

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CPW TRAINING CENTER
214 CHURCH STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
APRIL 16, 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 Bolt giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Senn began by stating that council meeting rules require members of City Council to be present to participate in City Council meetings. He explained that he was contacted by Councilor Sullivan a little while ago and she has requested to be present by phone. Mayor Senn explained that he does not have the authority to waive the rules that have been established by City Council to allow her to do that. City Council may choose to suspend that rule if it so chooses for the purpose of tonight's meeting.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Latimore to not suspend the rules and allow her to appear remotely. The motion was approved unanimously. She was not permitted to be present by phone.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn recognized Councilor Campbell. Councilor Campbell stated that she wants to give a huge shout out to some members of the city team as well as some members of the community. She recognized Courtney Stonell, the beautification affiliate coordinator for the county through the Chamber of Commerce, City Administrator Eric Delgado, Recreation Director Jason Pridgen,

Hunter Holmes, Streets & Sanitation Director Kerwin Tribble, and several community members. They all were very helpful in the recent community clean up in District Three. Councilor Campbell encouraged the public to go to the city's website to get the regulations on what the city can and cannot pick up from its residents.

Mayor Senn stated that this meeting is the last council meeting that will take place at CPW. He thanked CPW for giving council a temporary home during the construction of the Municipal Center. There will be a grand opening of the Municipal Center that will occur on the same night as the May City Council meeting.

On Thursday, April 18th, a city-wide cleanup will take place. This is just one piece of a larger initiative that's been going on across the city. He thanked everyone for their efforts in keeping the city clean.

Mayor Senn explained that another effort to keep the city clean is the Clean Up Crackdown. The city is putting city residents on notice that they have until June 24th to clean up their properties. The law that applies 365 days a year still applies but the city is giving some grace. People can take the next 60 days to come into compliance with the law and not worry about facing a ticket. On the other hand, after June 24th, people should expect that the city is going to be stringent about making sure properties are cleaned up. If anyone has concerns whether they are in compliance with the law, the city is more than willing to take those calls and answer those questions. Also, the city ordinances are online and anyone can go look at them.

In addition to the clean up on Thursday, there are other city events coming up. These events include the Blues & Roots Music Festival in May, the Juneteenth celebration in mid-June, and the July 3rd festivities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the April 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda and March 19, 2024 Regular 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 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 reminded council 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 the city 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Senn", written over a horizontal line.

NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie Mattison", written over a horizontal line.

LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK