



CITY OF SPARTANBURG

SOUTH CAROLINA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

City Council Meeting
County Council Chambers
366 N. Church Street
Monday, June 24, 2024
5:30 PM

- I. Moment of Silence**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the June 10, 2024 Meeting**
- IV. Approval of the Agenda of the June 24, 2024 Meeting**
- V. Public Comment**
Public Comment Forms are available inside Council Chambers on the podium. Please turn in the completed form to the City Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.
- VI. Special Presentation**
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
- VII. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Discussion**
Presenter: Mitch Kennedy, Deputy City Manager
- VIII. Next Steps: Homeless Initiative & Funding Update**
Presenter: Mitch Kennedy, Deputy City Manager
- IX. Consent Agenda**
 - A. An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for the Transfer of Several Scattered Site Properties Located in the Northside Neighborhood (First Reading)**
Presenter: Martin Livingston, Community Development Director
- X. Approval of Van Pool Services with Enterprise Leasing Company-Southeast, LLC**
Presenter: Dennis Locke, Finance Director
- XI. Resolutions**
 - A. A Resolution to Allow Elected Members of the Council to Participate as Active Employees in the State Insurance Benefits Program offered by SC PEBA.**
Presenter: Robert P. Coler, City Attorney

As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Spartanburg will provide interpretive services for the City Council Meetings. Requests must be made to the Communications & Marketing Office (596-2020) 24 hours in advance of the meeting. This is a Public Meeting and notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information

XII. Staff Updates

XIII. City Council Updates

XIV. Executive Session

- A. An Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Agreement Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the SC Code of Laws**
- B. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(5) of the South Carolina Code to Discuss Matters Relating to Economic Development “Project Bear” a Potential Mixed-use Development in the Downtown Area**

XV. Adjournment.

City Code Sec. 2-57. Citizen Appearance. Any citizen of the City of Spartanburg may speak at a regular meeting on any matter pertaining to City Services and operations germane to items within the purview and authority of City Council, except personnel matters, by signing a Citizen's Appearance form prior to the meeting stating the subject and purpose for speaking. No item considered by Council within the past twelve (12) months may be added as an agenda item other than by decision of City Council. The forms may be obtained from the Clerk and maintained by the same. Each person who gives notice may speak at the designated time and will be limited to a two (2) minute presentation.



City Council Meeting
County Council Chambers
366 N. Church Street
Monday, June 10, 2024
5:30 p.m.

(These minutes to be approved at the June 25, 2024 Council Meeting)

City Council met this date with the following Councilmembers present: Mayor Jerome Rice, Jr, Mayor Pro Tem Janie Salley, Councilmembers Jamie Fulmer, Ruth Littlejohn, Erica Brown, Meghan Smith and Rob Rain. City Manager Chris Story, Deputy City Manager Mitch Kennedy, Assistant City Manager Kevin Limehouse and City Attorney Robert P. Coler were in attendance. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information Act. All City Council meetings are live streamed/recorded. To view the video for a complete transcript, please visit <https://www.cityofspartanburg.org/city-council>

- I. Moment of Silence – observed
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - recited
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the May 28, 2024 City Council Meetings
*Councilmember Littlejohn made a motion to approve the minutes as received.
Councilmember Fulmer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- IV. Approval of the Agenda for the June 10, 2024 City Council Meeting -
*Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as received.
Councilmember Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*
- V. Public Comment –
*Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk
None
- VI. Proclamation Declaring June 17 through June 23, 2024 as Juneteenth Week in
The City of Spartanburg.
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
- VII. Proclamation Declaring June as Pride Month in the City of Spartanburg
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
*Councilmember Brown presented the proclamation on behalf of the Mayor
And Council to members of Uplift Outreach & PFLAG in attendance.*
- VIII. Proclamation Declaring June 20, 2024 as World Refugee Day in the City of
Spartanburg.
Presenter: Jerome Rice, Jr., Mayor
*Councilmember Smith presented the proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and Council
To members of World Relief Upstate and Lutheran Services Carolinas in attendance.*

X. Ordinance

- A. To Provide for the Adoption of a City Operating Budget, Its Execution and Effect, for the Fiscal Period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.(Second Reading)**

Presenter: Chris Story, City Mananager

Dennis Locke, Finance Director

Councilmember Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

- B. An Ordinance to Raise Revenues for the City of Spartanburg for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Levy Taxes on All Real Estate and Personal Property, Except Such as is Exempted by Law, in the Corporate Limits of the City of Spartanburg For Corporate Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and to Provide Penalties for the Delinquent Payment of Taxes Levied and Provided For. (Second Reading)**

Presenter: Chris Story, City Manager

Dennis Locke, Finance Director

Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

- C. An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for the Transfer of Several Scattered Site Properties Located in the Northside Neighborhood. (First Reading)**

Presenter: Martin Livingston, Community Development Director

Councilmember Rain made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented.

Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

XI. Staff Updates

Mr. Story thanked the City of Spartanburg Special Events Team, Spartanburg Police and Public Works for their role in the BMW Concert Event that was held in downtown on June 6, 2024. He also reminded everyone about the City now observing the Juneteenth Holiday and City offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. Mr. Story also thanked Dennis and his team for getting a balanced budget completed.

XII. City Council Updates- Each Councilmember gave updates on their activities since the previous council meeting.

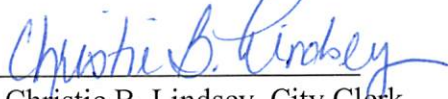
Councilmember Brown made a motion to adjourn to Executive Sessions at 6:37p.m.

Councilmember Fulmer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

XIII. Executive Session-

A. An Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Agreement Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) of the SC Code of Laws

XVI. Adjournment – Councilmember Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Littlejohn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Christie B. Lindsey, City Clerk



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL UDATE

TO: Chris Story, City Manager

FROM: Mitch Kennedy, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Update: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

DATE: June 20, 2024

BACKGROUND: Staff would like to discuss strategies related to the remaining use of our ARPA Funds.

ACTION REQUESTED: NA

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA: NA



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

TO: Chris Story, City Manager

FROM: Mitch Kennedy, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: Update: Next Steps – Homeless Initiative and Funding

DATE: June 20, 2024

BACKGROUND: In late 2022, a group of five leadership organizations engaged the 1000 Feathers consulting firm (Columbia, SC) to lead a process of developing a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to address homelessness that would help to align strategies, inform resource distribution, and identify opportunities to advance prevention efforts. The group of leadership organizations has grown from five to seven.

The City of Spartanburg currently has multiple sources of funding and activities focused on homelessness.

- Opioid Settlement Funds
- HUD HOME American Rescue Plan(ARP) Funds
- State and Local Funds (Litter Heroes Program)
- UPSTATE Continuum Of Care (Federal) Funds
- American Rescue Plan Act Funds (Proposed)

Staff wishes to provide an update on the status of the Homeless Initiative: “A Place To Call Home” and how we believe our efforts should align with the community-wide initiative to address homelessness.

ACTION REQUESTED: NA

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA: NA



A Place to Call Home

*A collective effort to address
homelessness in Spartanburg County*

Update: June 2024



THE ISSUE

The Spartanburg Homeless Taskforce was first convened in 2018, inclusive of stakeholders such as government leaders, business owners, nonprofit agencies, and more to discuss issues and strategies to address street homelessness. While this joint, community-wide commitment to the issue was an important first step, community members continued to feel there was more that should be done to proactively and strategically reduce homelessness in the county.

In late 2022, a group of five leadership organizations engaged the 1000 Feathers consulting firm (Columbia, SC) to lead a process of developing a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to address homelessness that would help to align strategies, inform resource distribution, and identify opportunities to advance prevention efforts. The group of leadership organizations has grown from five to seven (see logos) and collectively with 1000 Feathers have put together this summary of initial findings and recommendations for the path forward. Most importantly, this document should be seen as a call to ACTION that the entire community can rally behind.



State of Homelessness



The latest Spartanburg County Point in Time Count reported 236 people are homeless.



Top searches on SCparents.org for Spartanburg County from May '22-April '23: *help pay for housing and find housing.*

6,930

Calls to 211 from Spartanburg County in 2023. Top needs: rent assistance, electric service payment assistance, and affordable housing.



Spartanburg County is 5th in the state for number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

THE PROCESS

For over a year, 1000 Feathers worked alongside the leadership organizations and community stakeholders to craft a shared vision, reaffirm core values, navigate critical decision points, manage tensions, and adapt to seize emerging opportunities. None of these things are possible to do without first gathering input from internal stakeholders, exploring industry best practices, and hearing from those most proximate to the issue. Our belief is that when challenges exist within a community, so do the solutions. The work unfolded in two distinct phases.

Define the Challenge.

Early on, it was important to understand the current condition related to homelessness in Spartanburg County. In January 2023, 24 service providers representing a variety of organizations attended an interactive kick-off discussion to help uncover challenges and opportunities. Multiple meetings with representatives from the leadership organizations built on this initial input to begin crafting a path forward for the community. Importantly, the 1000 Feathers team also spent time conducting a content appraisal—a review of existing products, materials, and reports that help to describe the current condition of homelessness and of the community overall. It was clear that the issue had been top-of-mind for many organizations and for many years. For this reason, the task wasn't to create new ideas, rather to rally the community to act on those already identified.



A total of 14 existing assessments, reports, and strategy plans related (partially or fully) to homelessness and housing in Spartanburg County already existed.

Engage and Connect with Stakeholders.

1000 Feathers used a series of engagements, community conversations, and key stakeholder interviews to further develop an understanding of the current condition of homelessness and service provision as well as the opportunities for further investment. The ultimate purpose of the engagements was to ensure that the community's voice was included—early and often—as change efforts took shape. Community conversations and interviews also helped assess the willingness of organization and system-level leadership to lean in, the current level of service provision available for those experiencing homelessness, and the potential for community transformation.



20 interviews, conversations, and site visits were held that included the voices of 44 organizational leaders and front-line staff.



Multiple community meetings were held to share findings and gather input. Over 100 people attended Coffee and Conversations presented by United Way of the Piedmont (Nov. 2023) and more than 70 people attended follow-up work sessions (Feb. 2024).

This summary document was produced by 1000 Feathers.



5 KEY THEMES

The early phases of this work were informative. A number of key themes emerged. It was clear that the county and its social service organizations were not short on hopes or dreams or even short on plans. But collectively, the community was short on action. The first step was to ensure a clear understanding of five key themes followed by the ability to rally behind a shared path forward.

1 Preventing and ending homelessness in Spartanburg County requires a community-wide change in mindset. There is a single story being told about homelessness in Spartanburg, centered around the homeless man on a park bench in Morgan Square. People feel homelessness is on the rise, is more visible, and funded efforts to “do something about it” are not working. More prevention efforts are needed but so too is a changed narrative and mindset.

2 Homelessness prevention efforts must be more connected to ongoing, well-developed efforts focused on community well-being. The community must establish a more robust continuum of services (prevent-serve-house) that is connected to the socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors that impact the lives of children, adults, and families. Those actively working with marginalized populations must be more frequently engaged in conversations around homelessness prevention, coordination of services, and outreach efforts.

3 The homelessness services network in Spartanburg County is unsophisticated and disconnected. More than 70 organizations in the county were identified as serving persons at-risk for or currently experiencing homelessness. There is minimal coordination and collaboration, and as a result, limited impact. This is magnified by the lack of data sharing and the lack of a common language used to describe needed services, opportunities, and outcomes.

4 An overwhelming number of plans and priorities related to homelessness and housing have likely created noise and confusion but have not resulted in action. At least 14 community-wide plans already exist, each with their own goals and focus areas related to homelessness and housing in Spartanburg County. Those plans consist of dozens of action steps and priorities with limited acknowledgment of the potential for collective action. This misalignment and overlap contributes to a lack of clear direction and action.

5 Housing is the ultimate solution to homelessness, but Spartanburg County lacks a sufficient supply of affordable options. There is also a noticeable lack of availability of emergency, temporary, and permanent housing and rental options for those currently homeless or underhoused. When such options exist, there are often unrealistic wait times to navigate. Taken together, Spartanburg County not only lacks sufficient housing stock, but those on the margins who are suffering the most are likely to have access to the fewest options.

THE PATH FORWARD

OUR VISION

We envision a Spartanburg County where homelessness is recognized as a solvable problem and where everyone has a safe, secure place to call home.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We acknowledge that homelessness is complex. There is more to the issue than what we see. The needs of individuals experiencing homelessness are as unique as the individuals themselves.

We believe that housing is a basic human right. All of our community members deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and all deserve a place to call home.

We know our approach must be inclusive and collaborative. No single agency can address this issue alone. We will address homelessness by convening partners, elevating our impact, and educating the community.

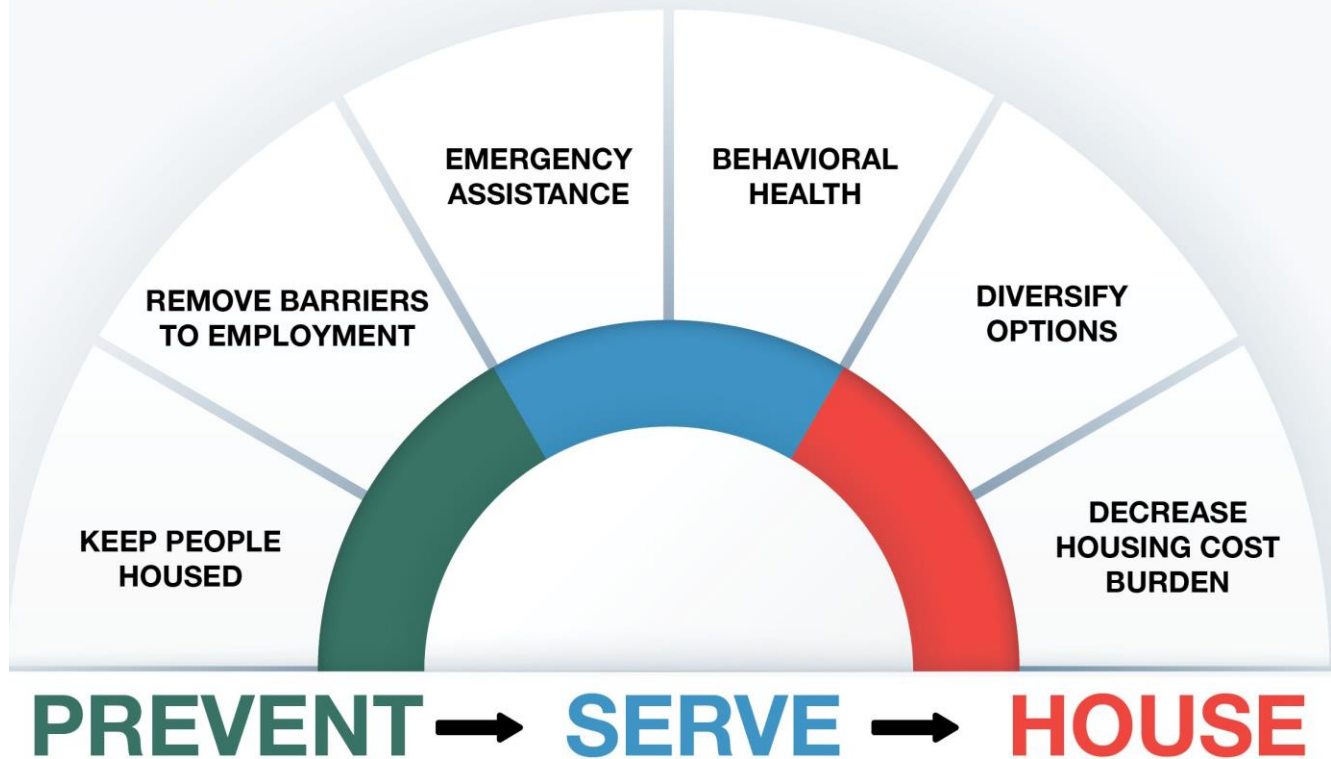
We will focus on an entire continuum of support that includes preventing homelessness, serving those who are currently homeless, and emphasizing housing as the ultimate solution.

We will balance short and long-term solutions. We must meet the immediate needs of our community while also lifting up system-level, sustainable solutions.



SPARTANBURG COUNTY CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT

a comprehensive approach to ending homelessness



LONG-TERM FOCUS AREAS

Prevent

1. Reduce environmental and systemic barriers to employment with a strategic emphasis on quality, affordable childcare and transportation that connects people to jobs.
2. Implement a homeless prevention strategy to qualify and assist at-risk households that allows them to stay housed and sets them up for long-term success.

Serve

3. Invest in and coordinate the activities of organizations serving the homeless in our community, specifically those:
 - a. providing emergency assistance, and/or
 - b. offering behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse case management services.

House

4. Meet the needs of a diverse group of residents by building and operating more emergency shelter, temporary shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, along with offering supportive residential programs for those transitioning out of chronic homelessness.
5. Reduce housing cost burden by developing collaborative strategies to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and safe housing in our community.

Leadership

6. The effort needs a permanent governance structure and backbone organization to provide leadership and stability.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

The Spartanburg County community is in a “crisis condition” when it comes to homelessness so while having long-term focus areas is an important step, there also needs to be action now. Community conversations and input have helped to identify a set of immediate priorities within each of the long-term focus areas that the seven Leadership Organizations have jointly committed to funding and executing.

SERVE: The combination of case management, data sharing, and coordination has consistently been identified as important to successful homelessness prevention and service. These efforts in Spartanburg County are underfunded and understaffed.

1. **Identify and initiate a data sharing platform.** A data sharing platform for easy access across all organizations working in this space in Spartanburg County is needed.
2. **Redesign the existing Case Conferencing model.** Case Conferencing provides those closest to the population an ongoing way to share information about those experiencing homelessness or on the brink of homelessness.
3. **Work in alignment with other efforts and initiatives to address the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness, including those who have substance use disorder and/or involvement with the justice system.** The community lacks a single location that can support the daily needs of those individuals

HOUSE: In Spartanburg County, there is currently no day shelter and there is limited access to low-barrier emergency shelter(s), beds, and housing by any definition, leading to increased visibility of the issue. A combination of solution(s) are needed and must be led and staffed in a way that supports low-barrier access and responds to the needs of people and conditions of the community.

4. **Support existing initiatives to create or expand capacity for concepts for transitional housing and shelters.** There are concepts and conversations taking place in the community in close partnership with the initiative that could increase our capacity to assist families and women experiencing homelessness, which would address noted gaps in services for those populations.

LEADERSHIP: *A Place to Call Home* needs a permanent **structure, governance, and leadership**. The effort needs staff and partners who wake up every day thinking about this issue and are connected in their approach and solutions.

5. **Add staff capacity to coordinate the effort.** While the community has an abundance of direct service providers who work directly with people at all levels of the homeless continuum, there is not currently any single person(s) responsible for coordination, alignment, and efficiency across all those organizations.
6. **Launch a Steering Committee.** See details on pp. 8-9.

OUR GOVERNANCE

LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Representatives from seven organizations with broad influence and decision-making authority in the community were brought together to serve as a Leadership Team. These individuals will meet regularly to provide input, ensure alignment and coordination of resources, make formal recommendations related to the allocation of resources, and ensure seamless communication across organizations and in the broader community.

City of Spartanburg
Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty
OneSpartanburg, Inc.
Spartanburg County
Spartanburg Housing
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
United Way of the Piedmont (UWP)

Mitch Kennedy
Scott Neely
Naomi Sargent
Kathy Rivers
Shaunte Evans
Carey Rothschild
Hannah Jarrett

Staffing & Fiscal Agent

Two newly created positions will add much needed capacity to the effort. Positions will be located within the City of Spartanburg infrastructure but will report directly to members of the Leadership Team.

As needed, UWP will serve as the lead fiscal agent for A Place to Call Home while the Leadership Team will direct all financial decisions related to the funds. Having a trusted entity and existing processes in place to pool resources, distribute resources, and secure additional resources is an important component of success and sustainability.

STEERING COMMITTEE

To intentionally broaden the level of community involvement and input, *A Place to Call Home* will also benefit from the work of a Steering Committee. This group is made up of leaders representing a number of community partners—nonprofits, government agencies, faith-based organizations, healthcare, schools, and those with lived experience in the issue. Having a group of experts that are proximate to the issue allows for more real-time recommendations to emerge. During the various community meetings referenced in this document, members of this committee were often referenced as “organizations who should be involved” and/or as “someone I trust to take action.” The two main responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to:

1. develop and facilitate a process through which committee members and key stakeholders are able to provide ongoing input, thoughts, and recommendations to the overall effort.
2. ensure coordination, alignment, and partnerships among their organizations and others serving people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in the community.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER INVITES

City of Spartanburg

United Way of the Piedmont

OneSpartanburg, Inc.

Spartanburg Housing

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System

Spartanburg County

The Bridge at Green Street

Northside Development Group

Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty

Front Porch Housing

FAVOR Upstate

TOTAL Ministries

The Journey Church/Come Closer

Mary Black Foundation

Miracle Hill

ReGenesis

Spartanburg Regional Foundation

Spartanburg Academic Movement

Spartanburg County Schools

Strategic Spartanburg, Inc.

The Spartanburg County Foundation

Spartanburg County Library

Upstate Warrior Solutions

Business Community/Developer

Lived Experience Representatives



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Chris Story, City Manager

FROM: Dennis R. Locke, Finance Director

SUBJECT: Van Pool Program

DATE: June 18, 2024

Staff issued an RFP for Van Pool Services on April 12, 2024. Enterprise Leasing Company – Southeast, LLC submitted a proposal that met the requirements we requested. Enterprise has been operating our current Pilot Van Pool, which we started in July of 2021. A presentation will be made prior to this request for approval to give an overview of how the program has been operating.

Currently we have five active vanpools going to three different work sites. Contec, Spartanburg Regional Hospital & Tietex. We are providing transportation to 25 employees to these employers. The employers and City share in cost to cover the monthly fee vans. The City portion is \$750 for each Van. Companies have the option of paying the entire amount for their employees or the employees contribution to cover the cost for the employer.

The City has funding available from F.T.A, which was specifically for Transit projects from the ARPA Funds.

The current grant covers 100% of the eligible expenses for the service. We estimate the funds will be sufficient for the next three years.

The estimated annual amount is \$50,000.

Staff is request City Council give City Manager to enter into a contract to continue this service in our community.



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

TO: Chris Story, City Manager

FROM: Bob Coler, City Attorney

SUBJECT: A Resolution to continue to allow Council Members to participate in the State Insurance Benefits Program offered by the South Carolina Public Employees Benefit Authority.

DATE: June 20, 2024

Members of the Spartanburg City Council are currently allowed to participate in the State Insurance Benefits Program (health, dental, eye, life insurance) offered by the South Carolina Public Employees Benefit Authority (SC PEBA).

SC PEBA has requested all municipalities across the state to choose whether or not its City Council Members may continue to be eligible to participate in the State Insurance Benefits Program. A yes vote on the attached Resolution will allow City Council Members to continue to be eligible to participate in the State Insurance Benefits Program.

I look forward to answering any questions Council may have.

Financial Impact: Nominal because City Council Members pay a portion of the monthly premium and the City pays the remaining portion in the same ratio City pays its other active employees' portion of monthly premiums.