MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
9:00 A.M. – WORKSHOP MEETING – TED C. COLLINS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
10:00 A.M. – MEETING – TED C. COLLINS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Roll Call.
Present: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent/Excused: Michael Chestnut.

CALL TO ORDER.....9:01 A.M. Workshop

Motion: Enter Closed Session to discuss 1) Hospitality Fee settlement 2) potential purchase of property in Arts and Innovation District 3) I-73 funding, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

9:03 A.M.

Motion: Exit Closed Session, **Moved by** Jackie Hatley, **Seconded by** Mike Lowder.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

9:47 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER.....10:01 A.M. Regular Meeting

INVOCATION.....Councilman Krajc
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....Councilman Krajc

APPROVAL OF AGENDA.....
Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Philip N. Render, **Seconded by** Gregg Smith.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....September 14, 2021
Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Philip N. Render, **Seconded by** Jackie Hatley.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

Absent: Michael Chestnut.

PUBLIC REQUESTS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, MEMORIALS:

1. Public Information Update – PIO Staff

   Mark Kruea reviews past, present, and future events.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM PUBLIC.....30 Minute Time Limit

Chris Collins, retired city employee, reads letter that he previously emailed to City Council regarding insurance changes. (Letter attached)

Marty Eells, retired city employee, thanks council for allowing Mr. Collins to read his letter in its entirety and requests that council reconsider insurance changes.

CONSENT AGENDA – ***The Consent Agenda covers items anticipated to be routine in nature. Any Councilmember may ask that an item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for lengthier discussion, items remaining on the Consent Agenda will be briefly described by staff.***

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion M2021-138 to approve a Special Events Permit to Lynn Makris/ BEI – Beach LLC for the DeVille St. Festival. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

There will be various vendors and entertainment along Deville St. every Saturday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm from November 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021. The applicant is aware that she must pay for any services provided by the City of Myrtle Beach.

Motion M2021-139 to approve a Special Event Permit to Heather Gray / BEI-Beach, LLC for the Market Common Carriage Rides. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The event includes allowing a Horse Drawn Carriage to carry guests through Market Common. The Event is proposed to be held 10.1.21 – 12.31.21. The promoter is asking permission to close two parking spaces on Howard Avenue in front of Dolce Lusso Salon for Carriage pick up and drop off. Expected attendance is 100 per evening.

Motion M2021-140 to approve a Special Event Permit to BEI-Beach, LLC for the "Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Events at The Market Common" The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The Event is scheduled to take place on 11.20.21 adjacent to the Grand 14 Cinema. The Tree lighting event will include partial closings of Reed St. and Deville St. (as shown in the site plan).

Motion M2021-141 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into a cooperative agreement with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to fulfill the requirements of the Cooperative Agreement Grant in the amount of

$9,800 received from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR); to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. No match is required.

The purpose of the grant is to allow one staff member (as a Representative of the Pee Dee Region Healthcare Coalition) to attend the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in Orlando, the Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach, the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, the Hospital Preparedness Program Summit in Columbia, and the South Carolina Emergency Management Association Conference in Myrtle Beach while sharing the leading practices and lessons learned with the coalition through a written report to increase awareness of current issues and new developments relative to preparedness and response activities.

Motion: Approve all items on Consent Agenda, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Jackie Hatley.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

REGULAR AGENDA

2nd Reading Ordinance 2021-36 authorizing the sale of vacant parcel to Patrick J. Herrmann for $5,000.

When SCDOT built the overpass where Socastee Boulevard feeds into Farrow Parkway (back gate), the connection of Frontage Road to Socastee Boulevard was terminated thus creating a parcel of property that has sat vacant and is owned by the City. Mr. Herrmann acquired the adjacent property from SCDOT and intends to build an office building and wishes to buy this piece of vacant property from the City. The City does not need this piece of remnant parcel, but due to the underground utilities (water, sewer, etc...) the purchaser will not be able to build on this parcel.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** John Krajc, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

ADOPTED

1st Reading Ordinance 2021-37 to amend Ordinance 2021-28, the 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance, and Ordinance 2021-35, in order to correct a scrivener's error in the Exhibit J thereof.

Exhibit J of the 2021-22 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2021-28, was amended by ordinance 2021-35. Section (ii) of Exhibit J "Schedule of Building Permit Charges" indicates that Permit Fees are $0.3075 per square foot. Permit Fees should instead be listed as $0.375 per square foot. The amendment is recommended to correct the scrivener's error and allow the amended rate schedule to remain revenue neutral.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Gregg Smith, **Seconded by** John Krajc.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED 1st READING

Motion M2021-142 to approve a Special Event Permit to Ground Zero/ Scott Payseur for "GZi Outreach" on November 3, 2021. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The event will close Chester St. from 10th Ave. to 9th Ave. from 8am to 10pm. The event includes outdoor movies, corn hole and a s'mores making area.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Jackie Hatley, **Seconded by** Gregg Smith.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

Motion M2021-143 to approve a Special Event Permit to Ground Zero/ Scott Payseur for "Concert at Ground Zero" on November 6, 2021. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The event will close Chester St. from 10th Ave. to 9th Ave. from 6am to 12am. The Closure will allow for tents on the street to help add space to the event.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Jackie Hatley, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

Motion M2021-144 to approve a Special Event Permit to BEI-Beach, LLC for the "Southern Times Square at The Market Common". The City Manager is authorized to

make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The operational hours of this event will be from 9:00pm on December 31, 2021 to 1:00am on January 1, 2022. This event will feature live music on a temporary stage, a movie screen with streaming video, a ball drop at midnight, kid's activities and bounce houses, fireworks at midnight, street performers, and vendors. The event grounds will encompass Valor Memorial Garden and various road closures as on site plan. This is the 9th year for this event. Fireworks are being shot from the same site as previous years.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** John Krajc, **Seconded by** Jackie Hatley.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

Motion M2021-145 to approve a Special Event Permit to Crossroads Event Productions for the "Myrtle Beach Jazz Festival", from October 15 through October 17, 2021, between the hours of 12:00pm and Midnight daily. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The promoter is expecting approximately 5,000 attendees. The event will include live music, food, retail and craft vendors. Beer, wine and spirituous liquors will also be available for purchase. Carver Street will be closed between 18th Avenue N. and 21st Avenue N., October 14, 2021 at 12 noon to 1pm on October 18, 2021. The City will provide in kind services as indicated on attached event summary.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Jackie Hatley.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

Motion M2021-146 to approve a Special Event Permit to "The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee"/Grand Strand Bicycle Club for "Bike the Beach". The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The Event is scheduled for 11.13.21 from 7:00 am and 1:00 pm. The event is comprised of three group rides, The Whitt Oliver metric century, the Showcase loop and the Family Fun Ride. Road Closures include Ocean Blvd between 8th and 9th from 7am to 10am and an additional closure of Ocean Blvd. from 8th Ave. to 2nd Ave. for the family ride from 9am to 9:45am.

Motion: Approve, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

1. Council Communications
2. CFO Update
3. CM/ACM Update

REPORTS AND INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY STAFF

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session which are deemed to be "emergency" concerns.

Note: ***South Carolina law requires that Council's business is conducted in public with limited exceptions known as "Executive Sessions". Subjects eligible for Executive Session include:***

- ***Personnel matters.***
- ***Negotiations concerning proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property.***
- ***The receipt of legal advice relating to:***
  - ***A pending, threatened, or potential claim.***
  - ***Other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.***
  - ***Settlement of legal claims, or the position of the City in other adversary situations.***
- ***Discussions regarding development of security personnel or devices.***
- ***Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.***
- ***Matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses.***

Motions to go into Executive Session must be made in public and specify one or more reason above. Council can take no votes or take action in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Adjourn, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary**: Yes = 6).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.
Absent: Michael Chestnut.

10:43 A.M.

ATTEST:

BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK

To: Members of City Council
From: Retired City Employees
Re: Insurance

On November 1, 2020, we received correspondence from Val Rosser regarding "changes to retiree benefits for Pre-65 retirees". It was noted the new changes would "provide many of our pre-65 retirees with more affordable options for their healthcare and therefore serve to extend their HRA dollars." The letter stated that since we were near the holiday season, they would be scheduling meetings in late January 2021. This did not materialize and nothing was communicated to us about what we were looking at. The final paragraph stated: "The City is committed to providing our retirees with access to quality health care as well as continued access to their RHRA funds to help offset the cost of their health care premiums."

On July 1, 2021, we received a correspondence from Michelle Shumpert, Chief Financial Officer, requiring our attendance at a "mandatory educational meeting on August 4, 2021". There was no indication in that correspondence as to the specific information that would be discussed at said mandatory meeting, other than giving us "information on the regular pre-65 retiree benefit options effective January 1, 2022."

During the meeting, Larry Plyler stated the City was trying to provide us more competitive rates for our healthcare based on a projected increase from the current $832 to the 2022 numbers of $1487 monthly. Larry stated this new rate would deplete our funds very quickly. In response to this, Marty Eells asked Val Rosser if the new number was based on the total number of covered employees/retirees or just retirees and she stated she did not know. The fact is, the $1487 figure effectively separates the retirees out of the group plan and eliminates the basis of shared cost benefits being distributed throughout the entire group as it traditionally managed.

The question was also presented about our ability to continue to use the City clinic, where we have created long term doctor/patient relationships, are not required to pay a copay per visit, receive critical labs at no cost and receive a great majority of our prescriptions at no cost. The answer was that there had been discussion, but the decision was made to "rip off the bandaid". The loss of this particular benefit is immeasurable. With the explosive population growth in this area, many people are having a difficult time finding primary care physicians. And if an appointment can be made, they are often months out for new patients.

Ultimately, we as a group (total of 97 pre-65 retirees) were told that we were no longer going to be covered under the city employee health benefit. We were told by going to a private carrier, most of us would save money on our monthly premiums. We have been communicating our quotes with one another and the numbers are proving to be quite different than what we were told. Leaving a group plan, we are becoming individuals and our rate quotes represent that an individual plan does not

match up very well with a larger group plan. As of the writing of this letter, the average retiree that has received quotes from Blue Cross Blue Shield, as directed by the city staff, is seeing an increase in monthly out of pocket expense for premiums of $772.63. Please keep in mind, this is only for the monthly premium for health coverage. This total does not take into account the vision or dental plans that we have to get quoted separately. Nor does it take into account the loss of the city clinic or other benefits that are in place for those on the city plan. The Gold Plan (closest option to the City's coverage) also provides a lower level of coverage across the board:

	Current Plan	Proposed Gold Plan
Deductible	$1000 individual $2000 family	$2000 Individual $4000 family
Coinsurance	20%	30%
Out-of-Pocket Maximum	$3500 individual $7000 family	$5600 individual $11200 family
Emergency Room Services	20% coinsurance	$300 copay per visit; meet deductible, then 30% coinsurance
Inpatient Hospitalization	20% coinsurance	30% after deductible is met

Additionally, some employees have found that required medication will be greatly increased. One employee that currently pays twenty five dollars per month for diabetic medication will be forced to pay up to eight hundred and fifty two dollars per month for the same medication. Another retiree is working a part time job to help with expenses. Because of this job, the retiree has been given a much higher quote than if they were just living on retirement. The difference in the amount quoted is more than the part time job pays, so now they have to decide on whether being fully retired or going back to work full time is the better option.

Many from our group were not able to get quotes from BCBS because of computer issues during their assigned appointments in August. They were all told they would receive quotes in a few days; many of these retirees still do not even have a quote. A few retirees have called numerous times and have been told that there is no hurry as open enrollment does not start until November 1st and rate changes are expected prior to that. City council has been told by staff that many members are happy with the move and have already made the change, but that doesn't seem to add up since enrollment is not even open yet.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

A portion of this group includes those that opted to take the early retirement package offered by the City in late 2020. Had they been provided the information at that time regarding the loss of City healthcare benefits, no doubt different decisions may have been made, opting to stay employed with the City and maintain benefits until Medicare age. Additionally there were some who were forced to retire who were employees in good standing with exemplary records, excellent evaluations and some were even nominated for the Employee of the Year program the year they were forced out.

Most of this group is now living on a fixed income as retirees and cannot afford some of these changes that have been hastily forced upon us. To have dropped this on us as a group so late in the year and force us to make a change so quickly, particularly during a pandemic, does not meet the standard that the city promotes of being First In Service. We are asking City Council to reverse this decision, and work with the retirees and current employees to find a workable solution.