

MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2024
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD
1st committee meeting

Committee Members present were Councilmen Mark Steenback and Michael Reynolds. Chairman Allgood was present via Zoom.

Others present were Recreation Director Bart Cumalander and City Administrator Seth Duncan

1. Call to Order- Councilman Steenback

2. Public Comment

Megan Brock stated she was new to South Carolina and wanted to ask about the new soccer stadium at Bridgeway Station that was approved on October 24th. She is concerned about how it was passed. The agenda stated economic development matter at Bridgeway Station and did not state anything about a stadium or a contract. No member of the public would have any idea a stadium was being discussed by the way it was described on the agenda. The motion approving the contract also stated economic development matter.

Ms. Brock said this was even more egregious because the discussion was done while the City was cleaning up from Hurricane Helene and no one was paying attention to what Council was doing. Ms. Brock is concerned about the noise level, impacts on people's health, and traffic in the area. South Carolina has the 2nd highest motor vehicle fatality rate in the country. Because of her concern about traffic, she asked when the last traffic study had been done in the area and was answered 2019. She told committee that this was negligent.

Ms. Brock mentioned this project could cause a rise in crime and drunk driving. There are neighborhoods around the project that will be affected. Have there been impact studies? Where are people going to park? Shouldn't the people have a right to know what is being planned? Was a survey sent out to assess community support?

Finally, Ms. Brock said she was told the Council wanted to keep this stadium a surprise, as a parent surprises a child on Christmas. She couldn't believe the government was compared to a parent. The government serves the people. Council's job is to do due diligence to make sure it is not being negligent in terms of safety and community impact. She cannot believe this stadium was passed in the way that it was.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Recreation Committee Meeting: August 5, 2024

Motion: Councilman Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Allgood seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. Recreation Director Bart Cumalander

Mr. Cumalander advised Council of several items. Tournaments and a basketball jamboree are upcoming.

The Senior Center wall repair should be completed by the first of next year. The department will be looking at Sports Center membership tiers to try and whittle them down to two or three. This item will come to a future Recreation committee meeting.

Recreation Director Cumalander then mentioned his appreciation for Assistant Recreation Director Willie Stewart and all he has done to help with early voting this year. He put in long hours helping where he could.

Councilman Reynolds said he passed the Senior Center on Saturday and saw Willie helping to take election equipment out of the building. He also said the staff is doing a great job utilizing all of our fields.

Councilman Reynolds asked what the feedback has been on the new sports center equipment. Mr. Cumalander said it has been great. Membership numbers are increasing and people are happy with the new equipment that was brought in.

The PARD grant for Pineforest Park upgrades is complete. New fencing, shelters and a walking trail have been installed. There is also some PARD money left that can be contributed to the rebuilding of the Cultural Center amphitheater.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no Unfinished Business

6. New Business- There is no New Business

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Councilman Steenback adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk