

**MINUTES**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 7, 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 38 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 Lohr led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

The Mayor announced that Council Member Syfrett had reminded him that there are a couple of employees with anniversaries with the City this month. Adam Davis has been with us for two years. He is the head of our Parks Department, and Amy Risher, will have been with us for 20 years, who is head of our Finance Department. We congratulate you on those milestones and hope you will be here many more. Thank you for what you do.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no public 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 proposed ordinances:

1. **Ordinance # 2016-03**, An Ordinance to Amend FY 2015-2016 City of Walterboro, South Carolina Ordinance #2015-03, So As to Provide for Supplemental Appropriation from the City's General Fund Balance in the Amount of \$430,000.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated that this budget amendment is for the purchase of the old First Federal building. The auditor requires that any large expenditure above and beyond what was budgeted, that the City has to do a budget amendment, so when we have our audit done for the fiscal year that it will come back clean. The purchase price of the building was in the \$430,000 range. As you are aware, we had money appropriated in the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget to renovate that facility and move some key operations of the City, specifically, court administration, Finance Department, Planning and Permitting Department to 300 Hampton Street.

The Mayor opened the floor to receive any comments/questions on Ordinance # 2016-03. No comments or questions were received.

2. **Ordinance # 2016-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and Matters Relating Thereto  
and
3. **Ordinance # 2016-05**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and Matters Relating Thereto

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The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions on the budget as presented. No comments or questions were received and the public hearing was closed.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. 2016 Brag a Little About Walterboro Campaign - Michelle Strickland, Tourism Director**

Ms. Michelle Strickland appeared before Council to outline the Brag a Little About Walterboro Campaign for 2016. Ms. Strickland stated that she believed everyone was pleased with the 2015 Campaign. She reported that during the 2015 campaign, she passed out more than 1,000 signs and received over 400 posts on Facebook, but outreach was really into the thousands. We had more than 2,000 likes on our web page and our post greets and engagements were more than 7,000. Ms. Strickland gave a short overview of the ads that were run. She said, our citizens, organizations and businesses all partnered with the City to make this possible. She gave brief highlights of some of our Facebook posts. She also noted that she received some positive feedbacks from our local newspapers. Ms. Strickland said, I am hoping that as the years go on that we will receive more statewide and regional recognition for this campaign. Few communities of our size really put forth the resources that we do toward tourism and you really should be applauded for that. Moving forward, I just want to let you know that plans are underway for the 2016 campaign, which will be bigger and better. In fact, we would like to extend the campaign throughout the entire month of September, because last year's time really wasn't enough. It did not give people the time to grasp the concept, and I was getting phone calls a week later from people who wanted to put signs out.

Ms. Strickland stated that this year she will form a committee to assist her in the legwork, so we can reach more people and get more involvement. We have already begun tossing around a few ideas for this year, which are:

- 1) Having an essay contest.
- 2) Complete a different design for the sign this year.
- 3) Last year, due to time and the budget, we chose a paper sign with a wooden stake, but I think the extra effort involved in getting them stapled, may have deterred some participation. This year, I think, if we used wire square framed signs and fold over paper, it will be a little bit better received. The initial cost is minimal. I have already incorporated it into our budget for the next fiscal year.

So, all this is in the works for 2016.

Mayor Young congratulated Ms. Strickland, stating that the campaign last year was great and well received by the community. He said, it certainly gives us a chance to focus on the good things about Walterboro, and I think it was a very positive program and you did a good job with that. So, we look forward to seeing that again this September. We encourage everyone to participate.

**2. Reopening of the Local Theater - Mr. Noel Ison**

Mr. Noel Ison reported to Council that over the past several weeks, he had circulated a survey that asked the simple question: Would you like to see our theater reopened? People could check the box saying "yes" or "no." Mr. Ison told Council, tonight I present you with 2,200 signatures saying "yes" that they would like to see the theater reopened. Mr. Ison reported that two weeks ago, he set up a table in front of the two entrances to Walmart. He received 400 signatures during that time. What was amazing was that people took the time to talk to me about not only reopening the theater, but their memories of the Cook Theater and the drive-in theater saying, I am worried because my children will never have those memories, like we have.

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He stated that students walked up to him and complained that there is nothing to do here, and they are tired of driving to Summerville just to go to the movies. I had seniors to comment that many of them cannot make that drive to Summerville, and they would love to have a matinee to go to some time during the week. I had parents say that children now have too much idle time. They talked about their old memories and they talked about their children not having the opportunity to have those memories. One gentleman asked, how can Walterboro entertain a new company moving here, and show them around, only to see our closed theater that has been vandalized? Another person asked, how can we expect our children to come back here after they graduate from college, if there is nothing for them to do? The comment I heard most was, (most of these were males talking), take a look around to see whether the city is doing something for the average taxpayer. They don't listen to us, and they do not consider us in their decisions.

Nineteen months ago, I stood here and said that reopening this theater would take a team effort from the public, the bank and City Council. You may ask, what is the taxpayer's part in this? As a part of my request for the funds, I am asking you (City of Walterboro) to create a ticket tax of \$1.00 on each ticket sold in the theater. This will be a user tax. So, it will be fair. Only the people who buy tickets to the theater will pay the \$1.00 tax. Here is how that works. When the studio allows the theater to present one of their movies, they charge a percentage of the ticket price ranging from 40% to 70%. If we take the round number of 50% and apply it to an \$8.00 ticket, we see that the theater would get \$4.00 and the studio would get \$4.00. Now, with the \$1.00 ticket tax, what happens to the \$8.00 ticket. \$1.00 goes to the City to help repay the loan. Meanwhile the studio only gets \$3.50 of the \$7.00 and the theater gets \$3.50. So, everybody is paying a share in this.

Based on his sales projection, Mr. Ison felt that this debt could be paid off in 5 years. He said, the last time I was here, we had trouble with the banks trying to get something worked out. Tonight, I am happy to say that we worked with the president of the bank, Ms. Gwen Bunton, and we have taken a lease by situation on the building. So, that is resolved and we can move forward when it's ready. Now, we have two parts of the puzzle worked out. To finish, we need the help of City Council to finalize our objective and reopen our theater. With the unusual costs facing this theater, we not only have to replace all the equipment, the projectors and the sound system, we have to buy 240 chairs, new carpeting, repaint, and put up new signs. I promise you that the plans we have for that theater we will lack nothing from Summerville's. We will be equal in quality of performance of the projector and sound system. Our appearance will be nice, we will have new chairs, and we will have a first-class theater.

Now, the question you may ask is how do we justify this expenditure? I will ask you to consider this fact. The City runs tennis courts and city parks, but you pay the Recreation Department to run those. The County has the golf course that they pay for. We do not expect to be paid anything. We will pay for everything ourselves. There is no expense to the City in this theater. We eventually will plan on serving between 800 and 1,000 customers a week. That will make us on a year-around basis one of the leading venues in the City.

Let's take a look at the groups of consumers this will serve and what we plan to do.

**Seniors:** In addition to the matinee they requested, we will have reduced prices. We are also going to introduce a bingo room to the theater.

**Children:** We will have a special children's theater that will cater to younger children. We will use a smaller projector to be able to show children's movies, cartoons, animated things at a reduced price for the admittance and for the popcorn and drinks.

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**Families:** This is the group that I heard more from than any other. They were saying that we need a place to go with our family. I heard that so many times.

**Teenagers:** In addition to a first rate theater, we will offer a game room with video games.

**Veterans:** Veterans at the Victory House can't hardly take that ride in wheel chairs to Summerville to a movie. We will have veterans at our theater on a special date and a special price.

**Grandparents:** I know first hand that going to a movie with my grandchildren is something I miss and they miss. They live on Johns Island and they only come down here about every 2 weeks, but when they get here, there is nothing for us to do. If we had a theater, at least we could go to a movie together.

**Low Income People:** Having a local theater is cheaper and more economical for them than to go to a movie in Summerville.

Mr. Ison further said, as an example of reaching out to the community, and that is something the old theater never did, we plan to be involved with the community in a lot of different, positive ways. For example, we plan to have a special reading program for our elementary school children, called "Bookworm." When they read a book and do a report to their teacher, they will get a free ticket to the theater. We will do that once every six weeks throughout the whole year.

We will operate a state approved and licensed bingo room. We will have a party room with tables and chairs, so the children can have birthday parties and other family events.

Mr. Ison told Council that from an economic point of view, this theater makes good sense. As an example, when I was at Walmart, a lady from Hampton came up to me and said, I will take some of those surveys and get them signed where I work. She came back the next day with 200+ signatures and said that everybody said that they would much rather drive to Walterboro than to drive to Orangeburg or Aiken. That was also true with people from St. George. There is a way to market this if the restaurants want to work with us. We could do a dinner/ticket combo for people out of town to bring them in. While gathering these signatures, I received the support from our small business community. They said we really need the theater reopened.

Concluding, Mr. Ison said that he hoped that he has lived up to the expectations of those people who talked to him at Walmart. In closing, I will say to Council, please listen to those two thousand, two hundred signatures. Their voices ring between the pages. You have the final piece of the puzzle needed to reopen our theater. You have the opportunity to give your citizens something to cheer about, something that directly affects them, something that improves their lives and something that makes them happy. We have a chance to do that with just this simple little theater.

Council Member Paul Siegel than asked Mr. Ison, who is making the loan? Mr. Ison responded that this will be the business, the theater. No further discussion was held.

No action was taken by Council on this agenda item.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Proclamation # 2016-05, to Recognize the Colleton Preparatory Academy 2016 SCISA Class A State Championship Girls Softball Team**

Next, the Mayor said, one of the best thing that we do as an elected official is to recognize outstanding groups of young people from our community. We have had this opportunity several times this year, and tonight we have the opportunity again to

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recognize another state championship from Walterboro. This community has produced so many outstanding groups, and it is something for us to be proud of. So often, all we hear about are the negative things or young people who are not doing good things. So, we are really proud of this group we have here tonight.

A motion was then made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Broderick, to adopt Proclamation # 2016-05, to recognize the Colleton Preparatory Academy 2016 SCISA Class A State Championship Girls Softball Team. The motion passed unanimously. Members of the softball team along with their parents and relatives were present in the audience. The Mayor then called the members of the Colleton Preparatory Girls Softball Team to the podium, along with their coaches, for recognition. He read the proclamation in its entirety into the record and presented a copy to the coaches. A copy of this proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

2. **Resolution No. 2016-R-02**, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Clean Water Application to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority in the Amount of \$1,500,000 to Finance the Costs of Upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Plant (Revised Resolution).

City Manager Molinari reminded Council that the City had secured a \$2,040,000 grant from EDA, as well as a \$500,000 grant from the state for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that the anticipated cost of those improvements is approximately \$4.3 million. The difference remaining that we would have to finance through the State Clean Water is approximately \$1.5 million. This resolution is a requirement for the funding application, and we request City Council's favorable consideration of this resolution.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to adopt Resolution # 2016-R-02 as submitted. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

3. **Resolution No. 2016-R-06**, A Resolution to Recognize and Honor Dr. Riddick Ackerman, III, Upon the Occasion of His Retirement, to Commend Him for His Many Years of Dedicated Service in Obstetrics and Gynecology to the City of Walterboro, Colleton County and the State of South Carolina, and to Wish Him Much Happiness in His Well-Earned Retirement.

The Mayor announced that he did not know whether to read the resolutions into the record or not, because he had been asked to read them at a community celebration event for the doctors in August. At that time, he will read the proclamations, honoring Dr. Ackerman and Dr. Cannon. The Mayor read the title of this resolution into the record.

4. **Resolution No. 2016-R-07**, A Resolution Honoring Trent Edward Cannon, M.D. on the Occasion of His Retirement, to Commend Him for His Many Years of Dedicated Service in Obstetrics and Gynecology to the City of Walterboro, Colleton County and the State of South Carolina, and to Wish Him Much Happiness in His Well-Earned Retirement. The Mayor read the title of this resolution into the record.

Mayor Young then stated that between the two doctors, there is no telling how many babies they have delivered. It's a lot of them. They will really be missed.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2016-R-06 and Resolution No. 2016-R-07 was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. Copies of said resolutions are attached as part of these minutes.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2016-03 (Second Reading)**

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Syfrett giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2016-03, being:

An Ordinance to Amend FY 2015-2016 City of Walterboro, South Carolina Ordinance # 2015-03, So As to Provide for Supplemental Appropriation from the City's General Fund Balance in the Amount of \$430,000.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

2. **Ordinance # 2016-04 (Second Reading)**

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Broderick, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2016-04, being:

An Ordinance Adopting the City General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and Matters Relating Thereto.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Ordinance # 2016-05 (Second Reading)**

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Siegel, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2016-05, being:

An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and Matters Relating Thereto.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Consideration of Requests for Proposals (RFP's) to Provide Financial Audit Services**

City Manager Molinari reviewed this agenda item with Council. He stated that the state statute requires that we bid out our auditing services every four years. We received proposals from four (4) qualified respondents as follows:

	Total <u>4 Year Cost</u>
Baird & Company	\$ 59,600
Thomas, Price, Scott, Adams & Co.	\$ 97,000
Mauldin & Jenkins	\$104,800
The Brittingham Group	\$117,832

City Manager Molinari pointed out that all the respondents received the exact same request for proposals from the City. He noted that the low, qualified bidder is Baird & Company. They bid \$14,900 for each of the 4 years, for a total cost of \$59,600 for 4 years. He reminded Council that this is the same audit firm we have used for the past four years. Mr. Molinari stated that the City currently has \$17,200 budgeted in the 2016-2017 budget for audit services, so their proposal is well within what we budgeted. Staff recommends Baird & Company as the low qualified bidder at \$59,600 for 4 years of audit services.

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A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick, to accept the low bid from Baird & Company in the amount of \$59,600 for four years financial auditing services. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked if the City is comparing apples to apples for this service. She said, I noticed some items listed for different companies have add-on costs. Is this the financial report, or do they have other costs related to the audit? Mr. Molinari affirmed that it compares apples to apples. He said that all the four respondents received the exact same Request for Proposals from the City.

No further discussion was held, and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

2. **Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase a New Truck for the Parks Department**

City Manager Molinari stated that the Parks Department is currently using a couple of older vehicles to haul equipment trailers - a 2001 and a 2003 F150 and F250. In the last couple of years, the Parks Department has spent \$20,000 in repairs between the two vehicles, and the 2001 vehicle does not have the ability to pull the heavier equipment trailers. Parks Director Adam Davis sent out bid requests and received three responses for a new truck, a 2016 Ford F250. The bids received were as follows:

Rizer Chevrolet	\$32,500.00
Walterboro Ford	\$29,484.00
Vic Bailey Ford	\$30,504.00

Mr. Molinari stated that the low bidder was Walterboro Ford in the amount of \$29,484. He noted that the general fund has the capacity in the current year's budget to absorb the cost of a new truck.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Broderick, to accept the low bid of \$29,484 from Walterboro Ford for a new truck for the Parks Department. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase a New Dump Truck for the Utilities Department**

City Manager Molinari told Council that the Utilities Department is currently using two dump trucks to transport sludge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the landfill. These dump trucks are borrowed from different departments, specifically the Water Department and Public Works. Both dump trucks are fairly small compared to what the Utilities Director is proposing to purchase. The vehicle that he received bids for, is three times the size of what we have right now. This item was actually in the 2016-2017 budget proposal, and as we were making the numbers work, we realized that we had the capacity in this year's budget in the Utility Fund to purchase the vehicle this year. Utilities Director Wayne Crosby received proposals from four different vendors as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Triple T Truck Center (Summerville, SC)	2016 Western Star	\$138,783.00
Hughes Motors, Inc. (North Charleston, SC)	2016 Mack GU713	\$146,780.00
Bunch Truck & Equip. LLC (Garden City, GA)	2016 Mack GU813	\$150,300.00
Florence Truck Center, Inc. (Florence, SC)	2017 Mack GU713	\$152,250.00

Mr. Molinari stated that the low, qualified bidder was Triple T Truck Center for a 2016 Western Star in the amount of \$138,783.00.

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A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to grant the request to purchase a new dump truck for the Utilities Department from Triple T Truck Center (Summerville, SC) in the amount of \$138,783.00. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

4. **Consideration of a Recommendation to Award Contract for Construction of New Booster Pump Station**

City Manager Molinari reminded Council that Colleton County had submitted a CDBG application, with the City of Walterboro as the subrecipient, to upgrade the Water Booster Pump Station on Robertson Boulevard. This project will increase the volume and pressure of water supplied to the surrounding areas, as well as improve fire protection capabilities. It will also replace the single pump that is currently in use with a triplex system that will make service more reliable. The City received 5 bid proposals as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
AAA Septic Tank Installation and Repair, LLC	\$569,000.00
Level Utilities, LLC	\$599,000.00
MJL, Inc.	\$613,070.00
JR Wilson Construction Co., Inc.	\$638,000.00
James F. Pedersen Co., Inc.	\$851,027.00

Mr. Molinari pointed out that AECOM, the City's engineer on this project, is not recommending the low bidder, AAA Septic Tank Installation and Repair, LLC (Columbia, SC). Both AECOM and our Utilities Director Wayne Crosby had conversations, and it was the opinion of AECOM that they did not have the capabilities to do the job. AAA Septic Tank Installation and Repair concurred with that assessment. Mr. Crosby had a nice conversation with the owner of that company and they stated that they understood that they did not have the capabilities to perform that job. So, staff is recommending the second low bidder, Level Utilities LLC, of Georgetown, SC, in the amount of \$599,000.00. City Manager Molinari reminded Council that Colleton County received a \$482,928.00 CDBG grant for the upgrade. The \$116,072.00 match will be funded through the Capital Projects Sales Tax. He said that there will be no out-of-pocket expenses for the City of Walterboro.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to award the construction contract for a new Booster Pump Station to Level Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$599,000.00. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

5. **Request to Use the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary for the "Walterboro Walk & Wag" Fundraiser, September 10, 2016 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. by Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter**

A motion was made By Council Member Siegel to approve the request by Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter to use the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary on September 10, 2016 as submitted. Mrs. Janice Young, present on behalf of the Friends of Colleton County Animal Shelter, thanked Council for its support. She said, we need the support of everyone in Colleton County. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

6. **Consideration of Rescheduling the July 5, 2016 City Council Meeting to July 12, 2016**

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to reschedule the July 5, 2016 Meeting to July 12, 2016. The motion was seconded by Council Member Syfrett and passed unanimously.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

There was no City Manager's Report given.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Lohr So Moved and Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for:

- 1) A personnel matter.
- 2) A discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual matters - I-95 Business Loop Project, Phase 1B and Phase 2.

The meeting then convened into Executive Session.

At approximately 8:08 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session and a motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to appoint Viral Patel to the Accommodations Tax Board, Anika Martin to the Planning Commission and James Beach to the Building Board. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick, authorizing the City Manager to execute Scope Amendment #3 with Wood + Partners in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for engineering work to support modifications to the Ireland Creek Bridge as part of Phase 2 of the I-95 Business Loop Project. 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 Bonds, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 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: September 6, 2016**