

**City Council Meeting**

**July 14, 2025**

Easley City Council met for its regular meeting on July 14,2025, at 7:00pm in the court room of the LEC. All the members were present. The press was notified of the meeting by email. The agenda was posted on the city’s website and in the lobby of City Hall. Jennifer Bradley, City Clerk, served as the recording secretary.

Mayor Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The invocation was given by Public Works Director, Eddie Fortner, and was immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved as written.

**Report from Council:**

**Ward 6:** Received an email last month about the trains blocking downtown, but unfortunately the City Council has no authority over that. Has transit information for the citizen if they would like it. July is a big month for his family. It includes his late father’s 100th birthday, a niece’s birthday, his late brother, and his wife’s birthday as well. Plans to make a motion to table the resolution to adopt an Acceptable Use Policy on the agenda tonight until it can be reviewed more thoroughly.

**Ward 5:** Appreciates feedback regarding the Acceptable Use Policy from the public. The UDO was discussed in the Work Session and is very impressed by the work done by the Planning Commission in going into the details to get the document ready.

**Ward 4:** Thanks to staff for their hard work on the 4th of July events. Toured the upcoming training facility that will be converted space of the Law Enforcement Center in the basement.

**Ward 3:** First born just celebrated a birthday on Monday and thanks to the Planning Commission on their hard work on the UDO.

**Ward 2:** Had a grateful citizen that was helped by the Building Codes department. Remember the people affected by the catastrophic events that have recently occurred.

**Ward 1:** Was contacted by a friend around a year ago about homes that needed to be condemned are close to being demolished and is much needed. Glad to see Mitch English join the Easley Police Department who he knows.

**Mayor’s Message:** Huge thanks to City staff for their hard work on all of the 4th of July events. Council is now reviewing the UDO draft document. Lainey Gilstrap, a local 7-year-old, was recently celebrated completed treatments for Leukemia. Senior League World Series baseball tournament will be held soon and is always a good event.

**Updates on City Activity:** Tom Couch, City Administrator, gave details on redistricting map and shared that a flyer is on the map site with a QR code to reach the 2025 Redistricting for an updated ward map. Voter registration cards have been mailed to any citizens whose district has moved.

**Community Announcements: None.**

**Citizens wishing to address City Council:**

Laura LaPre-Hinty spoke on the proposed Acceptable Use Policy proposed tonight go too far. Other municipalities have policies that are not vague with overreach and emails have been sent to all members of the Council and the city attorney with links to cases where policies were contested and proven to be too much. This policy is too broad and could infringe on FOIA violations.

Bob Easter served the county and as a Fire Chief for many years. Understands that his taxes will increase, but it is needed to support first responders. Helped the Ward 3 Councilperson on their campaign and doesn’t understand the disrespect for the chain of command. Concentrate on the big fish like not enough first responders, not raising of hands for voting. Heard “Remember Elections are Coming”. Not the person he campaigned for.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ordinance Second Reading:**

**NEW BUSINESS: First Reading: None.**

**NEW RESOLUTIONS:**

A. 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. Councilwoman Denise Davidson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Donna Rainey. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

B. Resolution 2025-09 to adopt a Business Continuity Plan for the City of Easley. Councilman David Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Denise Davidson. There was no discussion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

C Resolution 2025-10 to adopt a Disaster Recovery Plan for the City of Easley. Councilman Justin Alexander made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Tom O’Shields. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

Resolution 2025-11 to adopt a backup policy for the City of Easley’s Information Systems. Councilwoman Denise Davidson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Tom O’Shields. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

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 made a motion to table, seconded by Councilwoman Denise Davidson. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously with a 7-0 vote.

With no further business, there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Denise Davidson, seconded by Councilman Tom O’Shields.

The meeting concluded at 7:22pm.

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 Mayor Lisa Talbert

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Jennifer Bradley

City Clerk