

**CITY OF LAURENS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL CENTER
250 WEST LAURENS STREET, LAURENS, SC 29360
MAY 27, 2025
5:30PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Nathan Senn, Councilor Johnnie Bolt, Councilor Cassandra Campbell, Councilor Martin Lowry, Councilor Marian Miller, Councilor Alicia Sullivan, Councilor Calvin Whitmire, City Administrator Eric Delgado, and IT Director Colby Rice

ABSENT

City Clerk Leslie Mattison and 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 Whitmire giving the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Senn stated that the first inaugural year of Mayor's Youth Council has just finished. The city is especially proud of the three seniors who are graduating this year.

The city had a great Earth Day cleanup. Special thanks to Keep Laurens County Beautiful in their efforts in helping the city. In April, 181 volunteers collected over 7,800 pounds of litter across the county.

The Piedmont Roots and Blues Festival took place recently. This was a great evening of live music at the Capitol Theater. It brought some of the music that was born in Laurens back to Laurens. It was a special event.

Mayor Senn stated that it was a honor to be asked by the Laurens County Hall of Heroes to participate in their Memorial Day recognition and observance together with the City of Clinton. This took place at the Veteran's new monument.

Mayor Senn shared upcoming events with council. He stated that more information about these events can be found on the city's website.

Mayor Senn announced that Mikell Powell, the city's Building and Planning Administrator, has offered his resignation. He was recruited for a job in the private sector. The process of looking for

his replacement has begun. An agreement has been signed with BLE and they will be assisting with plan review and will serve as the city's Building Official in the interim.

Mayor Senn stated that because of what is on the agenda for this meeting, he wants to share a few thoughts about the budget. This budget is the result of months of thoughtful planning by the City's Department Heads, City Administrator, as well as valuable input from council during the budget workshop. Even with current economic uncertainty, it represents a commitment to responsibility and to sustainable growth. This budget includes prudent measures to protect the city's financial health without increasing property taxes. Key features of this budget include a citywide hiring and salary freeze (with exceptions for critical vacancies), continued investment in public safety (although departments have been asked to cut hundreds of thousands of dollars), and strategic infrastructure maintenance and improvement. The city will also continue to support the parks and recreation programs and things that build community and enhance public safety. Furthermore, Mayor Senn encouraged everyone to shop local.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Patsy Adams was present and wished to speak with mayor and council. She stated that she has seen Main Street Laurens help downtown blossom. She is concerned because the Main Street fee is being recaptioned as the economic development fee. Mrs. Adams stated that she wanted to come before council and let them know how she has seen the importance of Main Street and the difference the Main Street program has made. Main Street and the City are a great partnership. She sees Main Street as a non-profit that is able to do things that city government cannot do. One of those things is to draw in volunteers. This is very important. She concluded by stating that if the Main Street fee is going to be taken for economic development in the city and not just to help Main Street survive, it will be a struggle. She hopes that she is interpreting this wrong and that the city will continue to help Main Street in a lot of ways and to allow them to still have this money.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the May 27, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda and April 15, 2025 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 04-25-01: AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SELL 24 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT TMS #906-24-01-006 (HUNTER INDUSTRIAL PARK) ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS – There was no discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Miller and seconded by Councilor Bolt to approve Ordinance 04-25-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 05-25-01: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES BY THE CITY OF LAURENS FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; IMPOSING CERTAIN FEES AND CHARGES WITHIN SUCH BUDGET; TO PROVIDE FOR EXECUTION OF AND PUT INTO EFFECT THE CONSOLIDATED BUDGET AND TO PROVIDE BUDGETARY CONTROL OF THE CITY'S FISCAL AFFAIRS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED

THERETO – Councilor Miller inquired about the Main Street fee being recaptioned as the economic development fee. Mayor Senn stated that typically when someone addresses council, it is not a conversation. But since the point was raised he will provide some clarity. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was passed by Main Street's board and by City Council and the change in the name of the fee doesn't change the MOU which is in place.

A motion was made by Councilor Lowry and seconded by Councilor Whitmire to approve Ordinance 05-25-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

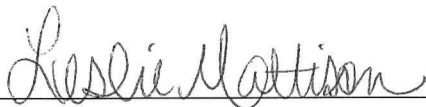
A motion was made by Councilor Bolt and seconded by Councilor Campbell to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVED:



NATHAN SENN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



LESLIE MATTISON, CITY CLERK