

Walterboro City Council
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
February 21, 2017

MINUTES

A Rescheduled Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr, Bobby Bonds, James Broderick and Judy Bridge. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Betty Hudson, and City Attorney George Cone, along with Lindsey Peterson, were also present. There were approximately 14 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and invited everyone to join in the invocation and the pledge of allegiance. Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation and Council Member Bridge led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

MAYORAL COMMENTS:

At this point, Mayor Young stated that he would like to take the opportunity to go over what the City has accomplished during the past year. He said, we did this at the State of Colleton meeting last week and I want to go through this again quickly at the request of Council.

The Mayor then said, our City Council is working well together and with our City Manager and our staff, I think we make a great team. Our department heads are all working very well and doing a great job for the citizens of Walterboro.

Mayor Young further stated that the City of Walterboro is in sound financial condition, and recently received an "unqualified opinion" from our auditors, Baird and Company. We do a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or a CAFR, which is a more extensive audit than is required, and for the fourth consecutive year, we have received the Governmental Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. To Amy Risher and Jeff Molinari and everybody responsible for that, we appreciate your efforts there.

Continuing the Mayor said, over the last several years you have seen projects that are changing the appearance of our City. The renovation of our parks, the downtown arborscape, landscaping of our interstate interchanges have all been vast improvements. As we said before, one travel writer said that our interchange was the one bright spot on I-95 in South Carolina. We are continuing this work with the I-95 Business Loop Project. Phases 1C and 1D on South Jefferies were completed last year and Phase 1B from Elizabeth Street to Benson Street will begin this year. The funding approved by our citizens under the Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum will allow us to significantly improve the entry corridor from Exit 53 on I-95 through downtown to the intersection of Bells Highway and Jefferies Boulevard. The future plans will complete this Business Loop Project from Jefferies Boulevard, down Bells Highway to Exit 57.

Continuing, Mayor Young said, when we talk about improvements, that includes paving, landscaping, decorative mast arms for traffic signals, bike lanes, decorative lighting and wayfinding signage. The plan calls for an impressive entry corridor welcome sign at the Hendersonville Highway South Jefferies Intersection, and for a fountain at the corner of Washington Street and Jefferies Boulevard.

Forty to sixty thousand cars a day go through Walterboro on I-95 and the improvements we are making encourage travelers on I-95 to come into our business areas. We are continuing to need the cooperation of our citizens and businesses as we improve and beautify their property and transform the appearance of our City. The

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benefits of this increased traffic are reflected in business expansion and development and in greater accommodations and hospitality tax receipts, which are being reinvested in our community.

The Mayor also stated that business investment is being made at our entry corridors. Lowcountry Rental and Equipment and the new Fat Jack's Restaurant have recently opened on Bells Highway, as well as a new I-Hop Restaurant. Plans for a new Kentucky Fried Chicken and Cookout Restaurant are in the works, and the new Hampton Inn and Suites at Exit 53 is moving toward completion.

He said, I can't talk about the appearance of our City without mentioning the problems that are created by litter. The saying that "Litter trashes everyone" is certainly true. As we court manufacturing and business prospects, we need to demonstrate that we all take pride in how our community looks, and we do this by not littering in the first place and by keeping our neighborhoods, streets and highways clean and attractive.

Another area that is getting our attention is North Lemacks Street. Phase 3 of the North Lemacks Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project is underway. It includes entry signage, streetscaping, a new multipurpose trail with decorative lighting and the demolition of over 20 abandoned structures.

Your Mayor, City Council and City Manager continue to focus on needed infrastructure projects. After too many delays, we are finally seeing some progress on the Mt. Carmel Road/Bells Highway Intersection. The work being done there will incorporate elements of the Loop Project, like landscaping and signals with decorative mast arms, and when completed, these improvements will provide greater safety for pedestrians, as well as vehicles. This project has been important to all of us on City Council and we are hoping that SCDOT will keep pushing it forward and that it will be completed by the first of June.

Another critical area when it comes to infrastructure is wastewater treatment. Recent changes in DHEC regulations have required us to change the way we dispose of sludge. To accomplish this, we will be getting a \$3.6 million upgrade to our Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project will begin in March and will take about 12 months to complete. It is being funded through an EDA grant, a grant from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority and a \$1.4 million low interest loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Our City Manager and our Utilities Director have done a great job of securing grants and other funding for the project. This upgrade is a necessary step as we move forward in increasing the capacity of our plant. The ability to provide this increased capacity is key to future economic development in our county.

We have completed the Hampton Street Waterline Upgrade and we are in the process of installing a new water booster pumper station near our million-gallon storage tank. This will increase fire protection to our downtown and surrounding areas. The cost of this project is about \$600,000. It will be funded through a grant from the Department of Commerce and some sales tax revenues.

As you know, the City and the County jointly own the Lowcountry Regional Airport, the largest general aviation airport in South Carolina. The Airport Commission is beginning work on a major drainage project, in planning for the terminal expansion that was approved in the Capital Projects Sales Tax Referendum. That's well underway. Our airport continues to draw interest from economic development entities and a formal announcement about one of them is forthcoming.

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Prior to the State Legislature pledging funding, City Council authorized the purchase of 30 body-worn cameras for our Police Department. We felt this was an important step and an important piece of technology for policing in our today's world. The cost of the cameras was a little over \$52,000, and the Police Department applied for a grant to offset the cost of the cameras and were awarded almost \$37,000. Our officers continue to reach out and build relationships through programs like "Coffee with a Cop and Cookies with a Cop." They take every opportunity to interact with the public before emergency services are needed.

With the purchase of a new fire truck and some new self-contained breathing apparatus, our Fire Department has new equipment that will benefit our citizens and our firefighters. Plans are for us to make a final inspection of the truck on March 6th and take delivery around March 8th or 9th. Once the new equipment and radios have been installed, the truck will be placed into service. With the help of the Lowcountry Council of Governments, our Fire Department has aggressively applied for FEMA grants to assist with replacing aging equipment. Although FEMA grants are highly competitive, the City was awarded \$91,446 to replace sixteen (16) self-contained breathing apparatus. It is my understanding that this new equipment is compatible with the County's equipment and allows for enhanced safety for our firefighters in emergency situations.

We have also applied for and received a grant from Walmart in the amount of \$25,000 which was used to support our smoke detector giveaway program and for small equipment. A grant of 120 smoke detectors was received from Service Masters of Charleston in support our fire protection efforts as well.

Through our Tourism Department, we continue to market Walterboro as the "Front Porch of the Lowcountry." Our slogan and our symbolic red rockers are widely recognized and admired. This year, we had another highly successful "Brag a Little About Walterboro" campaign. Festivelo, a USA cycling sanctioned festival, brought over 300 visitors to Walterboro for 5 days and 4 nights. The Walterboro Criterium drew a large and enthusiastic crowd and our Colleton County Rice Festival was named one of the top 20 events in the southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society.

A number of other local events, such as Smoke in the Boro, Rock in the Holidays, the Festival of Trees, Paws at the Plantation, Polo for the Point, the Walterboro Band Classic, various softball and baseball tournaments at the Ace Basin Sports Complex and others have been well received and had great attendance.

We have addressed our dire needs for additional space at City Hall by purchasing the old First Federal Bank Building on Hampton Street. Our plans are for this facility to house our Finance, Municipal Court, Planning, Codes Enforcement, Water and Sewer Billing and Human Resources Departments. This will make it easier for the public to conduct business with the City and will allow for drive through bill payment.

We are in the design phase for the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center. After much cooperation from the FROGS Committee, we have hired an architect and plans are being developed. This facility will house a number of educational exhibits related to the sanctuary, as well as a community events space. We expect the center to be used by visitors and tourists, as well as by local citizens. Some of the planning will focus on use by school groups from Colleton County and surrounding areas. An amphitheater is planned for the hill behind the Discovery Center. This will give us a venue for concerts, Rice Festival events, movies under the moonlight in the summer, as well as wild animal demonstrations and other Discovery Center related events.

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The Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary is one of our biggest attractions and is very popular locally. We suffered some major damage and loss of trees during last fall's hurricane and it will take some time to fully recover.

The Mayor then said, I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of our employees during our City's response to Hurricane Matthew. When there is an emergency situation, you can tell a lot about those who work for you and how your City is being run. All of our departments went the extra mile to get our City streets opened quickly, remove storm debris and restore City services. Our people were out there immediately after the storm, providing aid and individual assistance to those who had damage, some very severe. I witnessed this over and over. I really appreciate their efforts and the personal service they provided to our citizens. Our staff was focused on getting us back to normal as quickly as possible. All of the emergency first responders in our county and our electric and other utility providers worked nonstop to minimize the impact on us. Like many other places, we are still dealing with the aftermath of that storm.

In closing, I would like to say that the City of Walterboro and Colleton County are working well together to move our county forward and to bring greater opportunity and prosperity here for our citizens. I believe there are great things on our horizon and I look forward to what the future has in store for us.

Thank you all for the privilege of serving as your Mayor and I know that I can also speak for every member of City Council in thanking you for their opportunity to serve as well.

Before closing, the Mayor announced that the City Manager will talk a little more in his presentation about what the City's plans are going forward.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no comments or questions on agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments/questions on the following agenda items:

1. **Ordinance # 2017-01**, An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2016-2017 City of Walterboro, South Carolina Budget Ordinance # 2016-04 to Provide for the Establishment of a New Position, Assistant City Manager

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this agenda item. He informed Council that this ordinance was a proposed budget amendment that would take three positions - Assistant City Manager, Planning Director and Economic Development and merge them into one. Among the responsibilities of this individual would be to:

- a) Coordinate economic development for the City.
- b) Act as a City liaison for business development.
- c) Supervise the Planning and Codes Department.
- d) Provide staff support for the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Economic Development Commission.

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- e) Serve as the City's annexation coordinator and special projects coordinator.
- f) Administer grants, serve as the downtown development manager.
- g) Provide budget and policy analysis.
- h) Act on the City Manager's behalf during his absence.

The Mayor then opened the floor to receive comments/questions from the public. No comments or questions were received.

The Mayor then announced that the City Manager Jeff Molinari has been with the City, on the 17th, it will make three years that he has been with us.

The next public hearing was on:

2. **CDBG Needs Assessment Hearing - Ms. Michelle Knight of Lowcountry Council of Governments**

The Mayor stated that Ms. Knight is an important part in our ability to get grant funding, and she is here to talk about our needs assessment.

Ms. Knight stated that she was here to talk about our CDBG needs assessment, and at a certain point in her presentation she will take a small commercial break for the home consortium as well, because they are trying to marry some things together as we go.

Ms. Knight then said, this public hearing is being held in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan, which allows for comments at certain points during the grant process for the Community Development Block Grant Program. Usually, there is a needs assessment public hearing, which we are doing tonight, where we basically solicit public comments on what is believed to be the community needs for the area. There are also public hearings at the time we make applications for specific projects and then when we close the projects out.

Ms. Knight stated that South Carolina has been allocated \$18,871,096 in CDBG funds through HUD for 2017. This allocation has been divided among two major set asides.

- 1) Community Development Programs \$15,704,965
- 2) Business Development Program \$ 2,000,000

Community Development Programs (allocated \$15,704,965) have five (5) subsets as follows:

- 1) **Community Infrastructure** Set aside \$10,534,846

There are basically three state priorities when it comes to community infrastructure. We call this our water-sewer drainage round. The state priorities are:

- a) Improvements to existing infrastructure where there is a documented need.
- b) New service in dense areas or regional solutions to infrastructure problems.

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- c) General upgrades and new service into more rural areas or less dense areas to provide water and sewer service.

- 2) **Community Enrichment** Set aside \$ 3,000,000

The state priorities for Community Enrichment involve increasing economic competitiveness firstly. Secondly, looking at education and workforce development projects and then thirdly, looking at projects that promote safe and healthy communities.

- 3) **Neighborhood Revitalization** Set aside \$1,270,119

This is basically where the Lemacks Street Project is funded. You basically do a neighborhood plan for an area, low-to-moderate income neighborhoods that are within a reasonable walking distance to your town's commercial center. Within that plan, you would look at all the things that are needed in that neighborhood. Is it water, is it sewer, is it road paving and draining, is it sidewalks and street lighting, or is it the removal of dilapidated vacant structures, and are there crime problems, and exterior housing rehab? This is basically anything that you think is a need, and based on the recommendations of that plan, then you pursue a project that has multiple activities in it.

- 4) **Special Projects** Set aside \$300,000

This is a pilot program that's been in place now for about two years, and basically the idea behind this set aside is that we pursuing things that we don't normally pursue, but it still has to be projects that meet a national objective and address certain priorities of the State, which includes:

- a) Improving economic development and economic competitiveness within a community.
- b) Making improvements that address long term sustainability to communities.
- c) Energy conservation or historic preservation projects.

- 5) **"Ready to Go" Public Facilities** Set aside \$600,000

This is basically a noncompetitive set aside to where if you have a project that qualifies under community infrastructure or community enrichment that you can't wait until the designated application round to make a project or to put a project forth, then you can do it in this noncompetitive grant.

Business Development - There is \$2,000,000 side aside for this. This is the old Economic Development Program, where we provide public infrastructure to businesses that are either locating in an area or existing businesses that are increasing jobs in the area and private investment.

Then, the remaining balance of the \$18,871,096 goes to **Regional Planning**, which allows Lowcountry Council of Governments and its nine counterparts to do public hearings like this and meet the staff to talk about project development and then also for state technical assistance in grant administration for that same thing to occur at the state level with the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

Ms. Knight pointed out that all projects have to meet a national objective. It could be one of three things:

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- 1) Benefitting a majority of low-to-moderate income people.
- 2) Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- 3) Meet other urgent community needs posing a serious threat to the health or welfare of the community, where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Ms. Knight pointed out that 90% to 95% of the projects in South Carolina are funded under benefitting low-to-moderate income individuals. The remaining balance is slum/blight projects. She noted that the only time an urgent community need project will come into play is for example when Hurricane Matthew came through. If there were systemic problems to the public infrastructure that there was a need felt that South Carolina Department of Commerce needed to divert that money to be able to address those urgent health needs. They could have done that under that to pursue some CDBG projects to help communities repair damages, but to my knowledge that has not been done at this point.

For Colleton County, a family of four making less than \$35,900 a year would be described as low-to-moderate income and would qualify under this program. The City of Walterboro is not by census data identified as predominately low-to-moderate income. I think the City is 42% or 44% right now, so any project that we do, we basically have to qualify you (the City) by doing door to door surveys, which we do when we have a project.

Ms. Knight then announced that the City of Walterboro has to note for the record - with pursuing these projects that they are also not discriminatory in Fair Housing practices in the sale and rental of housing in residential real estate transactions or in the provision of brokerage services. If you believe you have been a victim of discriminatory housing practices, you can call the Lowcountry Council of Governments at 843-473-3976. You can contact us and we can go and take your complaint and determine if we need to forward it along to the appropriate individuals.

Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium

At this point, Ms. Knight stated that she would like to take a small break and talk a little about the Lowcountry Home Consortium as well. She said, as you are aware, the four counties in our region are Beaufort, Colleton, Jasper, Hampton. They all participate in our regional Home Consortium, as well as the 23 municipalities within the region. Beaufort County serves as our lead entity. It is basically the money conduit for funds that we receive from HUD to work on housing projects within the region. Over the course of the last several years, we basically identified six overarching priorities related to housing. Those are:

- 1) Rehabilitation of owner occupied substandard housing.
- 2) Increasing accessibility to adequate affordable housing.
- 3) Identify those in need of that assistance.
- 4) Supporting the development and availability of safe and decent affordable housing.
- 5) Supporting housing initiatives that address certain classes, such as homeless persons, persons with special needs and the elderly.
- 6) Promoting economic development opportunities by assisting in the creation or retention of jobs and improving workforce preparedness, and promoting viable non-housing community development such as the infrastructure project that was mentioned earlier in the Mayor's presentation that also supports housing efforts.

Right now, Ms. Barbara Johnson, at LCOG, is working on our annual action plan for this coming program year. And as part of that, we are at the five-year point where we have to do an analysis for impediments to fair housing. I have given City staff a survey for them to fill out to tell us what they think as far as the City of Walterboro is

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concerned, where the disparities are or the impediments related to affordable housing in the City of Walterboro. There are also some surveys that I am going to leave with the City and the survey will be up on our website later in March that people can fill out at their leisure. We are not asking for names and address, just where you are from - being from Walterboro, Colleton County, or Hampton, etc. that lists a number of things that have been identified in the past as impediments to housing. Just to ask you on a level of low, medium or high which things you think are the most prevalent in the area that you live in. We are going to leave those with the City Manager and they can be returned to us. We will collect that information through the month of March and midway through April.

Ms. Knight then directed the presentation back to the CDBG program. She stated that the request deadlines for CDBG projects are:

- 1) Under "Ready to Go" or Business Development Projects, application requests are ongoing.
- 2) Under Community Infrastructure, there is a spring deadline of March 15, 2017.
- 3) Under Community Enrichment, Neighborhood Revitalization and Special Projects, there is an August 15, 2017 deadline to turn in requests.

Ms. Knight said, basically for any application request to be submitted, you have a 30-day deadline to turn in a full application for those projects. So for Spring, it will be April 14 to turn in full applications, and for fall, it will be September 15th.

Under Match Requirements, Ms. Knight stated the following:

Minimum grant requests can be \$50,000. The maximum for Community Infrastructure is \$750,000. If you have an urgent need that we can document, we might can get that capped to \$1,000,000. Community Enrichment, Neighborhood Revitalization, Ready to Go, and Business Development Projects have a maximum of \$500,000 and Special Projects have a maximum of \$150,000.

All match requirements are a minimum of 10% of the grant request. However, if you provide more match, you score better in the competitive grants for funding.

Ms. Knight then opened the floor to receive any questions/comments from the public. She then confirmed with the City Manager that Council will complete a rank of the needed projects at the next City Council Meeting.

The Mayor asked if there were any question/comments from the public or City Council. No comments or questions were received and the public hearing was closed.

PRESENTATION:

1. Barnwell Fishburne - Litter Around Walterboro

Mr. Barnwell Fishburne opened by stating that he had no real presentation, but just wanted to bring Council up to date on an economic development initiative that he, Heyward Horton and Jean Harrigal had approached the County on sometime ago to permanently fund the pick up of litter. What we and the County do are some strategic areas around the city (very close to the City). I believe the only place where there is some question across jurisdiction is the bypass which is in sorely need of something being done on a permanent basis. Heyward Horton has had numerous comments from industrial clients after they have chosen another place that litter was a problem here in Walterboro. I think that everybody here knows that is true, and what programs

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have been in place in the past but not working. So, we are trying to work something out with Kevin Griffin and Phillip Slater to see if we can come up with something that is economically feasible. We have had some initial meetings. Jeff was in on one, and we plan on approaching County Council if not in March, then the next month, to try to put something in their new budget coming in June.

Mr. Fishburne concluded by saying, I just basically want you to be aware of what we are doing, and hopefully there will be some cooperation on the bypass between the City and the County.

2. **Mary Helen Yarborough - Attributes of the City of Walterboro**

Ms. Yarborough opened her presentation by stating that she had been researching this, and thinking about this for a long time. And, of course, like most former reporters, wait until the deadline to do it. I was interrupted six times, so I am not real organized. So, I am just going to tell you what I want to tell you. I am going to complete this paper for your benefit. I have gotten a lot of information from the Licensing and Labor Board in Columbia.

She said, I really came to praise the staff of the City, and I mean this from my heart. I lived in a place where that was not my experience. I lived in a place where the codes were of no more importance than on the paper in which they were written, and where the people who worked for the local government did so because they gave them a paycheck. I have found that Walterboro, in my view, is the best town in South Carolina.

I know that Walterboro had a path of difficulties and largely ignored, but I have observed that it is well-managed and I know it is a diamond, and I know that this place is going to bust. And I am thankful that your restrictions on certain buildings and things will help maintain the City that you have, which is beautiful, and I mean this.

I got to tell you that Angelo Pacilio, who was your Code Enforcement, was my hero. I say that because he actually interrupted a swindling in place. It was underway at my house, when he came to inspect. I think it was the hot water tank installation. Anyway, he came to look at that, and while he was there an HVAC contractor showed up (he had been referred by some guy that I had known in Orangeburg). Anyway, he presented a license and permit from California and was trying to pass it off as something that should be recognized in South Carolina. Well, thank God Angelo was there. Angelo talked to him and told him he needed to get a license for South Carolina. After Angelo left, they came back and tried to shake me down.

I feel safe in this town knowing that I can do for myself and know that the police department, which also is excellent. In my experience when I had some things happen and when I go and file a complaint, they actually file a written complaint and they do something. It know that it is a lie that Walterboro is the most crime written place in the state.

I know, and I did research, that the economic conditions here and the geology that supports it, is unlike any others. I know if I were a big corporation, and I wanted to bring a facility in, this is where I would go. Your land is higher then anyplace else. You have fewer flood zones than any other place in the Lowcountry. This place is primed to bust loose, and I thank God for the people you have on your staff, the people we should support far more. People who enforce the permits are there to protect our interest, safety and our rights. And if you are inconvenient, it is probably because there is a better way to do it.

I don't know what happened, but I loved the guy (Angelo) and I am new here, but I know that Bonnie Ross does a good job, too. I also want to call out this wonderful young man, Randy Webber, from the City Water Department. He is a pure

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gentleman and a great job man. I had an issue with a water meter, which he (today) replaced for me.

I want to thank you for whatever it is you are doing, and I know this town is doing something very right, because I will say that for the first time I didn't mind paying my high electric bill. When SCE&G crews came out after Hurricane Matthew, which caused utter devastation to my neighborhood, and it took influence to get those people down there and get that thing turned around in three days. I was impressed and I am thankful.

I have printed some things out - you have a wonderful website, easy, accessible and people are there to help you with things, and I couldn't be more sincere. For the first time, I feel I have more praise than I have complaints. I had a paper that I had written and I am going to expand upon it, and I am a really good researcher, and I'd love to share this with you when finished.

Mayor Young then thanked Ms. Yarborough for her comments. He said, we are always glad to have somebody come up here and tell us what a good job we are doing.

Before the Approval of the Minutes, the Mayor took a moment to thank the City Clerk Betty Hudson for her efforts in completing all the minutes. He said, I know that is a job for you to keep up with all that, and we do appreciate your efforts.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Mayor then stated that Council can approve all the minutes at once, unless someone has a specific correction or concern with one of the minutes. No comments were made. He then entertained a motion to approve all the minutes. A motion to approve all of the following minutes as submitted was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously:

1. The Minutes of the October 25, 2016 Special Called City Council Meeting.
2. The Minutes of the November 1, 2016 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.
3. The Minutes of the December 6, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting.
4. The Minutes of the December 12, 2016 Work Session.
5. The Minutes of the January 3, 2017 Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2017-01, An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2016-2017 City of Walterboro, South Carolina Budget Ordinance # 2016-04 to Provide for the Establishment of a New Position, Assistance City Manager, Second Reading and Adoption, Second Reading and Adoption**

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2017-01, being An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2016-2017 City of Walterboro, South Carolina Budget Ordinance # 2016-04 to Provide for the Establishment of a New Position, Assistance City Manager. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2017-02, 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 # 146-00-00-158 into the City of Walterboro, A South Carolina Municipal Corporation, First Reading**

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City Manager Molinari told Council that staff was approached by the owner of this parcel, who was interested in joining the City of Walterboro. This property will go before the Planning Commission next month for a zoning recommendation. Everything in this area around the Exit 57 Interchange is Interstate Interchange Commercial District and staff will make a recommendation to zone the parcel Interstate Interchange Commercial District.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2017-02, being: 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 # 146-00-00-158 into the City of Walterboro, a South Carolina Municipal Corporation. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Lease Purchase Proposals for 2017 E-One Fire Pumper Truck with Equipment

City Manager Molinari reminded Council that in the agenda packet, there is memo and supporting documentation from the City Finance Director. He said, as you will recall, in this year's budget, we provided for a new Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. The City received four proposals, which were very favorable bids. The number that we used for the budget was 2.5%, and the low bidder, which is South State Bank, came in at 1.79%. This is a very favorable rate environment and staff recommends that City Council selects South State Bank for a term of 5 years at a rate 1.79% to finance the 2017 E-One Fire Pumper Truck in the amount of \$372,759.89.

The four bid proposals received were as follows

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Fees</u>
South State Bank	5 years	1.79% APR	No
BB&T Bank	5 years	1.97% APR	No
Community First National Bank of Walterboro	5 years	2.35% APR	\$250.00
Heritage Trust	5 years	2.95% APR	\$931.90

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to accept the low bid as recommended from South State Bank in the amount of \$372,759,89 at a 5-year interest rate of 1.79% to finance a 2017 E-One Fire Pumper Truck. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

3. Request to Close Streets for March of Dimes "March for Babies" Walk on April 8, 2017 by Cliff Warren, Chairman

A motion to approve a request by Mr. Cliff Warren to close the streets for the March of Dimes "March for Babies" Walk on April 8, 2017 was approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick with all members voting in favor.

4. Consideration of 2017 Rice Festival Requests for April 28-29, 2017 by Jimmy Trippe, Chairman Colleton County Rice Festival, including Street Closing Requests and Parade Permit Request

A motion granting the 2016 Rice Festival requests and approval of the parade permit as submitted was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Siegel and passed unanimously.

5. Acceptance of Susan McConnell's Resignation from the Accommodations Tax Board

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A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to accept the resignation of Susan McConnell from the Accommodations Tax Board with regret and appreciation for her service. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. City Appearance Board - Council Member James Broderick

In opening, Council Member Broderick thanked Council for appointment of the last two members to the City Appearance Board. The board is fully staffed right now and they got right to work under Dana Cheney's leadership. He then asked Mr. Cheney to come forth and update Council on a new program that the Appearance Board is working on.

Mr. Cheney then appeared before Council. He said, as chairperson of the City Appearance Board, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you this evening about our new project. Per the bylaws of the City Appearance Board, we must have a citywide cleanup or beautification project annually. In the past we have done this by a City cleanup day every three months. Participation and community involvement has been lackluster.

To remedy this, we have come up with an Adopt-a-Street Program. Homeowners, business, industry, civic, youth and nonprofit organizations will adopt their street or streets for monthly litter control. Adopt-a-Street allows citizens to demonstrate community pride, make a positive statement for a clean, attractive community and help keep the City of Walterboro litter free. Citizens could be recognized in our newspapers or on the City's Facebook page. We are hoping to get the community to demonstrate and take personal responsibility in their community regarding litter control. As you are walking your dog in the mornings, you can pick up some trash. Let us know on Facebook that you just cleaned Lemacks Street or some other street. That's what we are trying to do. I am giving you a little application form, we might have to work some details out on that, but this is a start to try to keep the litter off Walterboro's streets.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. 2017 Strategic Planning Retreat - City Manager Jeff Molinari

City Manager Molinari reported that on January 27-28, 2017, the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, City Manager and facilitator met at the Wampee Conference Center in Pinopolis, South Carolina to conduct the 2017 Strategic Planning Retreat. It was a very productive two days and the conversations centered around seven specific areas. This is building on discussions that Council had last year and the previous year. The areas discussed were as follows:

1. Public Safety.
2. Infrastructure.
3. Image and Appearance.
4. Economic Business Development.
5. Growth - Annexation.
6. Vacant and/or substandard buildings.
7. City Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Molinari then gave some of the specific objectives that City Council identified for the City Manager and staff to pursue during the next year.

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1. Public Safety - Consider creating a citizen advisory committee, and define ways to actively recruit minorities for law enforcement positions through youth programs and partnerships with educational institutions.
2. Infrastructure - Secure funds to meet the immediate sewer system needs.
3. Image and Appearance - Endorse, support and adopt a neighborhood program which Mr. Cheney just talked about. Refine the approach to appearance code and ordinance enforcement to establish a more gradual progressive step for enforcement. Provide litter pickup on the bypass and to address the appearance of specific properties inside the City that are a visual blight.
4. Economic/Business Development - Aggressively explore approaches to partner with USC Salkehatchie to make downtown housing a reality. Review and strengthen mechanisms to appropriately control and locate high density developments, and to encourage improvement and expansion by existing retail and commercial businesses.
5. Growth/Annexation - Adopt an Ordinance to implement the Bailey Bill. Essentially, what this would be is adopting an ordinance that would enable the City to provide tax incentives to encourage the rehabilitation of older structures.

At this point, the City Manager concluded his report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Broderick so Moved and Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for:

- 1) Personnel matters regarding the:
 - (a) Assistant City Manager Search
 - (b) City Building Official
 - © Appointment of Associate Municipal Judge
- 2) Receipt of Legal Advice - Railroad Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit.
- 3) Discussion of Potential Purchase of Property

At approximately 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session and a motion to appoint Jay Lemacks as Associate Municipal Judge was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed with a vote of 5/0 with Mayor Young and Council Members Syfrett, Lohr, Broderick and Bridge voting in favor. Council Members Bonds and Siegel recused themselves from voting since they will practice law before municipal court from time to time.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media and posted on the City's website and the City Hall bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Walterboro City Council
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
February 21, 2017

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Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: April 4, 2017