

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CPW TRAINING CENTER
214 CHURCH STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
MARCH 19, 2024
5:30PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Sara Latimore, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, City Administrator Eric Delgado, IT Director Colby Rice, and City Clerk Leslie Mattison

ABSENT

Councilor Alicia Sullivan

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

Judith Brown – Advertiser

THE MEDIA WAS NOTIFIED BY AN EMAILED AGENDA.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Senn called the meeting to order with Councilor Lowry giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn began by stating that he was honored to be able to speak earlier this month at the Riley's Mayors' Design Fellowship in Charleston. It should make everyone proud that the City of Laurens has been recognized as a success story across the state for what it means to implement good principles of urban planning and design. It is something remarkable when the Mayor of Greenwood and the Mayor of Mount Pleasant are taking notes because the Mayor of Laurens is sharing some of the city's experiences.

Mayor Senn also informed everyone that he spoke at the Rural Summit. This is an annual event that is hosted by the South Carolina Department of Commerce where cities and rural counties come together to discuss the issues that affect the rural parts of the state. The purpose of his speech was how does Laurens avoid becoming Any Town, USA and the steps that the city is taking to build a walkable city.

Mayor Senn continued by stating that he recently accepted the resignation of Police Chief Keith Grounsell. Captain Heath Copeland was willing to step up and serve as the acting chief, but it was very clear to the mayor in the course of their conversations that it would be wasted effort and time to hold an extensive external search for a candidate when the right man for the job was

already here in the police department. Mayor Senn swore Captain Copeland in as Chief of Police. Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board Executive Director, Jason Tavenner, and Associate Director, Tara Glenn, were present to update council on the progress of the LCDSNB. Executive Director Tavenner thanked Mayor Senn and council for preparing a proclamation to celebrate March as Disabilities Awareness Month. He stated that this proclamation represents the over 600 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that LCDSNB supports and the 200 staff members that are employed to provide care.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda, February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, and February 22, 2024 Special Called Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 2-24-1: Nonconforming use exception amendment: *Subsection (b) (1) of Section 44-15 entitled "Nonconformities"* – Mayor Senn reminded council that this ordinance went before the Planning Commission in February and that it will clean up the nonconforming businesses in the city.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Latimore to approve Ordinance 2-24-1. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

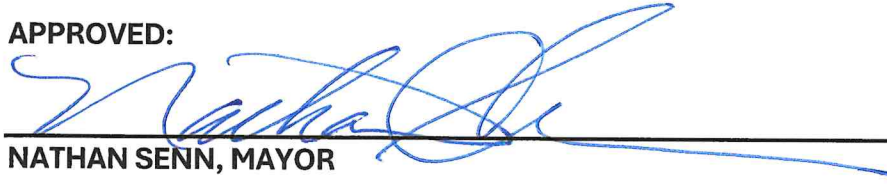
1. Ordinance 3-24-1: Amendment to the Business License Ordinance of the City of Laurens to update the class schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020 – Mayor Senn explained that in 2020 the legislature decided to reform the way that business licenses were handled by municipalities across the state. From time to time, municipalities are required to update the class schedule which categorizes types of businesses according to the most recent table that has been adopted by the state. The city's ordinance is already in compliance, but this appendix and modification to the class schedule list needs to be updated. This simply brings us into compliance with state law.

A motion was made by Councilor Latimore and seconded by Councilor Miller to approve Ordinance 3-24-1. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED:



NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK