



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, June 18, 2024; 6:30 P.M.  
Bennettsville Public Safety Complex**

**Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER Mayor Fowler
2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE William “Bill” Jennings, Jr.
3. ROLL CALL  
District 1-Wanda Weaver  
District 2- Tyrone Davis  
District 3-Allen Taylor  
Mayor Leith Fowler  
District 4-William “Bill” Jennings, Jr.  
District 5- Tyron Abraham  
District 6- Gregory Scott
4. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES
  - A. **Regular Council Meeting; Tuesday, May 21, 2024**-Approval of Minutes  
“postponed” until next meeting.
5. PUBLIC REQUESTS/ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS
  - A. **Employees Anniversaries-** Mrs. Angela Ward announced Employee Anniversaries: Michael Leggett, Water Treatment, 23 years; Christopher Burks, Fire, 11 years; Terry Powers, Electric, 10 years; Michelle Hodges, Finance, 9 years; Talisha McCall, Municipal Court, 7 years; Don Galloway, Public Works, 7 years; Joel Oliver, Wastewater Plant, 4 years; Brain Matthews, Water Treatment, 3 years; Richard Woodham, Water & Sewer 3 years; Evan Coble, Fire, 2 years; Michael Armfield, Public Works, 2 years; Chaka Ray, Utility Billing, 2 years; Calvin Avant, Police, 1 year; Rahquise Brown, Public Works, 1 year; Sam Davis, Public Works, 1 year; Ezekiel Miller, Gas, 1 year; William C. Simon, Jr., Administration, 1 year
  - B. **New Hires & Promotions** - Mrs. Angela Ward announced Employee New Hires & Promotions:  
New Hire- Caleb Lopez-Police Officer  
Promotions- Kim Peterson- SRO to SRO Sergeant/Police Department

- C. **Humane Society**-Jennifer HyDuke stated their organization is seeking funding to purchase a new van for animal rescue efforts. They are planning a committee to review ordinances, so they can make a few changes to present to council in the future. The Humane Society receives \$50,000 a year from the city and that's been the same amount since 2018. They currently closed for intake because they are full. Also, the Humane Society is seeking help from the city to fund TNR program and spay/neuter clinics to address cat overpopulation. At the moment they have 86 dogs and 76 cats. She discussed animal adoption and TNR efforts. They have approximately 38 kennels for dogs and the dog count right now is 86. They have dog kennels on the floor crates. So, they are asking for an increase and wanted to know if there's a possibility that the city look at the TNR funding the TNR program again and maybe spay and neuter clinics to TNR with help of cats in overpopulation in this community.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Mr. Rippin McLeod**- He expresses concern about credit card surcharge for light bill payments, finding it inconvenient and unfairly burdensome on elderly residents. He urges City Council to consider removing the surcharge, citing potential hardship on elderly residents and the ease of online payment system.

**Pamela Best**- Stated that the 2010 Animal Ordinance needs to be updated.

7. SECOND READING AND PASSAGE IN FULL OF ORDINANCES

No Business

8. FIRST READING AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCES

A. **ORDINANCE - Storage/Parking of Certain Vehicles (amendment)**

- Forwarded to legal for form
- Will publicly post starting June 27

**No Action Required**- The ordinance is moving to the next step in the process. The recommended changes of continuing to allow “recreational” vehicles to travel through the city has been reinstated in the language.

Mr. Simon stated, “We did not forward it to legal form, because I've spoken with a few of you, and I think you still have some changes that you want to see in the audience. And so again, this is the time you can let me know what changes you want to see. We'll certainly carry it out and then after we do that and make that final graph, then I'll send it over to Mr. King to make sure it's in the proper form and just screen for everything else. Then you'll see here publicly post on June 27. That's something we haven't done in the past whenever we have new ordinances or amendments and that's post those ordinances in public places and so we're going to start doing that to get back on track with doing it the right way. So, I won't read the ordinance to all of you, I think, we're familiar with the surfaces. Anything you want to see. Let me know I think our last conversation centered around recreational vehicles was one thing coming through our downtown area and we think conversation was what we probably want to welcome that from an economic development standpoint. So, we did take recreation vehicles out of the park that's talking about through traffic, and then I think there's some other discussions regarding

recreational vehicles or other types of campers may be being parked either own on the street or in yards, in residential areas, and all the criteria that's surrounded that surrounds that so just let me know what you want what your vision is for that, and I'll make those changes.

Ms. Weaver stated, "I really think the RV's and large truck should be two separate ordinances because in this it reads on the second page, recreational vehicles parked stored, or located in an enclosed garage or carport as the vehicle owner's or operator. Operator's residents. I'm reading that as if you have a RV on your property, you have to have it in an enclosed area. And that's not going to fly. I mean, there's no other way to put it."

Mr. Simon said, "So, a couple things there. Storage of them for some people get them temporarily then some people have them as permanently. So, you're right, we can aggregate that a little bit more regarding the type of vehicles and see how I'll bring that before you." Ms. Weaver said, "The last time it was as long as the back end of it inside your yard as long as the back end of it didn't come out in front of the house."

Mr. Abraham stated, "I don't think we should name the streets, identify the streets. It could be confusing to a lot of the citizens. Also, on the back page 152.092, paragraph C and D. I just want to make sure because if we do that then under a carport it is open, so that will still be visible. So, I just wanted to make sure because I see here it says, "Semi trailer or recreational vehicles. We are defeating the purpose if we put those long-distance trucks up under a carport." Mr. Jennings said, "I have a concern with the owner of the recreational vehicle, recreational vehicle is not for business purpose. Yes, I certainly think they should possibility be beyond the front corner of the house or in the backyard or whatever. There's a lot of them in this town. We had this reading last month, I started noticing it more, more and more."

B. **ORDINANCE- Sign Regulations (Amendment)**-Amend the sign regulations to include "Signs must not contain profanity or abusive language."

**Approving Action:** A motion to approve the amendment to ordinance 152.045 to add: "Signs must not contain profanity or abusive language." Moved by Mr. Scott. Seconded by Abraham. Motion passed unanimously.

9. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS  
No Business

10. GENERAL BUSINESS DISPENSED BY MOTION

A. **ORDINANCE-Redistricting (Amendment 23-08-01)**- The redistricting map that was approved on August 1, 2023, showed Councilman Allen Taylor's home located out of the city boundary. Mr. Taylor has since then presented an annexation of his property, 308 N. Kinney Circle, into the City of Bennettsville, District Three (3). This amendment will allow the boundaries of the redistricting map to be adjusted to include Mr. Taylor's property.

If you approve the potential to amend the ordinance, not the language, but amend the map that is associated with the ordinance and surrounding redistrict. So, what

would happen is we would amend that map, and send it back to the state so they are able to update their records.

Mr. Taylor stated, “ I would like to formally recuse myself as it pertains to my district, it involves me personally. The only clarification I’d like for the record, what is left out doesn’t include just my property. It includes 2 other homes in District 3, as well. So, in this correction, if that’s what council chooses to do tonight, correct the map only. It needs to be the verbiage of including those 2 properties, as well because it also reflects on here that they are not in here as well. So, I am officially recusing myself.” Mr. Simon stated, “Of course, the proposal is just for 308 N. Kinney Circle, like Mr. Taylor said, if you all want to include those other properties, you can. I submitted a packet, the second round of information. The annexation document.”

Ms. Weaver make a motion to correct the map for Kinney Circle. Mr. Scott and Mayor Fowler asked that the other addresses be provided. Mr. Taylor provided 312. Mr. Scott went on saying, “I don’t have any problem with the motion, I do think we need to have those addresses that were going to include all the ones that would be affected. If we can’t get it, could we table that until we get those other addresses?” Ms. Weaver said, “305 and 312.” Mayor Fowler said, “308, 305 and 312.” Mr. Abraham states, “I think we should do as councilman Scott said and table it. I wasn’t here last night, due to an emergency. So, I think we should have an official address before us, so it won’t be no issues or problems. Ms. Weaver states, “It’s been going on too long and needs to be corrected and we have the addresses. We discussed it last night.”

Attorney King stated, “Make a motion to table it and if it doesn’t carry, then continue on discussing the bill of whatever with the motion on the floor.” So, you need to call the vote on the motion to table.

Mr. Jennings stated, “ I’ll like to make a motion that we have been in discussion over three months and there are three lots 308, 305 and 312 on North Kinney Circle that are in annexed into the City of Bennettsville and should be included on the map in District 3.”

Mr. Scott stated, “Since this is the first-time hearing about the other addresses Mr. Davis stated, “We have been discussing Mr. Taylor’s, that’s’ been going on for a while but the other 2, this is the first that we’ve have heard. I don’t have a problem with Mr. Taylor’s, but the other 2 haven’t been discussed and brought up. I think the proper way of doing it in one-fold, not trying to stop Mr. Taylor.” Ms. Weaver then said, “Can I say the recent election? The people I know that live at the two addresses and I know they voted in District 3. So, I mean they are in District 3.

Ms. Weaver made a motion for Mr. Taylor address to be adjust and come back for the other two. Seconded by Mr. Davis. Mayor stated, “I’s have it.” Mr. Davis

asked Attorney King, “That is fair, right? We did it right?”

Attorney King response was, “Yall certainly have the right to do that. Now I can’t tell you what will happen when you submit it back to the Fiscal Affairs and the State for an update.” If the other two landowners want to get added too, you’ll need to resend your motion too.”

Ms. Weaver made a motion to change her motion back to include all three addresses. Can I do that? Attorney King said, “There was motion on the floor that was seconded and there was never a vote on that.” I don’t know if you want to resend that motion and if that one gets call to a vote, then there can be another motion.”

Mayor Fowler states, I have a motion on the floor to approve 308 and a second. All in favor, raise your hand. Mr. Scott ask to state the whole motion over with everything. Mayor Fowler again states, “I have a motion to approve 308. Mrs. Miller is going to provide us later with the other two 305 & 312. All in favor, raise your hand and say “I.” I’s have it.

**Approving Action:** A motion to approve the amendment to ordinance 23-08-01 to adjust the redistricting map to include 308 N. Kinney Circle, Bennettsville, SC 29512.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATION
  - A. Finance Committee (Chairman Jennings)-Gave an update.
  - B. Planning Commission (No Report)
  - C. Board of Zoning & Housing Appeals (No Report)
  - D. Board of Architectural Review/Tree Committee (No Report)
  - E. ORDINANCE-Floodplain Management (Existing)-Mr. Simon stated we needed to enforce the Ordinance.
  
12. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR
  - A. Business Report (New Businesses)
    - Bypass West Realty Holdings Rentals-Rental
    - Five S Rentals-Rental
    - Hick’s Janitorial Cleaning Services-Cleaning Services
    - J T Properties Contractor- Contractor
    - O’Neil’s Rentals-Rental
    - Woessner Property Care-Lawn care services
    - Roderick Hancock-Rentals
    - Latonia Gatlin-Rentals
    - William Alford- Rentals
    - Weatherguard Roofing- Contractor
    - Connie Carroll- Realtor
    - Roller Performance- Towing Service

- B. **Bennettsville Citizens Academy**- The Bennettsville Citizens Academy introduces participants to the various functions of the City of Bennettsville operations and features instruction by staff from the different divisions of the local government. The goal of the Citizen's Academy, in addition to providing an overview of the city operations, is to create meaningful partnerships with the City of Bennettsville and give the local government the ability to serve our citizens better and more efficiently through the open exchange of facts and ideas. The Bennettsville citizens Academy class is open to adults, 18 years of age and older, in the city & county, and is provided free of charge. The class size is limited to the first 30 approved applicants and will be held at the Bennettsville Community Center with an occasional tour of a facility.
- C. **Text MyGov**-Miss. Brittany Jones explained how Text MyGov works. Text MyGov uses a mobile phone regular messaging service as a way to relay information to citizens. Code complaints or animal control issues can be reported through Text MyGov and can include a picture, description, as well as power outages and other information. It also identifies keywords in text messages to provide immediate assistance.
- D. **Dam Breach Update**- Mrs. Angie Sellers represents the city for us weekly and bi-weekly updates from DNR. There are no updates right now regarding the repair. The fishing side of the lake is down. The DNR is checking the downstream every other day or every few days to make sure that there's consistency as far as the flow of water and there's no sediment or things of that sort. While
- E. **Animal Control Update**- Is an existing problem we have as far as pet population. It's going to take to some innovative thought on the part of the city, county and the Humane Society.
- F. **Administrators Report**-Gave City updates

13. NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Weaver thanked Mr. Simon for his update. She thanked Brittany for Text MyGov. She thanked the Fire Department. Next, she feels as if Council needs to continue communicating like they are now. Lastly, she asked that Council to continue to pray for Ms. Jean Quick, she has been in the hospital.

Mr. Davis thanked all citizens and employees for what they do. He stated that the City must work together in order to move forward. Lastly, he thanked all Council members, Mayor and Mr. Simon, "Stay strong, stay faithful and things will work out."

Mr. Taylor didn't have anything to say.

Mayor Fowler thanked everybody for being in attendance. Stated he wants the public to get involve, we have committees that needs to be filled "We have to stay focus and we got to move on. We got to try new things." He thanked everybody and asked that a prayer be sent for Ms. Jean Quick.

Mr. Jennings mentioned ARPA funds and their usage. Good usages for the funds received.

Matching, grants, etc. it's out there and let's get excited about it.

Mr. Abraham thanked Mr. Simon for the accomplishments he have achieved for the City. He stated that Council has to come together with ideas to help bring businesses. Next, he mentioned setting 6 month – 1year goals for the citizens that are realistic. Mr. Abraham feel as if the citizens have lost faith in Council. Citizens in District 5 wanted to know if Chief Miller had any Community Outreach Programs? Citizens of District 5 does not know Chief of Police, Kevin Miller. They see Lt. Crosland a lot, but constituents are asking Mr. Abraham about not seeing Chief Miller in their community. He thanked the Fire Department for all they do. They are also doing things outside of their duties. Lastly, he commended Public Works Department for what they do, and the mosquitoes are very bad in District 5.

Mr. Scott thanked all employees for their hard work. Also, celebrating accomplishments. He congratulated Mr. Simon on his accomplishments and thanked Mrs. King for the Newsletter she send out each month. District 6 (Richardson Park) citizens said they don't feel like they get the services they need. Officers patrolling that area is not done as it should be.

14. ADJOURN  
Mayor Fowler

**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 3 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.