

The City of Walhalla City Council held a Joint City Committee and Council Meeting Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 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, Councilman Keith Pace, Councilman Grant Keehn, Councilman Tyler Jordan, Councilwoman Sarai Melendez (via Zoom)

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro-Tempore Danny Woodward, Councilman David Underwood

**STAFF:** City Administrator Brandon Burton, Chief Tim Rice, Chief Will Bates

**OTHERS:** Public. Media.

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

Mayor Danny Edwards asked Councilman Grant Keehn to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Edwards called for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Tyler Jordan made the motion, Councilman Pace second. Mayor Edwards called for discussion and 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.

Attorney Andrew Holiday of Seneca and Westminster City Attorney came forward to speak on behalf of and recommend Judge Cody Alexander, applicant for the Walhalla Municipal Judge position.

Lynn McClain, resident and business owner in the city of Walhalla, came forward to speak about her elderly neighbor whose dog was attacked by two other dogs not on a leash. She is asking if leash law signs could be posted at the park. She also talked to council about Oktoberfest and Merchants Market being on two separate weekends. She said she has had complaints from tourists coming to our area hoping to attend both. She asked the council to consider having those events on the same weekend.

Committee Reports were given by respective department heads.

**Parks and Recreation- Mr. Woodward, Chair**

Director John Galbreath reported: (Mr. Galbreath not in attendance due to 1<sup>st</sup> night of basketball) Administrator Burton gave report.

Basketball regular season games start today and will play through February 3, 2023. City tournament will follow regular season after February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Compiling data to find out interest in flag football and volleyball.

**Public Works- Mr. Jordan, Chair**

Director Russ Price submitted report:

November the City of Walhalla picked up:

221 -tons of residential garbage  
127 -tons of commercial garbage  
-tons of furniture  
44 -tons of recyclable brush  
1.8 -tons of mattresses  
19 -tons C&D

December the City of Walhalla picked up:

229 -tons of residential garbage  
129 -tons of commercial garbage  
-tons of furniture  
21 -tons of recyclable brush  
-tons of mattresses  
25 -tons C&D

Roll Carts for December

23 Delivered

5 Picked up

5 Repaired and Replaced

We will continue cleaning up leaves, brush, trash, cleaning storm drains, trimming trees, grass cutting, and other routine maintenance.

Replaced grills at Stumphouse

Set up and break down for Christmas Parade and Santa Stroll events

**Police- Mr. Underwood, Chair**

Chief Tim Rice reported:

December Events/Training/Other news:

Cpl Jonathan Jerde completed Taser Instructor school

Cpl McCall completed Hostage/Crisis Negotiator School

Christmas Parade- thanks to West Union PD and Westminster PD for assisting

Officer of the Year voted by peers was Captain Austin Watson

Chiefs Award went to Misty Vinson

Officer of the Quarter Officer Asa Thompson

Officer Mark Mealy will be attending Specific Skills Training

1444 total calls for service

272 traffic stops

10 traffic collisions

70 incident reports

0 pursuit

0 response to resistance

379 traffic citations/ 96 traffic/7 non-traffic/276 warnings issued

29 arrests made/ 0 juvenile referral

420 extra patrols

72 hours of overtime- 35 shift coverage, 10 court, 36 special event

168 hours of training

**Utilities- Mr. Keehn, Chair**

Director Scott Parris reported: (Mr. Parris not in attendance. Report given by Administrator Burton)

November 2022

New Water Taps –

New Sewer Taps -

New water contracts-

Emergency Locates -

Sanitation delivery work orders –

Sanitation pick up work orders -

Meter box changes -

Meter change outs -

Work Orders -

Sewer Work Orders -

New development service inquiries –

Purchased an additional data collector for the Kamstrup Meter system.

Holiday weekend, 12/23-12/26 was a very busy time for the department with over 60 calls. The cold temps caused multiple issues, including frozen meters, customer lines, plumbing, and numerous leaks. Multiple main line breaks were repaired Monday and Tuesday.

On Christmas Day, began receiving calls of no water. Water Plant reviewed tank level history which revealed a loss of system pressure. Plant was able to restore service in a little more than an hour. Moving forward, systems will be installed to prevent future events of this type from occurring.

Councilman Keehn added comments thanking everyone involved in repairing issues over the holiday weekend.

**Main Street (General Gov't)- Mr. Pace, Chair**

Celia Myers reported:

Submitted request to SC DOT Secretary of Transportation to annex all SCDOT right-of-way that abuts City limits

Researched and drafted short-term rental ordinance

Revised historical ordinance draft

Began draft revisions to the zoning ordinance

Reviewing middle (workforce) housing issue

Met with 2 potential new business owners

Spoke with another 3 potential new business owners and arranged onsite visits

Two businesses completed process and obtained business license

Investigated 2 zoning and sign violation complaints

Collaborated with APA SC on the CPAT project proposal

Permit administration

Two preliminary plats inquiries

Fielded additional calls/emails regarding zoning signage, short-term rentals, façade grant, land use allowances, annexation and the development process

General office and website management

4 zoning permits

business licenses

sign permits

1 preliminary subdivisions

fence

demolition

food truck permits

violations- verbal/ written

**Fire and Codes- Ms. Melendez, Chair**

Chief Will Bates gave report:

134 Fire responded to calls for services- 59 fire, 75 medical/rescue  
27 mutual aid calls  
48 calls inside city, 86 outside  
160 hours on incidents  
838 hours of training

Fully staffed.

Still going through SC DHEC BLS agency certification

Staff participated with Shop with a Hero, Christmas Parade, and Santa Carriage Rides

The following grants have been rewarded:

SC Municipal Association- \$2,000

SC Forestry Commission- \$5,000

FM Global- \$5,243

V-Safe- Amount pending

10 business inspections

pre-plans

rental inspections

CL alarm installations

3 smoke alarm installations

hours overtime

**General Government- Mr. Pace, Chair**

Administrator Burton gave report:

Walhalla Chamber sub-committee meeting regularly

City wide luncheon

Working on preparing for Jan 21 Budget Workshop.

Budget reports have been sent out

Stumphouse phase 3 construction began

Greenway bids closed

Chicopee contractor on site

Waterline improvement contract awarded

A ton of positive feedback for the Christmas activities. Working on a mid-January small event to help out businesses

Sewer looing at alternative ways to receive income.

2023 Holiday calendar for City employees

Account and fund balances as of 1/1/2023

Councilman Pace expressed his gratitude to department heads and city employees who have pulled together to make improvements for our city.

Administrator Burton introduced Resolution 2023-1, resolution to establish regular council and committee meetings for the year. Councilman Pace made motion to accept resolution, Councilman Jordan second. Mayor called for discussion and vote. Councilman Keehn suggested we amend dates for July 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day and November 7<sup>th</sup>- Election Day to July 11<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, and made this in the form of a motion, Councilman Jordan second. Mayor Edwards called for vote on the amendment. All voted in favor. Motion carries. Mayor Edwards called for vote on amended resolution. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Administrator Burton introduced Resolution 2023-2, resolution to establish city events for 2023 calendar year. Councilmembers discussed. Mayor Edwards called for a vote. Councilman Pace made motion to accept resolution, Councilman Jordan second. Councilman Keehn discussed concerns with councilmembers regarding costs of these events. Mayor Edwards called for a vote. Mayor Danny Edwards, Councilman Keith Pace, Councilman Tyler Jordan, Councilwoman Sarai Melendez (via Zoom) voted in favor of resolution. Councilman Grant Keehn opposed. Motion carries.

Mayor Edwards called for motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Jordan made the motion, Councilman Pace second. Mayor Edwards called for a vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

Mayor Edwards called regular session back to order.

Councilman Grant Keehn made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-3 to appoint a municipal judge. He announced Roberta Burton as the official part-time Walhalla Municipal Judge and Robert Owens as the part-time Associate Judge. Councilman Pace second. Mayor Edwards called for vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

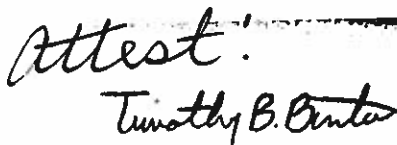
Councilman Keith Pace made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-4 to appoint of the Joint Walhalla/Westminster Sewer Commission. City of Westminster has appointed David Dial and the city of Walhalla has appointed David Dial. Councilman Keehn second. Mayor Edwards called for discussion and a vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

No action on the other two items- Fire contract or personnel policies

No mayor comments.

Councilman Jordan made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Keehn second. Mayor Edwards called for a vote. All present councilmembers voted yea. None nay.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest:  
  
Timothy B. Banta  
City Administrator