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City of Easley

Work Session

July 14, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Lisa Talbert called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. All members were present.

**2. AGENDA ITEMS:**

A. Reading of Resolution 2025-08 to award the audit services for the City of Easley to Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC for an initial term of four years. Finance Director Ralph Herden explained that two companies submitted to the Request for Proposal. The two companies were Greene, Finney, Cauley and Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. Greene, Finney, Cauley has been the auditing firm for the past several years while Mauldin & Jenkins would be a new company auditing the City of Easley. Mauldin & Jenkins is a larger firm. Councilman Jim Robinson asked if there was a benefit to changing companies and Mr. Herden said existing firms could become familiar and comfortable which could allow for errors. A new firm would take more time to learn the City’s process but would allow for a different firm to audit the financial side of the fiscal responsibility. Councilman Justin Alexander asked if it would come back to council each year for renewability. City Attorney Daniel Hughes said the contract would be the document that would have the language to include that but would still allow for termination if not satisfied.

B. Reading of Resolution 2025-09 to adopt a Business Continuity Plan for the City of Easley. IT Director Jordan Anderson explained that the Business Continuity Plan, Disaster Recovery Plan, and a backup policy are regarding employees that work for the City of Easley. Councilman Justin Alexander asked about the need to include other personnel into the plan’s language. Councilwoman Donna Rainey asked if Mr. Anderson isn’t available who would be the second point of contact and was told that it would be the City Administrator, but that Cyber Solutions would be available if an emergent need occurred where Mr. Anderson were not available.

C. Reading of Resolution 2025-10 to adopt a Disaster Recovery Plan for the City of Easley. Councilwoman Donna Rainey asked who handles E-911 now and was told that Pickens County currently handles that.

D. Reading of Resolution 2025-11 to adopt a backup policy for the City of Easley’s Information Systems.

E. Reading of Resolution 2025-12 to adopt an Acceptable Use Policy for City of Easley Elected Officials regarding the use of City information systems. Councilman Jim Robinson said that he would be making a motion to table this resolution so that it could be reviewed more. Councilman Justin Alexander stated he had concerns that were sent to him from citizens. Several of the concerns were discussed. Councilwoman Denise Davidson stated that her understanding was a lot of municipalities have Acceptable Use Policies in place to limit the liability of the City. Councilman Justin Alexander said that he feels the policy is overreaching on the First Amendment rights. Councilwoman Denise Davidson asked if any comments or questions were received by Mr. Anderson or Mr. Couch and was told that there were none. Mr. Hughes was asked for his opinion and Mr. Hughes stated that he would feel more comfortable giving legal advice in an Executive Session. Councilman Robinson said in general he supports the policy but would like more time to review. Councilman Tom O’Shields said that he feels an Executive Session at this work session would be beneficial.

**3. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

1. Term limits. This discussion was requested by Councilwoman Denise Davidson. Councilwoman Davidson said there is nothing prohibiting municipalities from passing term limits. Councilman Tom O’Shields said generally speaking he doesn’t feel like term limits is a bad idea. Councilman Justin Alexander said that he doesn’t feel too strongly one way or the other, but that he could see enacting term limits for the executive seat over the legislative which would be the mayor position and not councilmembers. Councilman Robinson said that his opinion is that the people make the determination on term limits and that his best quality to his clients is experience.
2. UDO draft recommended by the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Donna Rainey called Planning Commission Chairman Bob Fedder to answer if the draft UDO contained all the recommendations and Mr. Fedder stated that it was mostly but that a couple items were not included. Discussion was made about if Council would like to hold a special meeting to discuss the UDO as a stand-alone agenda item. The council was split on reviewing it individually and discussing specific questions that arise or holding a meeting to review it. Councilwoman Donna Rainey asked if the City Attorney should review the document and he said that he addresses questions or concerns as they are brought to him. He feels that the Planning Commission and third-party firm have the experience and wisdom to build the document.

Councilwoman Denise Davidson made a motion to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding Resolution 2025-12 and term limits at 5:59pm, seconded by Councilwoman Donna Rainey.(Section 30-4-70 (a)(2).All members were in favor.Councilwoman Donna Rainey made a motion to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Tom O’Shields at 6:24pm. All members were in favor. No actions or votes were taken while in Executive Session.

With no other business, Councilman Tom O’Shields made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman David Jones. The meeting concluded at 6:26pm.

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Mayor Lisa Talbert

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Bradley, City Clerk