

Walterboro City Council

City Hall

January 2, 2024

**Minutes**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday January 2, 2024, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**Present:** Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, and City Attorney Brown McLeod. Officers Ross Hantz, Lee Riley, Justin Pickney, Chief Wade Marvin, and Deputy Chief Kevin Martin. Councilmember Carl Brown was not in attendance.

**Call to Order:**

With the above – mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Councilmember Bridge led the pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**Swearing in of Newly Elected Councilmembers:**

City Attorney Brown McLeod sworn in the following newly elected Councilmembers: Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, and Ladson Fishburne.

**Public Input on Agenda Items:**

There was no public input on agenda items.

**New Business:**

1. Consideration of rescheduling the February 6, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, the Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Legislative Action Day is February 6, 2024. We will need to reschedule our Regular meeting to Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Consideration of a street closure request from Clarence Wiggins – “Unity in the City” MLK Rally, January 13, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Mr. Wiggins stated good evening and thank you for this opportunity. I am here as the logistics person for the NAACP. We are having a Martin Luther King. Jr. Rally “Unity in the County”. We are trying to bring the county together. We will have a guest speaker and we would like everyone to attend. My request is we would like to close off North Walter Street and Hampton Street. We are going to be on the grounds of the courthouse. We will also have a table set up for people to register to vote.

Councilmember Bridge asked does that include Washington Street?

Mr. Wiggins stated Hampton and Walter Street.

Mr. Wiggins also stated that we would like to use the parking lot of the old Ford building.

Mayor Young stated Hampton Street is a little more difficult to close off.

City Manager Jeff stated I think if I am not mistaken Mr. Wiggins, it is just the area of Walter Street between Hampton and Washington Street.

Mr. Wiggins stated yes, and Jefferies at the light.

Mayor Young stated it is my understanding that you want to go from Walter Street to Hampton Street not to close Jefferies?

Mr. Wiggins stated yes, we will not close Jefferies.

Mayor Young asked do you all have a plan for working this?

Chief Wade Marvin answered, I was thinking of closing off Walter Street and the parking area in front of the courthouse. If we closed off Hampton Street, we would have to get detour signs and we would have to get permission from SCDOT.

Mayor Young stated I do understand why you all want to close Hampton Street. It is hard to hear when traffic is going by.

Chief Wade Marvin stated if you need Hampton Street closed that would have to be approved by the State.

Councilmember Broderick asked will we be able to close off the other roads requested?

Chief Wade Marvin answered yes, we can.

Mayor Young asked Mr. Wiggins, can you all manage without us closing off Hampton Street?

Mr. Wiggins stated our only concern is that we will be out in the courtyard, and we do not want anyone to get hit.

Mayor Young stated we can close Walter Street.

City Attorney Brown McLeod stated we cannot make the decision about closing Hampton Street that has to be done by DOT.

Chief Wade Marvin stated we can block off the parking spaces in front of the courthouse. That would give a good buffer.

Mayor Young stated we can approve contingent upon a plan being worked out, since we would have to have approval from SCDOT about Hampton Street.

Mr. Wiggins stated if the parking spaces are blocked off in front of the courthouse there will be no traffic in that area.

Attorney Brown McLeod stated I think the parking is DOT as well.

Chief Wade Marvin stated I do not think DOT would have an issue with us blocking off the parking spaces.

Mayor Young stated we have no objections to people parking in the old Ford parking lot.

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

### 3. Notice of 2024 Annual Retreat, Location and Time.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council we will have our Annual Retreat next Friday, January 12, 2024, at the Walterboro Wildlife Center beginning at 9:00 AM. No formal action will be taken on any items at the retreat. Any action will be brought back to a regular City Council meeting for Council's consideration.

#### **City Manager's Report:**

##### 1. Recognition of police officers Ross Hantz, Justin Pinckney, and Lee Riley.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have a letter from Chief Wade Marvin. On December 13, 2023, Sergeant Ross Hantz initiated a traffic stop and encountered the driver Mr. Lee Carter. After Sergeant Hantz returned to the vehicle, he found Mr. Carter unresponsive and experiencing a medical emergency. Sergeant Hantz immediately called an ambulance and Sergeant Riley removed him from the vehicle and laid him on the ground. Lance Corporal Justin Pinckney began life saving measures. Paramedics with Colleton County Fire Rescue and emergency staff at Colleton Medical Center credited the life saving measures taken by the Walterboro Police Department as one of the main reasons Mr. Carter is with us today. Police Chief Wade Marvin is going to give a formal recognition.

Chief Wade Marvin stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council just to add to that, the paramedics caught me in the parking lot and said if the officers had not done exactly what they did Mr. Carter would not be alive today. These three gentlemen made a difference that day.

Mayor Young stated you all are truly heroes. I was telling Sergeant Hantz today that the man they saved, his son and my son grew up together and were best friends. I know the family well, so this was personal for me. You all did a great and we thank you all.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Pryor, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. Mayor Young explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location of industries or other business in the area served by the public body.

#### **Executive Session:**

1. Discussion of matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, all in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:23 P.M. Notice of the meeting was distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin board and posted on the City's Website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Adrienne Nettles  
City Clerk