

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 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 were also present. Twenty-one (21) persons were present in the audience.

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

The Mayor announced that he attended the Tourism Awards at the Governor's Tourism Conference in Charleston last week. He said, we are very proud and want to congratulate the Colleton County Farmer's Market and Museum for winning the Bundy Award. The City nominated the Museum and Farmer's Market and our Tourism Director, Michelle Strickland, was responsible for the nomination and placing them in nomination. They were in good company as they won one of the two top awards in the state. The State Museum was the other winner, so we felt like we were in good company. He then congratulated Tourism Director Michelle Strickland on a good job. It was a very nice ceremony with the Governor there to present the awards and the head of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. It was some very good publicity for the City and County.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No comments or questions were received on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick, with all members voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

Next, City Manager Molinari advised Council that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee met on last Thursday, February 18, 2016 and considered two applications for A-tax funding. They were:

Requests for 65% Tourism Fund	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Walterboro Tourism - Front Porch banners (Replace banners affixed to light poles downtown)	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce (Funding to promote their St. Patrick's Day and Turkey Trot 5K Run & Walk)	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
Total 65% Requests	\$15,000	\$11,000

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Concluding, Mr. Molinari stated that the A-Tax Committee is recommending to fund the application from Walterboro Tourism Commission in the amount of \$5,000 and fund the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$6,000 for the 5K Run and Walk.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Siegel, to approve the recommendations as submitted by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee to fund the Walterboro Tourism Front Porch Banners (\$5,000) and the Walterboro Colleton Chamber of Commerce 5K Run and Walk (\$6,000). The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

2. Request for Street Closing for the Warrior Ride on March 24, 2016 by David Hansen, SC Coordinator

The Mayor informed Council that he received a call from Mr. Hansen several weeks ago and they do a ride every year. Basically, it's wounded warriors or people who have been disabled as a result of their service in the armed services. They will do about a 30-mile ride around Walterboro, including the Veterans Victory House, Colleton Middle School, Colleton Prep and Forest Hills Elementary School. The Mayor said they will stop at several of the schools and they have requested our assistance as far as escorting them on the ride when they are passing through the City to keep them safe. So, they are asking for approval for the street closings and for the escorts for that.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve the request by Mr. Hansen as submitted for the Wound Warriors Ride on March 24. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked if there were a map of the route the ride would be taking. Mr. Molinari responded that from his meeting with Mr. Hansen, the map for the route was still being developed. He stated that Chief Marvin was in our meeting and he will be working closely with Mr. Hansen as they develop the route. The specifics of the route is still a work in progress.

Mayor Young then said he did not remember in their meeting that they requested street closings. He pointed out that Mr. Hansen wanted to have as little impact on the businesses as possible. He did not want to have an adverse impact on our businesses. So, we will handle it like we did the tractor parade. We will escort them. We will have somebody at the front of the group and somebody at the rear. It would be a moving kind of escort. So, that's my understanding and the Sheriff's Department would be handling it outside of the City and then we would pick them up through the City. Mr. Hansen did say that they did not have an exact route at this time.

Mr. Molinari stated that he would be working with Michelle Strickland to make sure all the information got out on the route.

Council Member Syfrett asked if the County had been notified that they would be involved in this? City Manager Molinari said he cannot speak for the County, but he would imagine that they have been notified. I do know that they did speak with the Sheriff.

No further discussion was held and the motion for approval of the Warrior Ride on March 24 was unanimously approved.

3. Consideration of Cancelling the March 8, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting

City Manager Molinari stated that the March 8 City Council Meeting coincides with the National League of Cities Meeting in Washington, D.C. At that time, we will have 5 members of City Council attending that meeting, as well as the City Manager.

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He respectfully requested that the March 8 meeting be cancelled. He also pointed out that the March 22 Meeting would be held as scheduled.

A motion to cancel the March 8, 2016 Regular Meeting was then made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed with all members voting in favor.

The Mayor stated that a Special meeting of City Council will also be held this Friday morning, February 26, at 8:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Introduction of Michael Crosby, New Public Works Director

Before introducing the new Public Works Director, City Manager Molinari stated that he wanted to express his appreciation to Mr. Charlie Chewning. He said, when I started two years ago, Charlie told me he would stick around and help me, and he has just been an invaluable asset to me, and I am really going to miss him. That being said, we were able to find our new Public Works Director from within. Mr. Michael Crosby is currently our Street Superintendent, but also has worked very closely with Charlie over the last 8 years. Michael has been employed with the City for over 16 years. He started back in November of 1999 with the Water Department. Then, in 2006, he moved to Public Works and in 2008, he was promoted to Street Superintendent. He has been working very closely with Charlie over the last 2 months as we transition him into the Public Works Director position. Michael is very capable and has learned a lot under Charlie, and we are looking forward to having him start on March 1, 2016.

The Mayor then congratulated Mr. Crosby on his new position. He said, we know you are going to do a good job. To Mr. Chewning, the Mayor said, Charlie, on behalf of Council, words can't express our gratitude to you. We know you are going to be around in case we need you and need to ask you anything. Mr. Chewning then said, it has been an enjoyable experience for the most part. Mayor Young then said, I think you have been trying to retire for about 10 years now, so I hope you'll enjoy your retirement. Mike, we know you are going to do a good job and all of us are here to help if you need us.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Bonds So Moved and Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - I95 Business Loop Project.

Before entering Executive Session, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Brad Samuels of SCE&G to the meeting. He said, I am glad you could be here with us tonight.

The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

At approximately 7:28 P.M., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr to exit

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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 there being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:28 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.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: March 22, 2016