



CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Anthony P. Scully
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Mae Drakeford
Councilmember Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Laurel M. Parks
Councilmember Deborah Hudson Davis
City Clerk Brenda Davis

City Manager Mel Person
Assistant City Manager Caitlin Corbett
Finance Director Debra Courtney
Chronicle-Independent Jim Tatum (absent)
and interested citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anthony P. Scully called the Camden City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME

Mayor Anthony P. Scully welcomed Council to the July 26, 2016, Camden City Council Work Session.

CAMDEN ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM NEW EXHIBIT – Katherine Richardson

Director of the Camden Archives and Museum, Katherine Richardson presented information on the new exhibit at the Camden Archives and Museum – John Bartlam, Master Potter: America’s First Porcelain Exhibit. Mrs. Richardson invited Council and the public to visit the new exhibit at Camden Archives and Museum. The new exhibit will be on display from August 18, 2016 through January 31, 2017.

MASC 2016 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP – Pearson & Corbett

City Council shared notes and concerns regarding information received at the Municipal Association of South Carolina annual meeting. Some items and projects of interest to Council were Police Task Force involvement with the community with the focus on reaching the “teen” community, re-establishing the Human Relations Commission, splash pads for the community, a possible dog park, dressing windows of stores – displaying signs in windows of empty stores that read “I wish I was a candy store”, I wish I was a dress shop”, etc. Other interest and projects of Council were a city of Camden Welcome Center. Staff will work on a proposal for the above projects and present to Council at an upcoming meeting.



MAIN STREET APPLICAIION – Suzie Sale

Council appropriated funds for the Main Street Program in the 2016/2017 FY budget. Ms. Sale gave an update on the Main Street Application process and also a brief overview of the Main Street South Carolina training she attended in July. The Main Street application must be submitted by Sept 1, 2016. Council with consider a resolution to support the application at an upcoming council meeting. For additional information on the Main Street Program, please visit the Municipal Association of South Carolina Website.

DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS AT 529 and 533 DeKalb Street – Pearson & Burns

Hazelwood Cleaners Building and Blessing Beauty Shop

Council was updated with the progress of the demolition of the buildings at 529 and 533 DeKalb Street. The concept of saving the arch on former Hazelwood Cleaners Building was discussed and per council’s direction an effort will be made to preserve the arch. Staff will report back to council if the arch cannot be saved. A parking lot plan is reserved for the remaining area once demolition is completed.

CITY OF CAMDEN PLANNING COLLEGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COURSE- Shawn Putnam

As a continuation of the Citizens Planning College, City Planner Shawn Putnam announced that the 2nd annual Historic Preservation Edition will be offered beginning August 2016. The course will last four weeks with classes being held on August 25th, September 1st, 8th and 15th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. The 3rd annual Original Series of the Citizens Planning College will begin in October with courses being held from October 13 – February 5, 2017. The courses will include topics such as: comprehensive planning, zoning, transportation, planning, and floodplain management. The Historic Preservation Edition course will provide an introduction to the concept of historic preservation and how it is applied at national, state and local levels and include class discussion of the Camden Design Guidelines and how they are applied by staff and the Historic Landmarks Commission.

NIP UPDATE

City Planner Shawn Putman updated Council on the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) - a grant awarded which allows the City to purchase and demolish blighted properties. Despites some setbacks in the program due to legal, title and surveying issues and also the pride of the owners to keep their property, staff have accomplished some level of the progress; staff have identified 35 properties, closed on twelve; of those twelve – seven properties are scheduled for demolition.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem Drakeford voiced concerns on the spelling of Hobkirk vs Hobkirk’s on signs identifying the districts around town. Per staff one of the signs is incorrect. The correct spelling is said to be “Hobkirk’s Hill”. Mayor Pro Tem Drakeford also expressed concerns



about Airbnb housing in Camden and the fire codes that are required for the use of Airbnb in the downtown area commercial buildings. The fire code requirements in a residential area is different compared to commercial “Airbnb” housing with less living space. Staff will research and present to council for consideration at an upcoming meeting a business license ordinance in reference to Airbnb housing.

Councilmember Parks requested an update on the City’s Wi-Fi - is it still not working? Staff is working to resolve this matter. Council is interested in the possibility of purchasing new technology and/or a better system for the City Wi-Fi.

Anthony P. Scully, Mayor

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk