

**Minutes
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. The following were notified of the time, date, and place of the meeting: Mayor Robert L. Woodbury and Members of City Council, the City Staff, and the press. Present at the meeting were the following: Mayor Robert L. Woodbury, Council Members: Carolyn Wilson, Mayo Phillips, Eddie Kitchen, Terry Davis, Kindra Brewton-Pompey, Albert Woodberry, Interim City Administrator Holly Jackson, City Attorney Bob Corley, Captain Phil Mostowski, Chief Mike Bethea, Cathcart Pickett, Victoria Belin, Michael Hayes, Special Events Coordinator Oglaretta White, Willena Rembert, Linda Neal, Zack Reed, Bill Nelson, Marvin Hemingway, Steve Hardnett, Recreation Director Allen Floyd, and many others.

1. Call Meeting To Order & Welcome: Mayor Woodbury called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Mr. Bill Nelson gave The Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro Tem / Chaplain Carolyn Wilson gave the invocation.

Mayor Woodbury read the Civility Pledge.

2. Disclosure that local media has been informed of meeting pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Mayor Woodbury stated the local media had been contacted regarding the time, date, and place of the regular meeting for March 14, 2023.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Council Member Terry Davis made a motion to accept the Approval of the Agenda. Council Member Kitchen seconded the motion.

4. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2023 – City Council Meeting
- (b) Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2023 – Police Committee Meeting
- (c) Approval of Monthly Bills

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5. New Business:

- (a) Michelle Brewton-Smith / Pee Dee Coalition – Re: Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Month
- (b) Proclamation for Zeta Week

Mayor Woodbury read the Proclamation for Zeta Week. Mayor Woodbury also recognized the Zeta's that were present at the Council Meeting.

- (c) ORDINANCE # 23-002 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF MULLINS TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL REVENUE SERVICES; TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE LOCAL REVENUE SERVICE PROGRAMS; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO".

Council Member Carolyn Wilson made a motion to accept the First Reading of ORDINANCE # 23-002 "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF MULLINS TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL REVENUE SERVICES; TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE LOCAL REVENUE SERVICE PROGRAMS; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO". Council Member Terry Davis seconded the motion.

- (d) Local Revenue Services Agreement

Council Member Eddie Kitchen made a motion to accept the Local Revenue Services Agreement. Council Member Terry Davis seconded the motion.

- (e) Participant Program Supplement

Council Member Mayo Phillips made a motion to accept the Participant Program Supplement. Council Member Kindra Brewton-Pompey seconded the motion.

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6. Committee Reports

Council Member Mayo Phillips congratulated Mullins High School basketball team.

Council Member Albert Woodberry stated there is a project in the works for District #2 and it will be discussed at a later date.

Council Member Terry Davis stated revenue was up due to property taxes.

Council Member Terry Davis stated it was the consensus of the Finance Committee to fund an additional \$4,200.00 to PDRTA. Council Member Kitchen made the motion to fund the additional \$4,200.00 to PDRTA. Council Member Kindra Brewton-Pompey seconded the motion.

Council Member Terry Davis stated the current ISO rating for the Fire Department is a 4.

Council Member Terry Davis stated the City must have permission from all property owners for the demolition of dilapidated houses.

Mayor Woodbury stated PDRTA has more buses running in the County and this will enhance the growth of the City of Mullins.

Council Member Kindra Brewton-Pompey stated she will be having a Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 8th in Mary Louis Rutland Park from 12:00 - 3:00 PM. Entertainment and vendors will be at the event.

Council Member Kitchen stated Police Committee meetings were held this past month. The priority is to keep citizens safe. Two (2) officers have graduated from the Academy.

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson recognized Recreation Director Allen Floyd. Floyd state over 100 kids are signed up for baseball this year. Two (2) new employees have been hired (Tim Felder & Jermaine Paige). Charles White has also been hired for part-time maintenance. Floyd asked to be excused.

Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson stated Street/Sanitation Director Tarus Gilchrist suggested the City purchase a second garbage truck. The purpose is for a back-up in case one truck breaks down. The street sweeper runs five (5) days a week. Mayor Woodbury stated street employees need a valid driver's license.

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7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Woodbury recognized Rev. Marvin Hemingway with the Marion NAACP Branch. Rev. Hemingway announced the 12th Annual Denim Day will be hosted by the City of Mullins this year. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 19th at 12:00 PM in Smith Haven Park. Lunch will be provided.

Mayor Woodbury stated the Chamber of Commerce will have the Annual Banquet on March 23rd at the Homestead in Zion Community.

Wally Elliott is having a book signing tonight at the Museum for his new book.

8. Comments:

- (a) Bill Nelson & Davon Moultrie / Pick 42 – Community Garden & Eat Local Pee Dee
- (b) Miko Pickett – Eat Local Pee Dee

Mayor Woodbury recognized Mr. Bill Nelson & Davon Moultrie with Pick 42. Nelson stated there will be five (5) active Community gardens in the City by the end of the year. A grant with the USDA has been given in the amount of \$169,000.00. Mr. Hardnett is the program coordinator. Vegetables are growing at the 114 Broad Street garden. Edible trees are being planted at the garden on Smith and Front Street. The garden on West Marion Street is a memorial garden with seedlings in the greenhouse.

Mr. Hardnett stated Planning Day is April 5th.

Mrs. Miko Pickett noted the new officer walking around town. Pickett stated the Eat Local Pee Dee has processed their first cow. Pick 42 is partnering with local churches for distribution of the foods. Orders are place on Tuesday with delivery on Wednesday and distribution on Thursday's. The areas for distribution include: Marion, Dillon, and Marlboro counties. This Thursday's menu is beef at 11:00AM.

9. Executive Session:

- (a) Personnel
- (b) Contractual / Re: Grant Opportunities

Council Member Terry Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson seconded the motion.

Council Member Kindra Brewton-Pompey was excused at 7:10 PM.

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10. Return to Open Session

Council Member Davis made a motion to Return to Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson seconded the motion.

No action was taken.

Council Member Terry Davis made a motion for the approval of the 4 things listed under grant opportunities. Council Member Kitchen seconded the motion.

11. Adjournment:

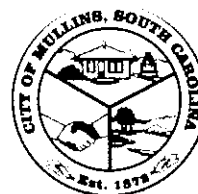
Mayor Woodbury made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Robert L. Woodbury

ATTEST:

Felicia Sawyer-Norton, City Clerk

Reimagine Gardens



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PURPOSE

- The purpose of this agreement, between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Pick 42 Foundation, Inc., seeks to **decrease food insecurity** in Marion County, SC. Through the Pick 42 Foundation Community Garden Initiative, Pick 42 Foundation intends to increase the accessibility and affordability of quality, healthy foods. Community gardens can support the NRCS in actualizing the USDA's goal of providing all Americans access to a **safe, nutritious, and secure food supply**. Food insecurity remains a prevailing public health issue in the U.S. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. **South Carolina, specifically, is ranked 7th worst nationally** with respect to food insecurity by the Food Research and Action Center. **The purpose of the South Carolina Food Connection Community Gardens Project is to utilize community gardens to improve food insecurity in South Carolina, especially within underserved and low-income areas.**

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Program Participants

Garden Manager – Bill Nelson

Program Coordinator – Stephen Hardnett

Student Ambassadors (4)


Garden Champions

Volunteers & Community

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Our Locations

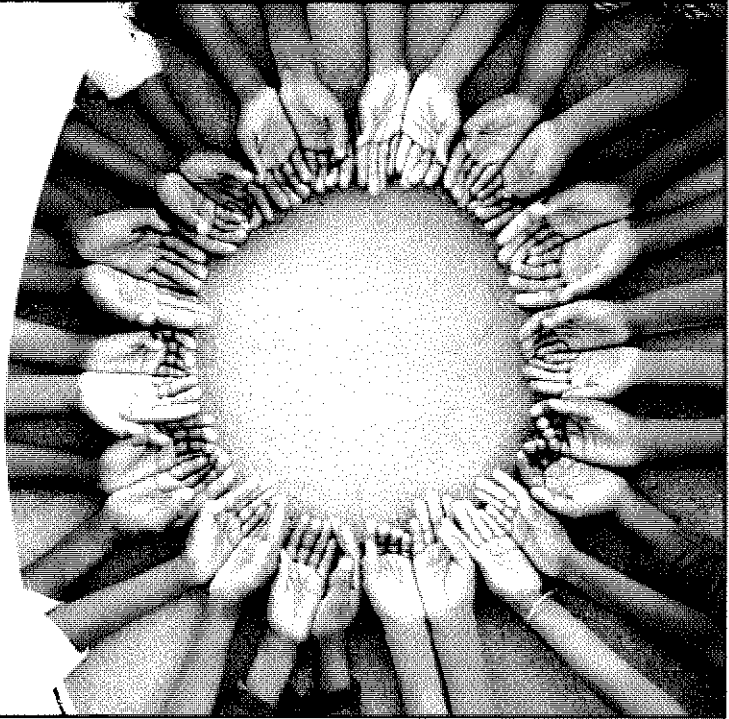
- Existing – 114 Broad, Mullins
- New in 2023
 - The Block – Edible Forest
 - Barnes Street
 - McArthur Street
 - W Marion Street



4

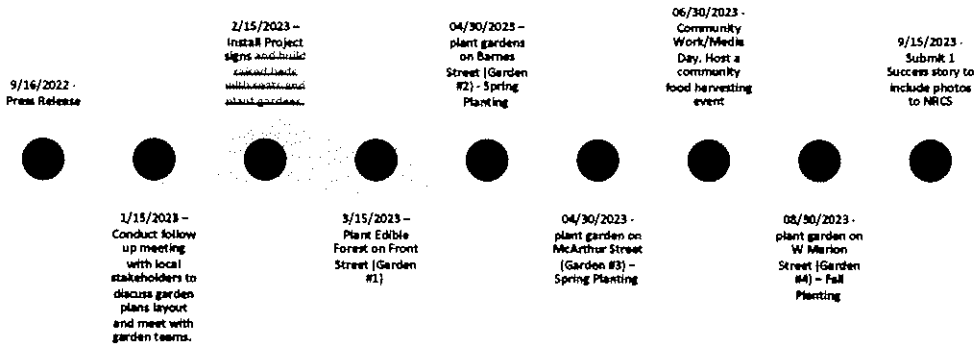
Participation – Block Garden Champions

- Advisors
- Supporters/Champions
- Community Liaison
 - Issues/Hazards
 - Opportunities



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MILESTONES *to*



6



Progress being made

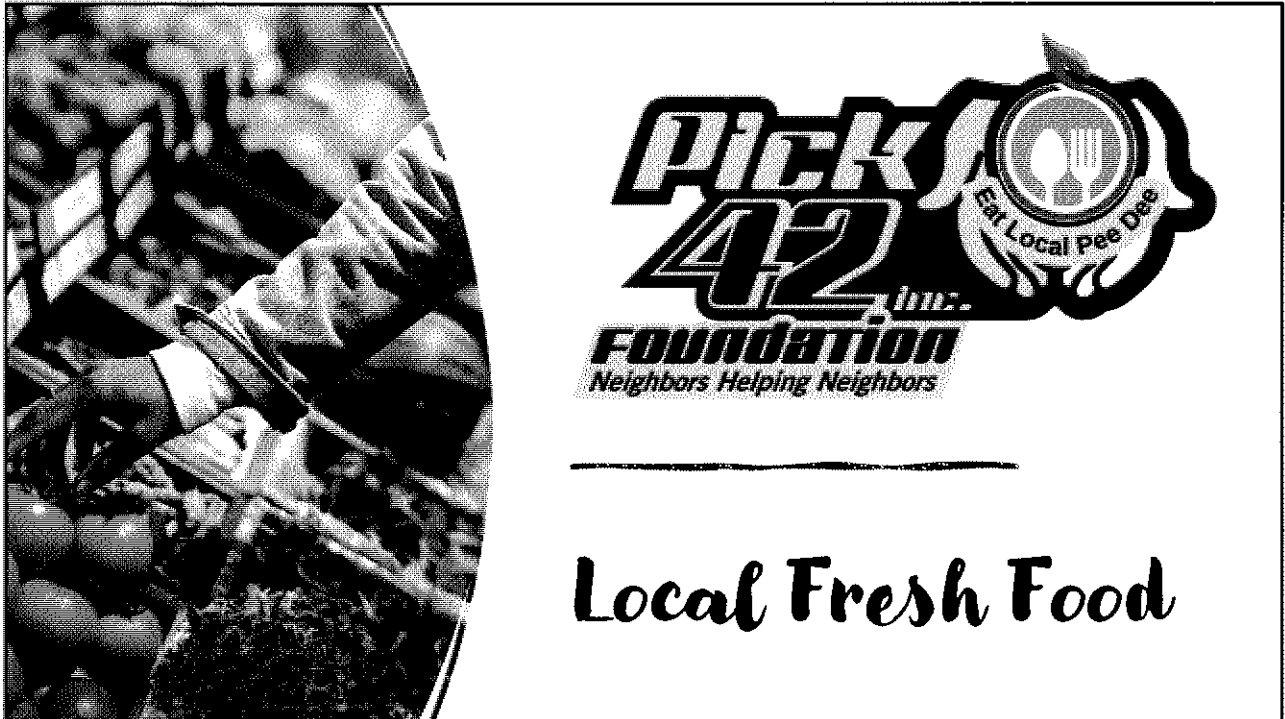
- Rock path
- Tree trimming
- Fencing
- Seating

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Next Steps

- Construction Continues
- Monthly Meetings
- Weekly check-ins
- YOU ARE WELCOME ANYTIME!!!!

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1

What is it?

- Fresh Produce, Dairy and Meats provided by local African American and/or Women owned farms/ranches
- Food is provided for FREE to select communities
- Educational seminars, food gatherings, recipe sharing and more
- Program runs until year end 2024, option to extend

2

Who are our partners?

Producers

African American and Women solely owned

Farms (Vegetables), Dairy (Eggs/Milk)

Meat (Beef, Pork, Chicken)

Distribution Partners

Local Churches

Non-profit agencies

Community

There is NEVER a charge for the food or events! FREE

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Our Schedule

Tuesday

- Our Farm Ambassador will call producers to determine what is on the menu?

Wednesday

- Farmers/Ranchers deliver food to newly created Pick 42 Foundation Food Hub for purchase

We ♥ Thursdays

- Fresh Food deliveries to distribution partners
- Distribution partners provide to community same day

4

Our Partners in Love

- USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program
- South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA)
- SCDA Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE)
- The City of Mullins
- Clemson Cooperative Extension
- Seeking funders - ask us how

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Who Wins?

Increased Specialty Foods Capacity

- African American and Women owned farms will fill a gap to provide LOCAL grown specialty foods.
- Farmers/ranchers will be provided with resources to grow their farm business to potentially sell wholesale or to farmers markets

Increased Development

- Businesses will be provided with direct revenue for the efforts
- Local farmers market will have fresh food available
- Potential for newly created farmers Markets

The Community

- Fresh Local Foods available for free
- Cooking demonstrations - new ideas
- Exciting programs - Community Food Gathering

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Our Timeline

