

The City of Walhalla City Council held a meeting Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 5:30 PM. The location of the meeting was in Council Chambers of City Hall, 206 N. Church Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

PRESENT: Mayor Danny Edwards, Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward, Councilman Keith Pace, Councilman Grant Keehn, Councilwoman Sarai Melendez, Councilman Tyler Jordan, Councilman David Underwood (arrived late)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: City Administrator, Brandon Burton.

OTHERS: Public. Media. Other Staff.

Mayor Danny Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and called for a moment of silence.

Mayor Danny Edwards asked Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Danny Edwards called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward made a motion to approve, Councilman Grant Keehn second. Mayor called for vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

Mayor Danny Edwards called for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Keith Pace made the motion, Councilman Tyler Jordan second. Mayor called for vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

Mayor Danny Edwards opened for public comment and went over rules of meeting as it pertained to public comment.

Mayor Danny Edwards introduced guest speaker, Courtney Sheriff, STEM teacher at James M. Brown Elementary. Councilwoman Melendez shared Ms. Sheriff's bio.

Ms. Courtney Sheriff gave presentation and update on STEM program to thank the community for their contributions.

Mayor Danny Edwards moved the meeting forward to administrator comments.

City Administrator Brandon Burton thanked staff and volunteers for help over the holidays. He updated council on Stumphouse Mountain Bike Park. The design is complete, and they are

about to break ground. Administrator Burton spoke about employee luncheon and recognizing years of service for city employees, as well as awards for employees going above and beyond.

Mayor Danny Edwards introduced Resolution 2022-10, a resolution to recognize Talmadge Tally Grant for his service to the City of Walhalla. Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward made the motion, Councilman Keith Pace second. Mayor called for vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Mayor Edwards shared Mr. Grant's years of service to the city and awarded him with a plaque.

Mayor Edwards introduced first reading for Ordinance 2022-14. Councilman Pace read ordinance to issue an amendment to amend the fiscal year 2023 budget docket and other matters related thereto and made it in the form of a motion, Mr. Jordan provided a second. Mr. Pace explained the money was from a police officer buyout. Mayor called for discussion and vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Motion carries.

Mayor Edwards moved forward to discussion and action items.

Administrator Burton explained and instructed council on electing a Mayor Pro-Tempore and divide council seats for each committee. Mayor Edwards called for council to elect a Mayor Pro-Tempore for the next two years. Councilman Keehn nominated Councilwoman Melendez, Councilman Jordan second. Councilman Pace suggested that Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward maintain the position. Councilwoman Melendez asked for a description for the role of Mayor Pro-Tempore. Administrator Burton read the responsibilities for the position. Council held vote: 3 votes for Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward and 3 votes for Councilwoman Melendez. Tied vote. Council will wait until they have a full council, since Councilman Underwood is absent. There will be a revote in January.

Mayor Danny Edwards suggested continuing committees as is for another year. Following council discussion, Councilman Pace made a motion to continue committees as assigned for another year, Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward second. Mayor called for discussion and vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Motion carries.

Administrator Burton gave an update on the greenway. The original estimate was \$1.2 million. The lowest bid came in at \$972,003.00. Administrator Burton requested a vote by council to authorize him to develop the contract and sign the necessary documents. The Federal Government needs to approve the contractor through ACOG since federal funds are involved. The selection comes from staff's request to award this to HDH construction, pending the approval of the Federal Government through ACOG. Councilman Pace made the motion, Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward second. Mayor called for discussion and vote. Councilman Grant Keehn expressed his opposition to this project. Mayor Danny Edwards, Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward, Councilman Keith Pace, Councilwoman Sarai Melendez, and Councilman Tyler Jordan voted in favor. Councilman Grant Keehn opposed. Motion carries.

Administrator Burton discussed various business license issues. Some issues lead up to the revocation or suspension of business license. Administrator Burton is requesting direction from council on the decision to hold business license court or appoint a designee to handle such matters. Councilmembers discussed. Councilman Underwood suggested these issues be heard by the General Government Committee and then brought to council. Councilman Underwood made a motion, Councilman Pace second. Mayor called for discussion and vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Motion carries.

Councilmembers gave Committee Reports.

Councilman Pace asked Mayor Edwards if he would want to get Councilman Underwood's vote on Mayor Pro-Tempore now that he is present. Councilman Keehn made a motion to reopen the nomination process, Councilman Jordan second. Mayor called for discussion and vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Motion carries. Councilman Keehn nominated Councilwoman Melendez, Councilman Jordan second. Councilman Pace suggested that Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward maintain the position. Councilman Jordan made a motion to close the vote. Council held vote: 4 votes for Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward and 3 votes for Councilwoman Melendez. On full council vote, Councilman Woodward will continue in his role as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

Councilman Pace made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Pro-Tempore Woodward second. Mayor Edwards called for a vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay. Meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Timothy B. Bonta
City Administrator



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