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

II. Administration of the Oath of Office
   Those members re-elected to Laurens City Council on March 2, 2021 take the oath of office administered by Mayor Senn.
   Ward 1: Marian Miller
   Ward 2: Alicia Sullivan
   Ward 4: Sarah Latimore

III. Election of the Mayor Pro Tempore
   Immediately following any general municipal election, state law requires that council elect from its membership a mayor pro
   tempore for a term not to exceed two years. (S.C. Code § 5-7-190)
   1. Call for Nominations from Council
   2. Election

IV. Public Participation & Hearing
   1. Laurens County Museum
      Laura Cook, Director
      Presentation concerning the current status, programs, and needs of the Museum.

   2. Laurens County Disability & Special Needs Board
      Jason Tavenner, Director
      Presentation concerning the work of LCDSNB and Developmental Disabilities Month

   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.

V. Proclamations & Commendations
   1. March 2021: Developmental Disabilities Month
      Mayor Nathan Senn

VI. Reports & Communications
   1. Parks & Recreation
      Director Jason Pridgen
   2. Building & Zoning
      Director Jeremy Hudson
   3. City Councilor Reports
   4. Mayor’s Report
      Mayor Nathan Senn

*Please stand if you are able.
COUNCIL BUSINESS

VII. 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 so 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 March 11, 2021
2. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 16, 2021

VIII. Old Business

1. Ordinance 21-02-02 (Second Reading) Thomas J. Thompson, City Attorney
   Amending B2 Classification in the City of Laurens Code of Ordinances for Zoning to include all residential dwellings except for manufactured homes.

IX. New Business

1. Ordinance 21-03-03 (First 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.

2. Resolution 21-03-01 Mayor Nathan Senn
   Endorsing the City of Laurens' participation in the pursuit of a regional and/or city trail system within the city, including areas along or within railroad rights-of-way

3. Resolution 21-03-02 Mayor Nathan Senn
   Endorsing the location of The South Carolina Revolutionary War Museum within the city limits of the City of Laurens.

X. Public Announcements

XI. Executive Session

None.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Mayor Pro Tempore

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/UC8KxQTFrEnXmGpLTvaorpQ

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

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.

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.
CITY OF LAURENS
POLICY AND PROCEDURE
FOR ELECTING MAYOR PRO-TEM

The election of the Mayor Pro-Tem will be held during the first regularly scheduled meeting of Council after a regular Municipal Election.

The Mayor Pro-Tem will be nominated from among those newly elected members of Council with first terms Councilors being ineligible to be elected.

This process will be on a rotation basis after each Municipal Election.

Adopted by Council on March 21, 2017

[Signature]
Mayor John Stankus

ATTEST:

[Signature]
City Administrator – Gary Coleman

DATE: Mar 21, 2017
FINALLY FRIDAY
MARCH 19, 2021 - (SHOPPING/DINING FOCUS)
MAY 14, 2021 -
JUNE 11, 2021 -
JULY 9, 2021 -
AUGUST 13, 2021 -
SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 - FINALLY FRIDAY (SHOPPING/DINING FOCUS)
NOVEMBER 12, 2021 -
DECEMBER 3, 2021 - TREE LIGHTING

MOVING ON MAIN 5K
MAY 15, 2021

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
EACH FRIDAY NIGHT BEGINNING IN APRIL - BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS OPEN

SIP & STROLL (SPONSORED BY CORNERSTONE INVESTMENTS)
APRIL 22, 23, & 24

FARMERS’ MARKET
EACH SATURDAY MORNING JUNE 12 - AUGUST 28

SQUEALIN’ ON THE SQUARE (PRESENTED BY PRTC)
OCTOBER 1 & 2

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY DOWNTOWN MARKET
NOVEMBER 27

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES (DETAILS TO COME)
WOMEN’S & MEN’S NIGHT OUT
HORSE & CARROUSEL RIDE S
CHRISTMAS DOWNTOWN

* EVENT CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE*
Main Street Laurens leads the way.

Main Street Laurens is known across the state and nation as a strong, sustainable program. Our progress and programs have been recognized as a model for growing partnerships and strategies to achieve our goals of revitalizing Downtown Laurens.

Downtown’s Goals & Strategies

- Work closely with the City of Laurens on policies and improvements that will help ensure that our downtown continues to thrive.
- Build community relationships to help maintain the quality of life in our vibrant downtown.
- Develop our downtown revitalization through an Arts/Entertainment and Culinary focus while working with the City of Laurens on residential recruitment.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Main Street Laurens is truly blessed with dedicated volunteers. Their dedication and willingness to lend a hand is what sets our events and activities apart from others. In 2020, our volunteers donated 347 hours of service, worth $8,328 in service we would have had to pay for had it not been for their desire to see a better downtown. Our volunteers helped with our Farmer’s Market, Craft Fairs, Christmas activities and planning for the organization and downtown! #THANKYOU
The new Pride of the Piedmont mural was installed on the Elite Home Care building near the Food Truck Plaza.

Grants awarded for facade improvements and COVID-19 utility assistance.

COVID-19 changed our focus to online tools and assistance for our businesses' success.

Reinvestment Stats 2020
13 Building Improvements
3 New Businesses

Population
8,910

Median HH Income
$36,228

Median Age
40.6

Helping Businesses Thrive
- Quarterly business meetings
- Small Business Saturday champion
- Educational workshops & grants

Our Grills Grant from the National Main Street Center focused on technology audits and upgrades for businesses

Social Connection
4,200+
Facebook Followers
1,100+
Instagram Followers

Volunteer Connection
347
2020 Volunteer hours
$8,328
Volunteer value

MSL Board of Directors
Chair: Dale Satterfield
Vice Chair: John Young
Treasurer: Ernie Segars
Secretary: Tana Adams
City Rep.: Gary Coleman
County Rep.: Dale Satterfield
Member: Elizabeth Able
Member: Laura Dennie
Member: Suellen Holmes
Member: Sharon O'Bryant
Member: Lisa Papeleacos
Member: Annette Patterson
Member: Scott Todd
Member: Kim Verdin
Member: Candi Wilson

Proud Member of Main Street SC
The Leader in Grassroots Economic Development

Main Street SC provides technical assistance to implement the Main Street Four-Point Approach®, a community-driven, comprehensive strategy encouraging economic development through historic preservation and placemaking.
CITY OF LAURENS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
126 EAST PUBLIC SQUARE  
MARCH 16, 2021  
5:30PM  

PRESENT  
Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, Councilor Alicia Sullivan, IT Director Colby Rice, City Administrator Gary Coleman, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison  

ABSENT  
City Attorney Tom Thompson  

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE  
Judith Brown – The Advertiser and Kelsey Woods - GoLaurens  

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.  

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION  
Mayor Senn called the meeting to order with Councilor Miller giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.  

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE  
Mayor Senn administered the Oath of Office for the reelection of Councilor Miller (Ward 1), Councilor Sullivan (Ward 2), and Councilor Latimore (Ward 4).  

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE  
Councilor Sullivan nominated Councilor Miller to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilor Bolt seconded the nomination and it was approved unanimously.  

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & HEARING  
1. Laura Cook from the Laurens County Museum was unable to attend the meeting. Mainstreet Director Jonathan Irick spoke in her place. Since there were many cancellations in last year’s special events schedule, he updated council on what events are to come in 2021. He explained that Finally Friday will move to the third Friday of each month instead of the last Friday of the month. Also, Sip & Stroll will be a three day event instead of just one. Sip & Stroll will take place on 4/22, 4/23, and 4/24. Irick also stated that each Friday in April will feature a “Friday Night Live” event. This involves businesses and restaurants on the square staying open later and having their own special events. The Farmers Market will begin in June.
2. Executive Director Jason Tavenner was also present celebrating March as Disabilities Awareness month and updating council on the progress of the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. He stated that on behalf of the board, for the 500 people that we support, their caregivers, their families, and on behalf of the 200 plus employees we have, he wants to express his appreciation to council for considering the proclamation. He appreciates the fact that the proclamation doesn’t just focus on the individual’s barriers, but it also focuses on overcoming those barriers. He highlighted a few of the LCDSNB’s accomplishments for the year, such as in January of 2020, they had 21 people that they support working in the community. Fast forward to January of 2021, they now have 44 people working in the community. The reason for this is the Laurens County community because it has embraced them and has allowed them opportunities every day and they are very grateful.

3. Public Comment
   David Kennedy and Durant Ashmore were present and wished to address council.

   Mr. Kennedy spoke to council about the importance of the inclusion of African Americans in the Revolutionary War Museum. He asked that the history not be one-sided when it comes to council making decisions about the potential museum. He stated that, as president of the NAACP, it is his job to protect the community.

   Mr. Ashmore introduced himself to council and explained that he is a consultant for the Laurens County Museum. He stated that he is present to speak in favor of a State Revolutionary War Museum in the City of Laurens. It is a Revolutionary War Museum that honors and recognizes the history of everybody in Laurens County. He stated that the Revolutionary War is our common heritage and it is an opportunity to tell the stories of everyone. There are currently two American Revolution War Museums in America. One is in Philadelphia, PA and the other is in Yorktown, VA. South Carolina has a special heritage in Revolutionary War events because there are more events that took place in South Carolina than any place in the nation. He explained that the City of Laurens is a special place for the location of this museum because within fifty miles of where we are right now, there were 112 significant events. No other place in America can say that. This museum is also the perfect place to tell the many stories about enslaved people and their roles and contributions to the war.

**PROCLAMATIONS & COMMENDATIONS**
1. Mayor Senn presented a proclamation to Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Director Jason Tavenner recognizing March as Disabilities Awareness Month.

**REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**
1. Parks & Recreation – Parks & Recreation Director Jason Pridgen was present and updated council on the state of his department for 2021. He stated that he is excited to get back on the courts and on the playing field after the long break due to Covid. He recognized ten new All Stars players for finishing District and State runner ups in the Western District South Carolina Athletics Program. Also, he was very excited to announce that, after having to pause for Covid, he has had some very exciting meetings with community partners (PRTC, Prisma Health, First Baptist Church, etc) about the eSports Program. This program will be huge for the city and the community and he is hoping to make some bigger announcements about it in the next month or two.

2. Building & Zoning – Building & Zoning Director Jeremy Hudson was present and also updated council on the state of his department for 2021. He talked about the growth that is happening in the city with eight new permits issued during the past week including new homes and the remodeling of businesses such as Ingles and McDonalds. Also, they are still talking with developers about new subdivisions.

3. City Council Reports – Each city council member spoke about the issues they are having in their respective districts (loud trucks, derelict vehicles, litter, abandoned homes, etc).

4. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Senn stated that one of the first things that was done when he came into office two years ago was a city-wide clean up. Unfortunately, this was derailed this year because of Covid. He is planning a second city-wide clean up in every neighborhood, not just the main thoroughfares. He stated that more information will come about that. He continued by explaining that there are other things that have taken place to help with the litter problem. The new transfer station has been completed at the Laurens Landfill. This transfer station accepts things such as construction material and household debris that was recently only accepted at farther away places. This should help with illegal dumping. Also, the county is working on a new littering ordinance. When this is finalized, he stated that he would like council to approve a near identical littering ordinance for the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Council Agenda
A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve the March 16, 2021 agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading of Ordinance 21-02-02 Amending B2 Classification in the City of Laurens Code of Ordinances for Zoning to Include All Residential Dwellings Except for Manufactured Homes
City Administrator Coleman explained that this is a second reading of the changing of the B-2 zoning. It comes as a recommendation from the Planning Commission that the B-2 zoning district be allowed to have residential uses as in the R-3 district.
A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve Ordinance 21-02-02. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. First 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 Administrator Coleman explained that this is an ordinance that has also been recommended by the Planning Commission. It concerns the R-3 zoning districts. It will change the minimal width of residential lots in the R-3 districts from sixty to feet to fifty feet and the side set backs from six feet to five feet. The developers for one of the upcoming new subdivisions have requested this.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Ordinance 21-03-03. After several questions and comments about the construction of the homes in the new subdivision, the motion was approved unanimously.

2. Resolution 21-03-01 Endorsing the City of Laurens Participation in the Pursuit of a Regional and/or City Trail System Within the City, Including Areas Along or Within Railroad Right-of-Ways

Mayor Senn explained that the purpose of this resolution is not to bind the City of Laurens to any particular financial obligation, plan, or anything other than saying that council sees the value in having a trail system come through our city. This resolution says that the mayor, council, and city staff hope to work together with community partners, the railroad system, and anyone else involved to try to bring this trail about. The mayor went on to say that this resolution comes from a recent meeting he had with representatives from the City of Clinton, Laurens County, and the Laurens County Trails Association. A trail will be built beginning at the hospital and going a loop outwards. The CPW Commissioners have already approved for certain rights-of-way to be used to bring the trail system through Laurens.

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Campbell to approve the Resolution 21-03-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Resolution 21-03-02 Endorsing the Location of the South Carolina Revolutionary War Museum Within the City Limits of the City of Laurens

Mayor Senn began by stating that the idea for this resolution is that July 4, 1776 the United States declared independence from Great Britain and on July 4, 2026, our nation will celebrate its 250th birthday. We have five years, more or less, and the clock is ticking. There will be large scale celebrations for the nation’s 250th birthday. In 1976 the state of Virginia built a Revolutionary War Museum. The City of Laurens is in the center of so many Revolutionary War sites. Because of this centrality, if a Revolutionary War Museum was established here, we could become the hub of the wheel that would have spokes all throughout the state and particularly the upstate region for people to learn about the history of South Carolina as it relates to the Revolution. There are a lot of perspectives and views to the history and an advantage to having this museum is that it would be a branch of the state museum. It would be done to the standards of the South Carolina State Museum with all views and perspectives included.
Laurens County Council has said that they want it to be in Laurens County. The mayor stated that he is asking council for them to say they would like for it to be in the City of Laurens by approving this resolution. A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Lowry to approve the Resolution 21-03-02. After much discussion about inclusion of the African American and Native American’s roles and importance during the Revolution being included in the museum, the resolution was approved 5-1 with Councilor Sullivan voting against it.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mayor Senn announced to everyone that, for anyone interested, applications for the city’s various boards and commissions are on the city’s website.

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

APPROVED:

NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK AND TREASURER