

Manning Matters

November 2020



Message from the Mayor

This month I wanted to take some time to explain the structure and decision-making process for our city government. If you visit the Municipal Association of South Carolina's (MASC) website: masc.sc, there is an abundance of information on municipal government.

The City of Manning has one mayor and six councilmembers. The six councilmembers represent the six districts within our city.

Mayor:	Julia A. Nelson
District 1:	Clayton Pack (Mayor Pro Temp, operates as mayor in her absence)
District 2:	Diane D. Georgia
District 3:	Ervin Davis, Sr.
District 4:	Johnny E. Gordon
District 5:	Julius Dukes, Jr.
District 6:	Sherry A. Welle

Any of us can be contacted by email. Please visit our website: cityofmanning.org to send an email. If you need to call a councilmember that information can be obtained by calling City Hall. You can also find the minutes and agendas for all of our meetings on our website.

Council and Mayor are responsible for policy-making, the "what" and "why" of the issues. Our Administrator, Scott Tanner, is the "how", "when" and "where" of the issues with staff and the implementation of policy, which is set by council.

During our meetings, I preside over each council meeting and serve on each committee. Those committees are Public Works, Public Safety and Administration. As the presiding officer of Council, I only vote when there is a tie. However, I don't hide behind any decision made by council and if I'm against a decision that is made, I will verbally ask during the meeting for my position to be noted within the minutes.

When you read our minutes and a unanimous decision has been made, this means everyone on Council voted in the affirmative. If the motion isn't unanimous, those votes are also recorded in our minutes. Please understand, no councilmember is told "how to vote". It is their choice of "how to vote" on any issue that is presented before Council. You have elected each of them to represent your district and all of us share the responsibility of operating in the best interest of the City of Manning, its citizens and businesses.

Each of our council meeting dates and agendas are published by law prior to any meeting. This information is sent to our local paper and posted on the city's website. We usually meet the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30pm. There are a couple of months, due to holidays or other circumstances, it isn't the 3rd Monday. Due to COVID-19, we're now meeting virtually, with the option to attend in-person. The seating in council chambers is limited with protocols in place for this virus. Anyone desiring to attend the meetings virtually can also find that information on our website with the agenda. If you have questions concerning how to attend any meeting virtually, please call City Hall at 803.435.8477 and speak with Scott Tanner or Daun Davis, Deputy City Administrator/Clerk to Council.

And lastly, we're still operating and living in uncertain times with personal inconveniences and sacrifices. I will be the first to say that I'm really tired of COVID-19, the wearing of face coverings and social distancing. However, I'm persevering for the good of our community and myself and I applaud each of you that are doing the same.

If you can remember, Clarendon County was considered a "hot spot" for COVID-19 for a few months. The number of cases and deaths were alarming. As of late, the number of cases and deaths have decreased in our community. However, on this past Sunday, Nov. 1st, we saw our first double digit number of cases in quite some time with 11 new cases. I pray and hope this isn't the beginning of a trend and direction that no one desires. I also recognize that each case and each death represent a member, an individual of our county. My thoughts and prayers are with those whose lives have been tragically impacted.

As we continue to deal with these uncertain times, let us remember the motto of our city: "Matchless for Beauty and Hospitality". Better days are coming and we'll make it together.



Check Manning First

This holiday season we hope that you Check Manning First. Manning is home to a variety of boutiques and gift stores that have unique gifts for everyone on your holiday list. Use the hashtag #CheckManningFirst on social media when you make a purchase at a Manning business. You might just be surprised at what you find when you Check Manning First!

City of Manning Blood Drive

The Blood Connection Bloodmobile will be at Manning City Hall, Monday, November 9, 2020 from 10 am until 3 pm. In addition to whole blood donations, you can also donate convalescent plasma. If you tested positive for COVID-19 your plasma donation can help others fighting COVID-19. Please contact Carrie Trebil (803-435-8477) for more information and to sign up for a time to donate. Your blood donation will help patients right here in Manning and Clarendon County.



THE BLOOD CONNECTION
Your Community Blood Center

Veterans Day

Manning City Hall will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day. It will reopen Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 8:30 am. We hope that you will take a moment to thank a veteran for their service.



Happy Thanksgiving

The City of Manning wishes you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving! City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

