

## **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 4, 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 Assistant Lindsey Peterson, were also present. There were approximately 16 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 Bonds led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no comments or questions on agenda items.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The following minutes were approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Siegel and passed with all members voting in favor:

1. The Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Rescheduled City Council Meeting.
2. The Minutes of the March 7, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting.

### **OLD 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, **Second Reading and Adoption.****

City Manager Molinari reported that at the March 21, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting, the Planning Commission conducted a Public Hearing to receive public input on the zoning recommendation for TMS # 146-00-00-158 and the Commission unanimously recommend the Zoning classification of Interstate Interchange Commercial District (IICD).

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett giving Second Reading and Adoption 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.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2017-03, An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes to Chapter 5, Section 5.3 E Signs Not Requiring a Permit, and Section 5.3 F Wayfinding Signs, of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, **First Reading.****

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City Manager Molinari stated that at the March 21, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting, they discussed some proposed text amendments to Chapter 5, Section 5.3, Subsection (E) and (F) of the Unified Development Ordinance. They looked at the government signs and wayfinding signs. With the government signs, currently the electronic message displays are not included under government signs. This ordinance would require a governmental entity to go through the permit process that is delineated for anyone else who wants to put up an electronic message display sign. Those requirements are outlined in the Unified Development Ordinance.

The Planning Commission also discussed wayfinding signs. As you are aware, one of the major components of the I-95 Business Loop Project is to install wayfinding signs throughout the corridor, and the current regulations on wayfinding signs did not reflect what the City is looking to achieve. Specifically, in regards to area and height, as well as there is a provision in there that the text has to be generic in nature and can't list any specific business. The whole point behind the wayfinding signs is to be able to direct people to specific locations. So, the Planning Commission discussed this and recommended that this provision be taken out.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2017-03, being: An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes to Chapter 5, Section 5.3 E Signs Not Requiring a Permit, and Section 5.3 F Wayfinding Signs, of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

2. **Resolution No. 2017-R-03**, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Undiscovered Grant Program in the Amount of \$200,000.00 for the Development of the Walterboro Wildlife Discovery Center at 100 South Jefferies Boulevard and Committing a \$200,000.00 Match in Local Accommodations Tax Funds.

City Manager Molinari reported to Council that the City was contacted by SCPRT over a year ago encouraging us to apply for an Undiscovered SC grant. Unfortunately, at that time we were not far enough along in the project to be able to apply. The grant program was temporarily suspended as a result of Hurricane Matthew, but they have reopened it and there are some funds available. Our Tourism Director, Michelle Strickland, has put together a grant application and one of the requirements is to provide a cash match for the amount of the grant. Mr. Molinari pointed out that the more grant funding we can get, the less we are going to have to pay for construction of the Discovery Center. He said, we have adequate capacity to match this grant in the Local Accommodations Tax Fund.

Council Member Bridge moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-R-03 as submitted. A second was received from Council Member Siegel and the motion passed unanimously. A copy of said resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes.

3. **Consideration of Emergency Water Main Repair for the Line Serving the Ruffin Community in the Amount of \$203,769.93 by Carroll Enterprises, LLC.**

City Manager Molinari reported that on Saturday, February 11, the water main that runs along Bells Highway and serves Ruffin, SC ruptured. This water main serves as a redundant source of water to Ruffin and provides fire protection to the City service area west of I-95. As a result of the rupture, the City had to secure a contractor in short order to make the repair. After contacting a number of different contractors, Carroll Enterprises of Walterboro, SC, was selected for the repair, because of their ability to mobilize quickly and their access to construction material. As you are aware,

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this is a very complicated project, given that the water line is located between 15 and 20 feet below a swamp. That project completed construction a couple of weeks ago. The water and sewer enterprise fund has sufficient capacity in the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget to absorb the cost of these repairs. As we talked in our budget meeting, City staff is looking at any opportunities to try and get assistance with that repair.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to pay Carroll Enterprises in the amount of \$203,769.93 from the water and sewer enterprise fund for the emergency repairs to the Ruffin community water line. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Bids Received for Repairs to the Downtown Waterfall Plaza

City Manager Molinari informed Council that the Public Works Department recently solicited bids for repairs to the waterfall plaza to include:

1. Demolition of existing lattice and beams.
2. Construction of a new lattice and beams.
3. Paint new lattice.
4. Install new electrical at lattice and lights (LED) on brick wall across from the lattice.

The City received bids from two contractors and requested a third bid but it was non responsive:

- |    |                                     |             |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hiott Construction (Walterboro, SC) | \$66,300.00 |
| 2. | IP Builders (Walterboro, SC)        | \$40,550.00 |

City Manager Molinari stated that staff recommended acceptance of the low bid from IP Builders in the amount of \$40,550 for repairs to the waterfall. He also pointed out that this was an item that staff looked at for the fiscal 2017-2018 budget, but there are sufficient funds in 2016-2017 general budget to absorb this cost.

A motion to accept the low bid from IP Builders (Walterboro, SC) in the amount of \$40,550.00 for repairs to the waterfall as recommended by staff was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Siegel and approved with all Council Members present (Mayor Young, Council Members Syfrett, Siegel, Bonds, Broderick and Bridge) voting in favor. At this point, Council Member Lohr was absent from the meeting and did not vote on this agenda item.

5. Request by Leadership Colleton Class of 2016 to Install Community Service Project, "Red Rocker," at Detreville Street Entrance to Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary

Michelle Strickland, Tourism Director and member of the Leadership Colleton Class of 2016, briefed Council on this project. She stated that the Leadership Colleton Class of 2016 would like to install a very large sized red rocking chair at the Detreville entrance to the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary as part of their service project. This location was chosen mainly because of parking and the space for the chair. Ms. Strickland stated that the Leadership Class felt that this project would serve several purposes:

- 1) Promote the red rocking chair brand.
- 2) Beautify the park.
- 3) Serve as a tourist attraction.
- 4) Tourists would stop and have their photos with this chair.
- 5) This could bring more visitors into the park.

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The approximate size of this chair would be 20 feet tall x 10 feet wide. Ms. Strickland stated that construction of this chair would be completed by the Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center's carpentry class. The installation and the maintenance of this chair will be taken care of by the City's Parks Department. She stated that the FROGS Committee had already voted in favor of this project and that the Leadership Colleton Class asks for Council's support.

A motion to approve the service project by Leadership Colleton Class of 2016 was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

6. Request to Close Additional Streets for 2017 Annual Rice Festival, April 28-29, 2017 by Jimmy Trippe, Chairman Colleton County Rice Festival

City Manager Molinari informed Council that he was informed by Mr. Jimmy Trippe of the Rice Festival Committee that they would not be holding their Rice Festival Dance in the street, but that it would be held at the Museum and the Farmer's Market. The committee also requested the closing of West Washington Street from Dowling Avenue for the fireworks display on Friday, April 28.

A motion approving this request as submitted was made by Council Member Siegel and seconded by Council Member Syfrett. In discussing the motion Council Member Bridge asked if there was a change from the street being closed at the bridge going toward Woodlawn Street. Mr. Molinari explained that the street closing is extended a little further than has been in the past to meet the requirements of the State Fire Marshall. The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

7. Request to Use Downtown Plaza and to Close Street for Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29, 2017, by Colleton County Veterans Council

A motion to approve the request by the Colleton County Veterans Council to use the Downtown Plaza on Monday, May 29, 2017, was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Bonds and passed unanimously, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

8. Request to Use City Parking Lot and to Close Streets for Carolinas Cycling Association Regional Criterium Championships on June 17, 2017 by Lowcountry Racing Team

City Manager Molinari announced that the City was contacted late last week by the Carolina Cycling Association. They are looking to hold their regional criterium championships in Walterboro on Saturday, June 17, 2017. He then asked for remarks from Michelle Strickland, Tourism Director.

Ms. Strickland stated that this event is the Carolina Cycling Association Regional Criterium Championship. This event has been around about 30 years, held at various locations. It is a fund raiser to benefit the MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. It is a regional race for amateurs in North and South Carolina. It has consistently had a registration of about 300-400 cyclists. With this event being held on a weekend, I think this event has the potential to create overnight stays and bring a lot of tourists here. It also has the potential to become an annual event. Ms. Strickland then recommended that the street closures as submitted for this event be approved and bring this event to Walterboro.

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A motion was then made by Council Broderick to approve the request for the Regional Criterium Championships. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Syfrett said his only concern with this is that we seem to ask our main street businesses to close up an awful lot and this not being a holiday. He asked if any input had been received from the businesses? He said, I know the restaurants would probably do well, but will the other folks? Do they take a loss when we shut down main street? Do they have a problem with this?

Ms. Strickland responded, I think there is always concern when we have to shut the streets down that provide access to their business, but I think this event will bring them more foot traffic. Council Member Bonds pointed out that the race will be held from 10:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. So, this is literally all day long. He asked, how will people get to the post office? He added, I mean I am not against it, I am just asking some questions, because in the past we have shut the street down until 2:00 p.m. or so.

Ms. Strickland responded that the event group is willing to amend their schedule to an earlier time, if we see that to be a need, but it is a long event. I mean, they are asking for 7½ hours. Mayor Young asked, would they amend it to a later time? Ms. Strickland responded, I think they were thinking earlier in the day, which I don't think would solve that problem, but they are definitely willing to work with us if we have some concerns.

Council Member Bonds asked if the event group has insurance, in case one of their cyclists run into someone. Ms. Strickland responded affirmatively, and added that this is a turn key event. They have everything taken care of as far as insurance. They will be setting up, breaking down, do their own clean up, and have their own portalets.

When asked by Council Member Siegel about the number of bikers expected, Ms. Strickland responded 300-400. With the other criterium in Walterboro, there are about 150 bikers.

Council Member Bonds expressed his concern with the street being blocked off all day from early morning to 7:00 P.M. or 8:00 P.M. at night. Also, I just wanted to make sure that somewhere in the agreement that it says that they are going to have some type of liability insurance, so if something goes wrong. And quite frankly, the City ought to be named as an additional insured on that policy. City Manager Molinari pointed out that this information was on page 2 of the agreement.

Council Member Broderick reported that he was able to talk with one of the business owners on Washington Street last night and they seemed to think that this event would actually help them on a Saturday. It's a clothing store, but they said especially with the women who are coming in with the cyclists, that they could get them into the shops and maybe even open up on Sunday to accommodate them if they were going to come in.

Mayor Young said, the negative is the closing of the street. I think the positive is that this is happening at a time in Walterboro when things have slowed down here in the summertime. Sometimes on Saturdays downtown, there's really not a lot of foot traffic. We have the opportunity to bring people here and have them come back later to visit and actual see what the town is like and the stores and restaurants that we have. I did a lot of thinking about this after we got it, because I had the same concerns

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that you have, but we also have a couple of months that we could try to educate everybody about this one day that we are going to do this, where they can park in order to get to our downtown businesses. We can see how we can make this a positive for the downtown businesses instead of a negative and I think we have time to do that. We have some flexibility there, and if Council wants to do this, then we should work toward turning this into a really positive thing for those businesses downtown.

Council Member Siegel stated that the post office closes on Saturday around 12:00 noon. He said, I think access to the post office is important. Maybe, we would negotiate with them to start a little later to give people a chance to go to the post office.

Mayor Young said, of course if everybody knows. I think people get upset when they get surprised by something and they don't know. They try to come downtown or they try to get to the post office, and they don't know that they need to go down a side street. If we do this, I think we need to make sure we educate everybody as to what is going to happen that day. I am with you. It won't get dark until 8:30 p.m. or 9:00 p.m. in June.

Ms. Strickland stated that she would take care of any press releases in educating the public on this event.

Council Member Bridge then asked Ms. Strickland if this would be an annual event and why they were only able to let us know at the last minute. Ms. Strickland answered that something fell through with their previous event venue. So, they are looking for a new location.

A suggestion was made by a gentleman in the audience that Michelle take a survey of the downtown business owners to ask about their thoughts on this event. He felt this would be positive. Mayor Young responded, I don't know if we have time to do that, but if it is going to bring 300-400 people and their families into town, then we will get a chance to show them Walterboro and maybe get them to come back again. I think we can turn it into a positive thing, even though the closing of the street is a big concern.

The motion then passed unanimously, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

The Mayor then said, I know Rock Hill has gotten really involved with cycling events and they have even built a palladium, where they have bicycle races and Walterboro is becoming a center for cycling events, and anything we can do to bring people here during times that they wouldn't normally come here, I think is a plus.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Molinari then introduced Mr. Hank Amundson, who is the new Assistant City Manager. Mr. Amundson was the Economic Development Director for the City of Walterboro from 2009-2012 and for the past five years, he has served in two capacities for the Lowcountry Council of Governments as both the Director of Workforce Development and the Aging Director. Mr. Amundson will start on April 17th and we look forward to him joining the team. I think he is going to be a good addition to the senior staff.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Bonds so Moved and Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. None opposed. Motion carried.

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

- 1) Receipt of Legal Advice - Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, and the I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 1C/1D.
- 2) Discussion of Potential Acquisition of Property.
- 3) Personnel Matter - City Manager's Contract.

At approximately 7:55 P.M., a motion was made by Council Member Siegel to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session and there being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 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: June 6, 2017**