

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**July 20, 2020**  
**Council Chamber, Clemson City Hall**

**Call to Order:** Mayor J.C. Cook, III at 6:30 p.m.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Council Member Ducworth

**Members present:** Mayor Cook presiding, Council Members Cato, Cox, Ducworth, Halfacre, McGuire and Smith

**Media present:** None

**Notification emailed:** July 15, 2020 to the Greenville News, the Journal, the Independent Mail, the Pickens Sentinel, the Easley Progress; WSNW Radio, WYFF Channel 4, WSPA Channel 7 and Fox 21 TV News.

**Public Session:** Mayor Pro Tem John Ducworth presiding – No public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** July 6, 2020 were approved as presented.

**Reports/Discussion Agenda:**

Receive the final report from Dr. Andy Ambrose regarding reorganization of the Clemson Area African American Museum – Dr. Ambrose presented the report from his work with the CAAAM Board on the Museum's transition into a City department. The report included goals, services and deliverables to meet the goals. The Board developed several small Task Force Committees that have reached out to multiple resources and held several planning sessions. They have developed a job description for an Executive Director and plans for fundraisers and grants. The museum has changed the name to Friends of CAAAM and filed with the Secretary of State and IRS for a new independent 501(c)3 organization. Mr. Ambrose then shared several festivals, outdoor concerts, drive in movies, among other events and fundraisers. Council discussed surveying the CAAAM members and the public for input and direction for the new Executive Director.

Receive the preliminary site plan design for Clemson Park from Paul Russell, Russell Design Office – Council Member Cato introduced Mr. Russell and he presented the site plan from the Parks & Recreation Committee, Parks & Recreation staff and members of the Green Crescent Trail. The intent of the plan is to create a better space to be utilized by the public, combining the Clemson Park and the Green Crescent Trail and to be a park for all of Clemson. Council discussed adding a basketball court, the costs of the proposed plan, and options to build it in phases.

Discuss a request to annex a small parcel of land located on Hwy 133 – Planning & Codes Director Todd Steadman presented this item and explained that there were two items, an annexation for a bed and breakfast and a rezone for a retirement community of approximately 165 homes but the actual need for the discussion was Council's direction on these type requests considering the current moratorium and strategic plan. These two requests are not affected by the moratorium directly but if these items come before Council and are denied they cannot re-submit for a year. After detailed discussion City Attorney McCormac advised Council that once an application is submitted the process must begin according to the City Code of Ordinances. Council Members Cato, Halfacre, McGuire and Smith were opposed to proceed with any development before the deadline of the moratorium and/or the completion of the strategic plan. Mayor Cook suggested moving forward in the process and by the time it reached Council for consideration there would be more work done in the strategic plan.

Council Member Ducworth stated that if Council was going to deny all projects there needed to be a blanket moratorium. Council continued discussion of options for any development to move forward and possible delays caused by the completion of the strategic plan.

Staff Reports: Staff will soon schedule dates for meetings with Anderson County, Town of Pendleton, and the City of Clemson to discuss the Pendleton Clemson Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion.

**Policy/Action Agenda**

**Ordinances:**

Consider an amendment to the Emergency Ordinance to extend the temporary suspension of normal operating procedures of City Council/Boards/Commissions and to authorize the City Administrator to continue developing, implementing, and revising as necessary plans intended to protect the safety and health of citizens and City employees, to continue to provide delivery of government services, and to act to restrict the spread of the covid-19 virus – Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member McGuire to approve an amendment to the Emergency Ordinance to extend the temporary suspension of normal operating procedures of City Council/Boards/Commissions and to authorize the City Administrator to continue developing, implementing, and revising as necessary plans intended to protect the safety and health of citizens and City employees, to continue to provide delivery of government services, and to act to restrict the spread of the covid-19 virus for an additional 60 days. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider an amendment to the Emergency Ordinance to extend the temporarily lifting of the prohibition against open containers of alcohol subject to listed mandatory requirements – Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Cox to approve an amendment to the Emergency Ordinance to extend the temporarily lifting of the prohibition against open containers of alcohol subject to listed mandatory requirements for an additional 60 days and change Section 4. – tables must be spaced at least “6 feet” apart and tables may not be occupied by more than “6 persons” and Section 6. – with the exception of allowing up to “6 people” to be seated together. Council Member McGuire made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to amend the Emergency Ordinance extension to September 8<sup>th</sup> instead of 60 days to see what happens when students return. Vote on this motion was unanimous. Vote on original motion was unanimous.

**Resolutions:**

Consider a Resolution lifting the voluntary curfew put in place March 19, 2020 – Mayor Cook explained that the Governor has issued a statewide curfew for 11:00 p.m. and it takes precedence over the City’s curfew. Council Member Halfacre made a motion, seconded Council Member Cox to approve a Resolution lifting the voluntary curfew put in place March 19, 2020. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

**Other Policy Items:**

Consider allowing the Green Crescent Trail to install a pump track at Clemson Park if funding can be

obtained – City Administrator Andy Blondeau presented this item for a grant to fund the pump track. Green Crescent Trail Board Members Heidi Williams and Chad Carson provided information on the grant opportunity from Duke Energy for \$10,000 and are completing the application that is due the end of the month. The grant will provide funding for remediation to build a pump track at Clemson Park. Council Member Cox made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve installation of a pump track by the Green Crescent Trail at Clemson Park upon receipt of the Duke Energy grant award. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider approval of Credit Card processing fees/convenience fees when the City goes live with the new Municipal Software by Tyler Technologies that utilize the Open Edge credit card merchant – Finance Director Joel Seavey and IT Director Lowell Arwood presented this item for a change to a new credit card merchant company and stated that the fees will also change. The current departments that offer online payments use NCourt and pass the convenience fee onto the customer. The new merchant company will allow the option for the City to pay the convenience fee or the customer. Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Halfacre to cover the convenience fees as is currently through June 2021 and beginning July 2021 the customer pays all fees. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider a request from the City's Steering Committee and ClemsonNEXT to place 24" x 18" coroplast yard signs at entrances around City parks and other City properties – Steering Committee PR Coordinator Sarah Wickham presented this item to promote public input on the strategic plan development. Council Member Halfacre made a motion, seconded by Council Member Ducworth to approve placement of ClemsonNEXT yard signs at entrances around City parks and other City properties. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

**Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business:**

Council Member Halfacre: Reminder Steering Committee community surveys; United Way – Virtual Week of Caring; COVID 19 update cases continue to rise and beds are limited at AnMed.

Mayor Cook: Corps of Engineers is abandoning the Twelve Mile Park and the City / County are considering a partnership to take over the park. Discussions to follow between the City and County to consider options.

Police Advisory Committee will appoint a member to serve on the Police Chief Interview Committee.

**Executive Session:**

Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member McGuire to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Item – SC Code of Laws Sec. 30-4-70 (a)(1). Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee. Vote on this motion was unanimous. After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded to exit Executive Session and return to the open session. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Following Executive Session, Council Member Ducworth made a motion, seconded by Council Member Halfacre to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate an employment agreement with Sammy Grant as Director of Clemson Area Transit. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved

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Beverly A. Coleman, MMC

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
J.C. Cook III, Mayor