



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025; 6:30 P.M.
Bennettville Public Safety Complex**

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Tyron Abraham
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Tyrone Davis
3. ROLL CALL
District 1- Wanda Weaver
District 2- Tyrone Davis
District 3- Allen Taylor
Mayor Tyron Abraham
District 4- Bill Jennings, Jr.
District 5- Vacant
District 6- Gregory Scott, Sr.
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
 - A. **Regular Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 & Wednesday, January 29, 2025-** Mr. Jennings made a motion to approve the Regular City Council Meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 19, 2024, and Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
 - A. **Employees Anniversaries.** Angela Ward announced all Employee Anniversaries Barabra Baker,(Administration) 25 years; Scott Bowen (Police) 6 years; Haden Graham (Police) 3 years; Terry Brown, (Public Works) 1 year; Kalija Galloway (Electric) 1 year; Joshua Graham (Police) 1 year; Taurence McDougald (Electric) 1 year; James Moore (Public Works) 1 year
 - B. **New Hires & Promotions**
Terry Terry, II – Electric Line Worker A (Electric)
Promotions
William Hall – Lieutenant of Investigations (Police) Robert Hale – Administrative Lieutenant (Police)
 - C. **Recognition of African American Pioneers in the Community-** Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their significant role in history. Mayor and Council

honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans throughout the City of Bennettsville, with their history from activists, advocates, and city pioneers to leaders, legislators, politicians, deputies, representatives, and more. Each Council member read a short bio of those listed below, and they were all presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

- Honorable Glenn Manning, Sr.
- Dr. Carolyn Prince
- Honorable Nan Fleming
- Honorable Patricia Henegan
- Dr. Harry S. Wright
- Chief Eugene “Pete” Copeland, Jr. (deceased)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Dr. Carolyn A. Prince- Suggested that underground electricity would be an advancement and a great thing for the City of Bennettsville.

7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES

No Business

8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES

No Business

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

A. **USDA Grant**

A resolution to apply for a USDA Rural Business Development Grant. The grant funds will establish a revolving loan fund to provide property and/or business owners with funds to renovate and equip brick and mortar storefronts. The fund will incentive new or existing businesses to locate in the historic downtown business district by providing loans at 2% below the current prime interest rate. The program will increase jobs in our workforce, add to our tax base, and decrease the number of vacant storefronts downtown.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the Administrator to apply for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant. Moved by Ms. Weaver. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

A. **Electric Department Project: Pole Inventory Mapping (<50K)**

The Administration wishes to create an RFP to conduct a pole inventory, tag poles, GPS poles, and place in a mapping file. This will help with identifying and responding to electrical issues.

Approving Action: A motion to approve the Administration to move forward with the Electric Department Pole Inventory. Moved by Mr. Taylor. Seconded by Mr. Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Dr. Carolyn Prince- She feels the Utility Billing Department should not charge for services not rendered. Why are services that are not being received at 203 Jennings Street being charged? The City should look into removing services when they are not in use.

Pamela Best- Had already left the meeting.

12. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- A. Planning Commission (No Cases)
- B. Board of Architectural Review/Tree Committee (No Cases)
- C. Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Case #: Tiny Home (Delayed)

13. COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- A. Finance Committee (Chairman Jennings)-Gave an update on finances. He stated that the Finance Department is doing a good job. Some of the department's wishes were met. Three major expenses will be coming up in the fourth quarter, using ARPA Funds.
- B. Public Services Committee (Mayor Abraham)- The Committee will meet next Wednesday, and a report will be given at the next meeting.
- C. Public Safety Committee (Chairman Taylor)- The committee was not able to meet before this meeting. However, he highlighted that the Fire Department has a big expense that needs to be taken care of soon.
- D. Lake Authority-No representation.

14. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION

- A. Finance Report- Sam Sparkman (CFO) gave an updated report on city finances.
- B. Grants Report- Brittany Jones gave an update on all city grants.
- C. Proposal Mural Downtown (Update)- A mural proposal was received. A follow-up meeting will be held with the artists.
- D. Request for Proposal – Affordable Housing Development (Update)
- E. SC Appropriations (Crooked Creek)
- F. SC Appropriations (Fire Truck)

15. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- A. Improvements with trash pickup.
- B. Downtown mural proposal.
- C. Lights throughout our community.
- D. Citizen concerns follow-up.
- E. Upcoming Budget Participation Opportunities.

16. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Gregory Scott, Sr., thanked all employees for their hard work and dedication, as well as Ms. Barbara Baker for her 25 years of service. Lastly, he thanked the council and the Mayor for holding council meetings in a decent order and showing one another more love.

Bill Jennings, Jr.- Stated all finances are on track.

Allen Taylor-Thanked all employees for what they do.

Tyrone R. Davis- Thanked department heads for their hard work, as well as employees. Lastly, he thanked everyone for coming out to the Council Meeting.

Wanda Weaver-No comments.

Mayor Abraham- Thanked all city staff for their hard work and dedication. Also, for helping keep operations going. He has put a list together of all streets in each district so that citizens will know who represents that district. Lastly, he asked that citizens attend the talent show that will be sponsored by the Marlboro County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. The Cease Fire event will be held at the Victory Walk Ministries. He added additional events that will take place as well, such as Gospel on the Gulf, Community Clean-Up, and Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

17. ADJOURN
Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Public Comment Policy:

Citizens desiring to speak at any regular meeting must provide a written request to notify the City Clerk prior to the agenda deadline. Citizens interested in commenting at a regular meeting shall sign in to speak and limit comments to no more than three minutes.

Mission Statement: To utilize all available resources for the development of plans, programs, and projects to improve services to the citizens of Bennettsville and establish and maintain an active role in economic and community development.