



**City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
145 West Broad Street  
Spartanburg, SC  
Monday, September 25, 2017  
5:30 p.m.**

**(These minutes were approved at the  
October 9, 2017 City Council meeting.)**

**City Council met this date with the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Junie White, Mayor pro tem Stille, Councilmembers Jerome Rice, Sterling Anderson, Rosalyn Henderson Myers, Erica Brown and Alan Jenkins. Assistant City Manager Chris Story and City Attorney Cathy McCabe were also in attendance. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information Act. All City Council meetings are recorded for a complete transcript.**

- I. Moment of Silence - observed**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - recited**
- III. Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2017, August 28, 2017, and September 11, 2017 City Council Meetings –**  
*Councilmember Henderson Myers made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Mayor pro tem Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- IV. Approval of the Agenda of the September 25, 2017 City Council Meeting –**  
*Mayor pro tem Stille made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Councilmember Rice seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- V. Public Comment**  
*\*Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk*  
**Meghan Smith, 167 Gordon Dr., Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).  
**Rev. Phil Vander Ploeg, 250 W. Park Drive, Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning DACA.  
**Araceli Hernandez-Laroche, 135 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning DACA.  
**Janean Scott, 240 Carlisle St., Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning DACA.  
**Joye Davis, 37 Villa Rd., St. 412, Greenville, SC,** spoke concerning the proposed rental property registration and inspection ordinance.  
**James Young, 111 Elliot Street, Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning the proposed rental property registration and inspection ordinance.  
**Wayne Plylar, 9105 Warren H. Abernathy Hwy., Spartanburg, SC,** spoke concerning the proposed rental property registration and inspection ordinance.

- VI. Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing “National Night Out”**  
**Presenter: Mayor Junie White**  
*Mayor White presented the proclamation to Keith Shambaugh, President of the Hampton Heights Neighborhood Association, who accepted on behalf of several neighborhood associations represented at the meeting.*
- VII. Presentation of Proclamation Declaring University of South Carolina Upstate Day**  
**Presenter: Mayor Junie White**  
 Mayor White presented the proclamation recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USC Upstate to Chancellor Brenden Kelly and Dr. Kathleen Brady.
- VIII. Presentation from USC Upstate Center for Child Advocacy Studies**  
**Presenter: Chris Story, Assistant City Manager**  
**Dr. Jennifer Parker, Program Director**  
**USC Upstate Center for Child Advocacy Studies**  
 Dr. Parker overviewed the “Adverse Childhood Experience” study (ACE) that indicates early adversity increases physical, mental, and behavioral problems later in life. She presented statistics of the study, as well as, examples of ACE attributable health and social problems. Dr. Parker stressed the importance of realizing that changes to this issue are up to everyone, reshaping our thoughts, our conversations, the way we relate with one another in relationships, in families, and in communities.  
*Council received the report as information.*
- IX. Resolution**
- A. Certifying two (2) Units as Abandoned Building Sites Pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67, Section 12-67-100 et seq., of the South Carolina code of Laws (1976), as Amended, Regarding the Property Located at 899 E. Main Street, tax Map Parcel #7-13-01-065.00**  
**Presenter: Chris Story, Assistant City Manager**  
 Mr. Story presented the item to Council as follows:  
 “899 E. Main Street (Tax Map Parcel # 7-13-01-065.00) contains warehouses that have been unused and in disrepair for many years. It will be redeveloped into a modern self-storage business. The attached resolution certifies that the property has indeed been unused for many years and enables the developer to pursue credits against some state taxes for redeveloping an abandoned building site. It has no impact on local government revenues.”  
*Councilmember Jenkins made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- B. Resolution Committing the City of Spartanburg to Providing a Local Match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant**  
**Presenter: Mitch Kennedy, Community Services Director**

**Mr. Kennedy** presented the item to Council as follows:  
“Staff continues to seek strategies to advance the City’s efforts related to Minority Business Development: **Supplier Diversity, Business Development, and Workforce Development**. Staff has had preliminary discussions with partners to define a business development initiative that targets development and support for African American Owned Businesses and businesses seeking to locate within African American Communities. These discussions are in the early stages. However, staff has identified a grant that could help support the development and/or implementation of a program that promotes innovative economic development practices.

The Municipal Association of South Carolina offers Hometown Economic Development Grants to cities and towns to implement economic development projects that will make a positive impact on the quality of life in their communities. The maximum grant award is \$25,000. The City would be required to provide a match of 15% (\$3,750) if awarded the maximum amount based on our population.

The grant is due September 29, 2017, and awards are announced no later than October 31, 2017. Staff feels confident in the City’s ability to provide the information needed for the grant and the capacity to design and implement a program that aligns with the objectives of the grant.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of a resolution that allows staff to submit a grant request to The Municipal Association of S.C. and commit the appropriate match requirements.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA:** Grant: MASC.”

*Councilmember Rice made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**X. Boards and Commissions – Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals**

**Presenter: Connie McIntyre, City Clerk**

**Ms. McIntyre** presented Nicholas Gilman’s application for the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals for Council’s consideration. Mayor pro tem Stille made a motion to waive the rules and appoint Mr. Gilman. Mayor White seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

**XI. Ordinance**

**A. To Amend the Code of the City of Spartanburg 1988, Chapter 5, Article XI, By Adding a Residential Rental Property Registration and Inspection Program (First Reading)**

**Presenter: Ed Memmott, City Manager**

**Mr. Memmott** presented the item to Council as follows:

“Attached you will find a proposed ordinance to create a rental property registration program. I am recommending Council approval. While recommending approval, I am certainly aware that certain aspects of the proposed program are of concern to certain Councilmembers. As with any proposed legislative initiative, there will be opportunity for any Councilmember to offer amendments to the proposed ordinance to address their specific concerns.”

Mr. Memmott stated that the program was intended to address certain weaknesses that the City currently has in its Code Enforcement efforts. He stated that staff thinks the program would improve the City’s ability to find problems before they are acute with the code conditions of the property. He added that currently, if staff does not get invited in to the property by the tenant, or there is not a tenant complaint, there can be an unsafe condition in the property that staff does not know about. He stated that staff believed the rental property registration, with an inspection component, would address that problem. He also mentioned non-responsive landlords, and the fact the city has a significant segment of city property owners who are not responsive to code citations. Mr. Memmott reviewed the ordinance with Council.

Council engaged in a lengthy discussion of the proposed ordinance. After the discussion, *Mayor pro tem Stille made a motion to approve the rental property registration and inspection program with a \$25 fee, inspection on request or for cause, with a portion of the revenue from the \$25 fee to be used for marketing and education to renters of their rights as tenants. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion, which carried 4 to 3. Mayor White, Mayor pro tem Stille, and Councilmembers Anderson and Jenkins voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers Brown, Henderson Myers and Rice voted against the motion.*

## **XII. City Council Updates –**

**Councilmember Brown** reminded everyone about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Melting Pot Music festival from 2 to 10 on Saturday. She mentioned that the following Saturday, October 7, International Festival, featuring Finland would be held from 11:00 to 7:00 at Barnet Park. She asked everyone to keep Puerto Rico in their thoughts and prayers as they are suffering greatly from Hurricane Irma.

**Councilmember Jenkins** shared he had attended “A Shucking Good Time” fundraiser for SPACE at the Cottonwood Trail. He mentioned that he would be attending the Intercommunity Visit to the Raleigh Durham area to find out what makes those communities work so cohesively. He thanked everyone who came to speak on DACA. He made a motion asking that staff visit language for a resolution to consider at a later meeting. Mayor pro tem Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

**Councilmember Henderson Myers** stated that the city, particularly Mitch Kennedy and his staff, did an excellent job with the “Grooving in the Park” event. She added that the citizens really enjoyed being there, it was great seeing local talent, and she hoped this would be an annual event. She shared that she was happy to learn that Instacar was

coming to town since that was one of her campaign platforms. She stated this service was especially good for helping senior citizens and others who are too busy to grocery shop.

**Councilmember Rice** encouraged everyone to get out and vote for District 31 representative the next day. He mentioned that the Spartanburg Little League football games were played on Monday and Tuesday nights. He reminded everyone about “National Night Out” on Tuesday, October 3. He mentioned “National Walk to School Day” which was Wednesday, October 4. He shared that Patti LaBelle would be performing on October 7 at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

**Mayor pro tem Stille** congratulated Max Hyde, who ran unopposed to fill the Council District 4 seat since she would not be running again. She shared that she had been meeting with him regularly to bring him up to speed on many issues so he can hit the ground running. She mentioned that she had a constituent approach her about the idea of considering a resolution designating Spartanburg as a Neighborly City. She read an excerpt from the Twin Falls, Idaho resolution as an example of the wording. She stated that she felt that Council needs to make a similar statement. In addition, she mentioned that a local scout she knows, Seth Reid, is interested in making a plaque or monument stating Spartanburg is a Neighborly City for his Eagle Scout project, and placing it at the flag pole or another designated area. She made a motion to extend Councilmember Jenkins motion to include that Spartanburg is a Neighborly City. Councilmember Henderson Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

### **XIII. Executive Session**

#### **A. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a) (5) of the South Carolina Code to Discuss Matters Relating to Encouraging A New Investment in the City**

*Councilmember Henderson Myers made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the reason stated. Councilmember Jenkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0. Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.*

**Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session after exiting Executive Session.**

*Council reconvened at 8:05 p.m. Mayor White stated that there was discussion with no decisions made.*

### **XIV. Adjournment –**

*Councilmember Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Henderson Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.*

  
**Connie S. McIntyre, City Clerk**