

Walterboro City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall

March 4, 2025

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday March 4, 2025, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Tourism Director Patricia Utsey, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, and Police Chief Wade Marvin.

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 Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

Presentations:

1. Barrett Ulm - Neighborhood Concerns.

Mr. Ulm stated I would like to thank City Council for allowing me to speak tonight. I also would like to thank them for the meeting beforehand where we were able to exchange information, and everyone is on the same page. If we keep this momentum going, we can do a lot of things and make changes. Mr. Ulm also spoke about the open carry law and stated that once a gun law is passed in South Carolina it is hard to get it amended. Mr. Ulm also stated that the Police Department is doing an outstanding job, and he hopes we can all work together to get the crime issues resolved.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – January 7, 2025
2. Special Called Meeting – January 27, 2025

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carries: All ayes

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2025-02**, AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-150, SUBSECTION 3 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA KNOWN AS TMS # 147-00-00-100 INTO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet an ordinance and petition to annex a piece of commercial property on Robertson Blvd. This is Dr. Kramer's office. We ask staff for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. **Ordinance # 2025-03**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III, SECTION 14-52 (b) (5), NUISANCES, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council the proposed ordinance before you is to amend and update the City's current nuisance ordinance. This is in response to the issues we have been dealing with. The nuisance ordinance we have on the books is good, this update gives us more specific rules for dealing with properties in the city that causes problems. It delineates and defines "excessive public safety response" meaning that the responsible deployment of 5 or more law enforcement officers to an emergency scene at any one time, or the recurring need for public safety or code personnel or emergency vehicles at the location when compared to the frequency of intensity of law or regulation enforcement required at other similarly situated structures or there have been more than two situations of unsafe traffic or crowd control issues at the location which results in the request of emergency assistance or the need for law enforcement assistance from an emergency situation; provided, however, this does not include when traffic control or crowd control is requested in advance of a scheduled event pursuant to a city issued permit or prior discussions with law enforcement. After notice of the continuing nature of the nuisance and specific identification of the facts and circumstances that generate, enable or contribute to the nuisance, the owner, lessee, renter, management or the person in control, may be held responsible for the maintenance of a public nuisance and the structure declared a public nuisance. This update will just give us another tool to deal with our properties around the city.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of a request from Coastal Empire CMHC to tie green ribbons on East Washington Street and for the use of the City Waterfall for Mental Health Awareness Month Kick-off, May 1, 2025, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet a letter from Coastal Empire CMHC requesting permission to tie green ribbons on street post downtown during the month of May for Mental Health Awareness and to use the waterfall for a ceremony on May 1st.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a request from the Colleton County Veterans Council for the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on Monday, May 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Waterfall Plaza.

Mr. Holmes stated thank you for your consideration and allowing us to have the service at the Waterfall Plaza.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

5. Consideration of a request from the Colleton County Rice Festival Committee for activities related to the 2025 Colleton County Rice Festival for April 21-27, 2025.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, pursuant to a conversation between staff and the Rice Festival Committee, the Rice Festival as agreed on both Friday and Saturday night that the vendors will shut down at 7:00 PM.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

6. Consideration of a request from B.I.R.T.H. to hold a 5k walk in downtown Walterboro on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 8:00-11:00 AM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council in your agenda packet you have the proposed route. This is the 3rd or 4th year doing the walk and we support this request.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager's Report:

1. Consideration of funding recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation form the A-TAX Committee. They met February 20, 2025, and considered one request from the Colleton County Rice Festival to commemorate their 50th anniversary. They requested \$16,000 and \$11,350 was approved. Should this request be approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance available for the year 2025-2026 will be \$254,580. The remaining funds will be for consideration at the next scheduled meeting in June. The A-TAX committee respectfully requested City Council's approval of their recommendation.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Board and Commission Reappointments.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council we have a number of board and commission members who wish to continue to serve. The following are the different board and commission members with their respected terms.

Accommodation Tax Committee

Alta Mae Marvin (3-year term expiring January 1, 2028)
Michelle Strickland (3-year term expiring January 1, 2028)
Christie Slocum (3-year term expiring January 1, 2028)

Building Board

Cole Crosby (4-year term expiring January 1, 2029)

Historic Preservation Commission

Scott Cook (2-year term expiring January 1, 2027)
Lucille Powers (2-year term expiring January 1, 2027)

Tree Protection Committee

Mike Ferrari (2- year term expiring January 1, 2027)
Taylor Murdaugh (2-year term expiring January 1, 2027)

Municipal Planning Commission

Sharon Courtney (4-year term expiring January 1, 2029)
Samantha Crowe (4-year term expiring January 1, 2029)

Keep Walterboro Beautiful

Dana Cheney (4-year term expiring January 1, 2029)

We ask for Council's favorable consideration of these reappointments.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. 2025 CDBG Prioritization

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council at last month's meeting. Michelle Knight with Lowcountry Councils of Governments gave a presentation to City Council and

conducted a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant program for 2025. We are required to submit a list each year of our priority needs for the next funding cycle. Based on the goals and objectives outlined by City Council. I am going to list them.

1. **Public Infrastructure and Facilities**

- Upgrades of water and sewer lines as needed
- Other projects as identified

2. **Community Enrichment**

- Demolition of properties that are attractive nuisances
- Adaptive reuse of existing structures
- Others as identified

3. **Special projects as identified**

- Trail connector for Wildlife Center and Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other projects as identified

4. **Economic Development projects as identified.**

This is the same list that we had in 2024. In talking with Michelle Knight, this gives us more flexibility for upcoming CDBG grant applications and is also in line with the goals and objectives of City Council.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Pryor. Mayor Young explained that City Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss the provision of water and sewer service encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses served by the public body and Personnel Matter - Appointment to the Building Board.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Judy Bridge, seconded by Carl Brown. All in favor, motion carried. A motion to appoint John Crews to the Building Board for a 4-year term was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, all in favor motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Pryor, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:54 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