

## **MINUTES**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 2, 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 25 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed Girl Scout Troop # 445, with their leader Ms. Jocelyn Lawrence, present in the audience. He then invited the Troop members to come up front to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag following the invocation.

The Mayor then invited everyone to join in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation and the Girl Scout Troop # 445 led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

At this point, the Mayor announced that the Colleton County High School Baseball Team won the District 8 Championship last night and will be in the playoffs for Lower State Championship beginning Thursday night, here at home. He encouraged everyone to support the Cougars.

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

No public comments or questions were raised on agenda items.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

Next, the City Manager reported that at its March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Planning Commission discussed some proposed amendments to Chapter 5, Section 5.3 (E) and (F) of the Unified Development Ordinance. The first proposed change dealt with governmental signs and excluding electronic message displays. Essentially, this requires any governmental entity that wants to put up an electronic message display sign to go through the normal sign permit procedure. Under wayfinding signs, as you are aware, one of the components of the I-95 Business Loop Project is the installation of wayfinding signs along the 6.2 mile corridor. We have already installed a sign at the intersection of South Jefferies and Green Pond Highway. The current regulations in the U.D.O. do not reflect what the City is trying to achieve with wayfinding signage. The proposed changes would "take out the maximum area and maximum height," and it would also "take out the text which says that directory signs shall be generic in nature and not list the name of any specific business." What we are trying to achieve with the wayfinding signs is to direct people toward specific locations.

No comments or questions were received from the public on Ordinance # 2017-03, and the public hearing was closed.

### **OLD 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 5.3 E Signs Not Requiring a Permit, and Section 5.3 F Wayfinding Signs, **Second Reading and Adoption.**

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A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2017-03 as submitted. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, the Mayor asked the City Manager if this ordinance would limit who would be able to put up a way finding sign? Mr. Molinari responded, what this specifically addresses is the City-sponsored wayfinding signs. Mayor Young then asked, so we would not be opening up use of this type signage to others? Mr. Molinari responded, that's correct, we (the City) would have the ability to put signage in the public right of way.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2017-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Matters Relating Thereto, **First Reading.**

**And**

2. **Ordinance # 2017-05**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Matters Relating Thereto, **First Reading.**

At this point, City Manager Molinari took a moment to extend his appreciation to City staff for putting the budget together. He said, this was a challenge as it is every year, but I think we have put together a good budget that will accomplish the goals and objectives that City Council has put forward.

The highlights of the new 2017-2018 budget were given by the City Manager as follows:

- 1) The total City Budget is \$11,269,311 with the General Fund Budget at \$7,155,211 and an Enterprise Fund Budget of \$4,114,100. The Enterprise Budget includes our water system, sewer, as well as sanitation.
- 2) This year's budget will have no ad valorem property tax increase, no business license rate increase, and no water or sewer rate increases.
- 3) Some of the things that we had to adjust for and absorb this year are - health insurance premiums have increased 2½%.
- 4) We are anticipating a 2% increase in South Carolina State Retirement contributions, with the state picking up 1% of that for the next fiscal year.
- 5) City employees will also have to absorb some of the proposed mandates from the state. The employee's share contribution to the state retirement system is going to increase .34% and will be capped at 9%. The employee's share contribution to the Police Office Retirement System will be increasing .51% and will be capped at 9.75%.
- 6) We are proposing a 1% cost of living adjustment for City employees.

The Mayor then stated, we will vote separately on each ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving First Reading approval to Ordinance # 2017-04, relating to the City's General Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and matters relating thereto. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2017-05, adopting the City's Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and matters relating there. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

The Mayor thanked the City Manager and everyone for their hard work on the budget. He said this is first reading and we will still have second reading at a future meeting.

3. Proclamation No. 2017-01, A Proclamation to Recognize Peace Officers' Memorial Day, May 15, 2017

A motion to adopt Proclamation No. 2017-01 recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15, 2017) was made by Council Member Bridge and seconded by Council Member Siegel. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

4. Consideration of Bids Received for the North Lemacks Street Phase III Demolition and Cleanup of Condemned Properties

City Manager Molinari reminded Council that staff is underway with phase III of the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project. The City advertised for competitive bid proposals for demolition activities and received one bid from Target Contractors from Mt. Pleasant, SC. The total bid includes the demolition of 18 structures and 5 alternate structures for a total cost of \$280,630.00. The entire amount will be funded through the North Lemacks Street Phase III Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Molinari asked Council that should any action be taken tonight on this that approval is contingent upon an approved contract from the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

A motion was made by Mayor Young to approve the bid proposal for the North Lemacks Street Phase III Demolition from Target Contractors in the amount of \$280,630.00, contingent upon approval of the contract from the SC Department of Commerce. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

5. Request to Use the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk & Wag Fundraiser, September 23, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. by Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter

A motion to approve the request to use the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Walk and Wag Fundraiser on September 23, 2017 as submitted was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously.

At this point, Mayor Young thanked everyone for their work during the Rice Festival. That is really a big weekend for our staff, our police department and first responders. I have heard a number of people who have come to me and talked about how impressed they are with how quickly the City was cleaned up after the Rice Festival. I know that it puts a lot on our employees, but we are thankful that you do all that so all the rest of us can have fun. City Council appreciates all of your efforts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

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**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

There was no City Manager's report given.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Bridge 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 the following:

1. A Discussion of Matters Concerning the Provision of Services Encouraging Location of a Business Served by the Public Body.
2. A Discussion of Potential Purchase of Property.
3. A Discussion of Negotiations Incident to Contractual Arrangements - Building Inspection Services.
4. Receipt of Legal Advice - I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 1C/ID.
5. Personnel Matters:
  - a. Appointment to the Election Commission.
  - b. Appointment to the Planning Commission.
  - c. City Manager's Contract.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

At approximately 8:44 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Syfrett 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 a motion to appoint James Rabb to the Election Commission and Kathryn Peer to the Planning Commission was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 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**