

## **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 5, 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. There were approximately 15 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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 public comments or questions on agenda items.

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### 1. Colleton County Library, Lowcountry Giga Toshou-con Event, Ms. Vicki Brown

Ms. Vicki Brown, Young Adult/Reference Librarian for the Colleton County Memorial Library appeared before Council to discuss an event called the Lowcountry Giga Toshou-con to be held at the Library on Saturday, July 23. She stated that the library decided to end the summer with a "comic book convention." This is something that is highly unusual. There are typical comic conventions in major cities that cost a fortune. We have also started a comic book club with children at the library, and it has taken off and has done really well. Ms. Brown pointed that Mr. Omar Jeter, also present at the meeting, is a huge supporter of the library, and he came to her with the idea to hold our own comic book convention.

The regional Comicon, called Lowcountry Gig Toshou-con, will feature comic book vendors, action figures including a troupe of Star Wars Storm Troopers and other costumed characters, vendors and writers from South Carolina and other states.

Ms. Brown explained that today's comic books play a big role in young adults' reading and that comics' conventions held in other areas drew huge crowds. She stated that there is only one comic book convention in Charleston and in Columbia. There are no more anywhere in South Carolina, so we are going to have our own. We are going to invite anybody who wants to come from Savannah, Hilton Head, Columbia, Orangeburg, North Carolina, Georgia, etc. Ms. Brown said that she expected to have from 500 to 1,000 people attend the event at the library on that day. She said, we also began to ask businesses if they were interested in joining with us, and they are extremely enthusiastic. She explained to Council that they have received full cooperation from the City police and Sheriff's department. She said, we have planning, parking, traffic control, and police protection all done.

Ms. Brown told Council that they should be receiving letters soon in their mailboxes asking for their support and some financial assistance. She said, as you know, the library is nonprofit. She added that the library will be receiving 10% of everything sold that day at the event.

Mr. Omar Jeter also addressed Council. He told of the comic characters and comic writers who will be attending the event. He said that our duty with this is twofold. We want to inspire and make sure that every child has an opportunity to attend this event. We want to make sure that every child who walks out will feel that

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there is an alternative to violence, gang activity and drug use that they see outside their windows every day. He invited everyone and City Council to attend the event and to show their support. He explained that the convention in Columbia started out with a few hundred people years ago, but recently it drew nearly 10,000 people. We want to establish our town as one of those towns that could hold such an event. We want to put Walterboro on the map in a very big way, and with your help, we can accomplish that. Ms. Brown emphasized that she would like for all Council Members to attend. She also said, if you can spare any funds, we would be grateful, because there are some things that we had not counted on that we need, for example portalets. So any money that the City feels they could help us with, we would be most grateful.

The Mayor asked if people will be bringing their own comic books to this event and buying comic books too? He asked, will they dress like comic books characters? Ms. Brown responded that there would be some comic book characters, including comic book vendors, action figures including Star Wars Storm Troopers, the SC Ghost Busters and other comic characters, vendors and writers from South Carolina and other states.

On a question by Council Member Bridge, Ms. Brown indicated that there will be a schedule made up, detailing all the events for the day.

No action was taken by Council on this agenda item and was accepted as information.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Upon motion of Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick, the Minutes of the March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business before Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Resolution No. 2016-R-03, A Resolution in Support of the Ruffin Water Upgrade Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Commit Funds for the 10% Local Match (Approximately \$68,400)

City Manager Molinari gave Council a brief overview of the project. He told Council that in 2004, the City ran a waterline to Ruffin. The City would like to continue to upgrade the water system in Ruffin. Currently, Ruffin has a line that was extended from the City and they also have an existing well, located north of the community. The waterlines in Ruffin are fairly small. They are either 6 inch or 1½ inch lines. The proposal is to replace the existing 6 inch lines with 10 inch lines, and replace the 1½ inch lines with 6 inch lines. The new 10-inch line will be connected to an existing 100,000 gallons elevated water tank. These improvements will significantly improve the water quality and pressure for the 165 water customers. It will also increase fire flow to the entire Ruffin community.

Mr. Molinari explained that the Lowcountry Council of Governments is assisting the City with this project. Because the project is outside the City limits of Walterboro, Colleton County will be the primary applicant, but the City would own and maintain the water system improvements. The 10% match, approximately \$68,400, will be provided by the City. He said, please keep in mind that we already have \$43,000 left

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over from a previous grant, which was set aside for this project, and we have the capacity in our Enterprise Fund to handle the \$25,000 difference.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to adopt Resolution # 2016-R-03, related to the Ruffin Water Upgrade Project and authorizing the City Manager to commit funds for the 10% local match in the amount of \$68,400. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said Resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

2. Resolution No. 2016-R-04, A Resolution by Walterboro City Council to Endorse the Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

City Manager Molinari told Council that a letter from FEMA, as well as the proposed resolution, was included in the agenda packet. He explained that the Lowcountry Council of Governments has released a Lowcountry Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. He said, I believe this plan is updated every five years. It is required by FEMA, and as part of the approval process, they have to submit an adopted resolution to FEMA. What this means to the City, besides meeting all of FEMA requirements, is that if we are going to be eligible for any disaster mitigation funding, we have to adopt this resolution. For example, if we were to apply for a grant to purchase generators for City Hall or another City facility, we would not be eligible for that unless we had this resolution adopted by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Bridge, to adopt Resolution No. 2016-R-04, A Resolution by the Walterboro City Council to endorse the Lowcountry Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The motion passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

3. Consideration of a Recommendation to Purchase Thirty (30) Body Worn Cameras for the Police Department

Police Chief Wade Marvin was present and presented a power point presentation on a proposal to purchase thirty (30) body worn cameras for the Walterboro Police Department.

Chief Marvin pointed out that changes in the South Carolina State Laws and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council established guidelines for law enforcement's use of body worn cameras in December 2015. All law enforcement agencies are required to submit a revised body worn camera policy to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy by March 7, 2016. All law enforcement agencies seeking funding reimbursement for body worn cameras must submit an application to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety by April 29, 2016. Walterboro submitted the updated body worn camera policy to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy on January 11, 2016, which was approved on January 27, 2016.

Chief Marvin told Council that his department conducted several months of research, trials, testing demos and received recommendations from other departments. He said, we went through several different brands that did not meet the needs of the Walterboro Police Department due to video quality, durability, and video customer service. There were several cameras that were tested. Some of the ones tested were WatchGuard, Motorola L3 and the one from Exxon. Chief Marvin stated that the WatchGuard Vista camera, through a lot of research, was the best camera fit for the Walterboro Police Department, due to the lens quality and several other things, such as you can adjust it up and down, the AC video recording, the extended battery life, the HD resolution and its recording has 32 Gigs of storage. The quote for 30 cameras was \$895.00 per camera and for the software installation, the training and the

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warranty, with all that together, came to a total of \$52,026.20. So, we asking for your consideration to purchase 30 body worn cameras by WatchGuard.

City Manager Molinari added that the recent legislation that was passed by the General Assembly set up a fund to outfit officers across the state with cameras. It's currently not funded to an amount that will outfit every officer. What I will recommend to you is that we go ahead and purchase the cameras. We have sufficient capacity in the fund balance in the General Fund to make the purchase, and once the purchase is made, we will submit a reimbursement request to the Department of Public Safety, and account for this as an accounts receivable for the \$52,026.20.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the recommendation to purchase thirty (30) body worn cameras for the Police Department as submitted. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

4. Request to Use the Downtown Plaza and to Close the Street for the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30, 2016 by Colleton County Veterans Council

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve the request to use the Downtown Plaza and to close the street for the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30, 2016. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Johnny Holmes, on behalf of the Veterans Council and Ms. Janet Smith, new Veterans Affairs Officer for Colleton County, were also present at the meeting. Mr. Holmes thanked Council for its approval of this agenda item. Mayor Young stated that this is always a moving program and I would encourage everyone to attend the ceremony on Memorial Day.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. CDBG Public Disclosure Requirements - North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project - Phase 3

City Manager Molinari then said, as you are aware, we are currently in phase 3 of the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project. As part of that project, there is a proposed trail that is going to run behind the park on North Lemacks Street. To construct a trail, we are going to have to secure easements from four (4) property owners. One of the parcels that the City needs to acquire is owned by the law firm that employs our City Attorney, Mr. George Cone. Pursuant to CDBG requirements, I am required to publicly disclose this, so that it is reflected in the minutes. Mr. Molinari said, let me add also that because federal dollars are involved, we are required to notify each property owner that they can be compensated for their easement. Mr. Cone's law firm has recently conveyed that property to the City of Walterboro. So, we will not have to secure an easement, but pursuant to the grant requirements and to satisfy all the Department of Commerce's requirements, I am required to make this disclosure in a public meeting.

Mayor Young pointed out that this was a donation to the City.

Council accepted this agenda item as information.

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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 Lohr seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for:

- 1) Receipt of Legal Advice:
  - a) I-95 Business Loop Project - Phase 1C/1D.

(Note: Executive Session 1b, Settlement of Legal Claim, no longer applied and had been removed from the agenda).

At approximately 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session and no action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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: May 3, 2016**