

**TOWN OF CENTRAL
PUBLIC HEARING
1067 WEST MAIN STREET - CENTRAL, SC 29630
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 – 6:45 pm**

Present: Mayor Andrew Beckner, Council Members S. Paige Bowers, Joe N. Moss, Lynne Chapman, Ken Dill, Curtis Peek, and Robert Griffin; Town Administrator Phillip D. Mishoe; Assistant Administrator Tom Cloer; Fire Chief Ed Reynolds; Police Chief Steve Thompson; Karen Martin, Jack Queener, Cindy Burke, David Vaughn, Maine Dawkins, Eunice Lehmacher, Evangelos Courpas, Rosa Grayden, Alesha Cambell; Member of the Press Evan Smoak, and Town Clerk Susan A. Brewer.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Andrew Beckner.

Ken Dill rendered the invocation.

Mayor said were having a public hearing about rezoning parcel number 4065-11-75-2539 from RM-16 multifamily to R-20 single family. He said this was taken up by the Planning Commission on August 27th 2024 and forwarded it to Council for first reading on September 9th, and tonight is the public hearing. Mayor asked if anyone was present that wanted to be heard.

Mr. Jack Queener came forth. He thanked members of the staff who responded to the damages from the storm.

Mr. Queener said he didn't have any issues with the rezoning but he came to speak about the way that the zoning is being presented to the public and possibly the reason that he was the only one there tonight; who's raising their hand to speak to this issue.

Jack Queener said:

"The notifications that we've done by the way the signs are a little better than the magic marker hand written signs that were up on road 18 for the PUD. He said we had some professionally made signs over there although they don't say a whole lot. He said they're kind of like our sign out front that he drove by today and it's blinking and it says public hearing Monday 10:14 at 6:45 followed by a council meeting which that too is quite meaningless to the public. He said it's almost like our agenda which says rezoning of parcels da da da and people don't have the sophistication or the time or the opportunity to go dig through the county zoning maps or the city maps to find those parcels are. There's no reference on your signs out there on Pepper Street and Aiken Street. There's just no clarification there for people to understand what you're having a public hearing for tonight and so I would say to you that that in his experience it has been that not only do you have to do it right but you have to make it look right. And so, for all your comments on the town's website and for all your pledges of transparency and so forth. I

just really feel like I need to challenge that because it's not there, you're not saying to the people. I'm a crazy old guy who just reads agendas for fun and I read these Council agendas and they say we're voting on the rezoning of this and you just mentioned numbers that's meaningless again to most people but you could put in this agenda that exactly what this means and exactly what people are being asked to receive in their neighborhood if you will and exactly what they're being offered the opportunities to come and comment publicly on. So, I think there's something here that that I see not happening. It's kind of like there's a don't know and don't care and I'm talking about somewhere down the line you folks have people working for you. Their job is to dig through what the Municipal Association of South Carolina says about how to handle these things. Their job is to dig through what the what the state law is and their job is to read some of these things on the municipal association's website that talks about the town of uh North Augusta having to pay \$133,000 because they continue to not put the reasons for their executive sessions on their agenda notices and this is just either don't know or don't care. Well don't know is one problem which means that they don't know that information's out there but they don't care part of the problem is they know it's out there and they really don't care. So, my question for you is do you want it to look right to the people who are driving by and seeing your sign out here. They don't know what the public hearing tonight is for what or when I mean they know when they don't know what or where. It doesn't even, I don't think it said zoning hearing so I just feel like that somebody needs to find out this information and furnish it to you so you can be well served. It's kind of like when I had three teenage boys in the house if I ever said somebody take out the garbage nobody named somebody lived there and somebody would just sit there and this somebody would look at that somebody and the garbage didn't get taken out so you had to say can you take out the garbage, please and so I would say to you that that the people deserve better. The people need to be able to ride by your sign and see that it's a zoning meeting and it's about Pepper and Aiken Street. I mean and that's just the bare minimum of making it look right and not just checking a few little boxes somewhere and saying we got this."

Jack Queener thanked Council very much and he appreciated their time.

Mayor asked if there were any other comments.

None

With no objections, Mayor Andrew Beckner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Brewer, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved: 11/11/2024