Franklin Place; or as Franklin Street.

For these respected and successful persons have been key figures of our community. Our community is in very much need of a renaissance, in that properties within our community which were once owner-occupied are now more rental and poorly maintained; however, note that some of these properties have historical value and should be protected.

You may ask why these city streets?

As to Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Beasley:

- The Beasleys resided on Sullivan Street which is quite near South Harper Street Extension;
- Their successful Funeral Home, the Beasley Funeral Home was moved from Sullivan Street to South Harper Street Extension, and is currently located on the street;
- The church they attended and supported, The Evening Light Church of God is located on this street;
• The street’s name of South Harper Street Extension has little connotation other than the longer part of an existing city street;
• Additionally, for all of the reasons that I have given for their lives in my Laurens County Advertiser Article (a copy of which is attached).

As to Dr. Ralph Pughsley:

• Dr. Pughsley resided and had his pharmacy on this street;
• He dedicated himself to the Laurens community and was one of the first black pharmacists, if not the first black pharmacist in the City of Laurens.
• Our community relied on him for advice and guidance;
• Dr. Pughsley died in his pharmacy that fronted on the street, formerly known as Backstreet; his pharmacy was located on the corner of North Harper (the section formerly called Backstreet) and Garlington’s Alley next to the Brown-Franklin Building.

As to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Franklin:

• Much can be said about these two Laurens City residents;
• I intend on doing an article on them at the appropriate time;
• They owned realty throughout the city, but more importantly, they resided on this street now named Garlington’s Alley;
• The Brown-Franklin Building was their city residence when they died;
• They promoted and financially supported Dr. Ralph Pughsley in his studies to become a pharmacist;
• They were highly respected and may have been the wealthiest individuals in Laurens during their times;
• They are buried in a mausoleum in The Old Jersey Cemetery;
• The renaming of all of these streets would provide a renewed focus point to the community residents;
• Mr. Brown Franklin was Mr. Earl Franklin’s father, thus the building’s name of Brown-Franklin. Mr. Brown Franklin was a fireman and the First Black Fire Chief of the Laurens City Crescent Hood & Ladder Fire Unit, which was an all black fire department during segregation. It is said that he slept with the water wrench under his pillow that turned the water onto the fire;
• The current name of Garlington’s Alley connotes danger to me.

The renaming of these streets shall provide a new starting point for a Laurens City Renaissance in a section of Laurens that very much needs a renaissance.
requests should be considered and accepted. The street names I propose are only examples for your consideration.

My apologies that I could not attend your council meeting. I thank Councilperson Campbell for the reading of my letter.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration,

[Signature]

Gary L. Williams, Esquire
CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
126 EAST PUBLIC SQUARE
APRIL 20, 2021
5:30PM

PRESENT
Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, City Attorney Tom Thompson, IT Director Colby Rice, City Administrator Gary Coleman, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison

ABSENT
Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, and Councilor Alicia Sullivan

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE
Judith Brown – The Advertiser, Kelsey Woods – GoLaurens, and Iva Cadmus via Facebook - WLBG

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION
Mayor Senn called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & HEARING
1. Family Promise of Laurens County – Director Naomi Broadway explained about how this program supports families with children. She stated that Family Promise is a program that helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community based response. They are a two person staff with the help of volunteers from the community.

2. Historical Markers Committee – Elma Morrison, chair of the city’s Historical Markers Committee, was present proposing texts for markers for Possum Hollow at the corner of Hampton Avenue and Caroline Street and the Charles Duckett House at 109 Downs Street. These texts will be sent to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for final approval.

3. Public Comment – Wilbert Morrison and Holly Welch were present and wished to address the councilors.
   Mr. Morrison explained that Laurens lost a very fine citizen, barber, and entrepreneur on March 29, 2021. Mr. Willie C. (Moddie) Foggie served the community for over 50 years. He asked council to set aside January 27, 2022 as Willie Foggie Day since January
27th would have been his next birthday. Mayor Senn stated that he will be glad to issue a proclamation for this.

Ms. Welch was present to discuss the growth that Laurens County is about to experience. She is excited about the growth, but concerned at the same time. She has also voiced her concerns with the Sheriff’s Office and with the City of Clinton. She learned that there are over 4,000 homes that have been approved for building in the county with several large developments being constructed in the City of Laurens. She is concerned that plans might not be in place yet to handle the other aspects of the growth, such as overcrowded schools and the need for increased fire and police protection. Mayor Senn, Chief Latimore, and Chief Hughes assured Ms. Welch that numerous meetings have already been held and more meetings are scheduled to discuss ideas and solutions about the impending growth.

**PROCLAMATIONS & COMMENDATIONS**

1. Mayor Senn presented a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Police Department – Chief Chrissie Latimore updated council on the state of the Police Department. She explained about the extensive training the officers have been through during the past year, including Diversity, Use of Force, No Neck Restraint, and Mental Health training. There was also a Duty to Intervene policy added making it mandatory for officers to step in when they see a violation of policy, abuse of authority, or inappropriate force being used.

   Chief Latimore also stated that the increased use of PPE and protocols have diminished the impact of Covid within the department. A small grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety helped in these efforts. She noted that the Police Department has been working on the Crime Watch Program and have set up tentative meetings in the districts of those council members who wish to take part in this program. She also stated that with the Covid numbers decreasing, the department is again increasing traffic, parking, and litter violations. Court is now back in person and court cases will be catching up. Court will be held twice a day.

2. Fire Department – Fire Chief Bill Hughes stated that fire inspections have resumed. They were temporarily delayed due to Covid. Hose, pump, and rope inspections are in progress and carbon monoxide calls are frequent.

   Chief Hughes informed everyone that the fire department received a $28,000 state grant and this covered the cost of four air packs. Also, Fire Department employees are in the process of transferring equipment from a 30-year-old firetruck to a new one that was received last month.

3. City Councilor Reports – Councilor Campbell spoke on behalf of Attorney Gary Williams, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Williams wishes to honor those who
dedicated their lives to serving the community by renaming several streets. The first street he wishes to rename is South Harper Street Extension. He proposed the new name to be Mr. CD Beasley and Lucinda Sherman Beasley Memorial Drive. He also wishes to rename from the intersection of Main Street and North Harper Street to the intersection of North Harper and Fleming Street. He proposed for the new name to be Dr. Ralph Pughesley Memorial Drive. The third street he wishes to rename is the street from the eastern side of the Public Square to where it intersects with North Harper Street to either Judith and Earl Franklin Memorial Street, Judith and Earl Franklin Place, or Franklin Street. All of these successful and respected persons have been key figures in our community.

4. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Senn was proud to announce that over 8,000 vaccines have been administered at The Ridge. He also was pleased to announce that the newly paved city parking lot at the corner of South Harper Street and East Main Street will have several electric car outlets. These outlets will be donated by the Commission of Public Works. Friday Night Live has been a success so far. He hopes that businesses and restaurants staying open later will get people in the habit of staying in town on Friday nights. He also hopes it encourages new investments in downtown buildings. Mayor Senn introduced Brandon Roberts as the new Code Enforcement Officer for the city. Mr. Roberts took the place of Jackie Williams who moved into the city’s newly created full-time magistrate’s position.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the April 20, 2021 Council Agenda
A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve the April 20, 2021 agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading Ordinance 21-03-03 Amending R-3 Classification in the City of Laurens Code of Ordinances for Zoning to Have a Minimum Lot Width of Fifty Feet and Side Yard Setback Minimum of Five Feet
City Attorney Thompson explained that this is an ordinance that has been recommended by the Planning Commission. It concerns the R-3 zoning districts. It will change the width of residential lots in the R-3 districts from a minimum of sixty to feet to a minimum of fifty feet and the side set backs from a minimum of six feet to a minimum of five feet. A motion was made by Councilor Latimore and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve Ordinance 21-03-03.
NEW BUSINESS
None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mayor Senn encouraged everyone to get the Covid vaccine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Discussion about the possible sale of City-owned real estate -
Due to three councilors being absent, Mayor Senn decided to table this Executive Session until May's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Councilor Latimore and seconded by Councilor Bolt to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVED:

[Signature]
NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]
LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK AND TREASURER