

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2016

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, September 6, 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. Approximately 16 persons were present in the audience. Guest: Lawrence E. Flynn of Pope Flynn Group, Columbia, SC.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then announced that he was changing the time for the Mayor's Round Table held on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:15 p.m. to 4:15 P.M. He explained that since City Council changed its meeting to the 1st Tuesday of each month, there was a conflict with the FROGS Committee meeting. This Committee moved its meeting time to the third Tuesday, so I am moving the time back for the round table to accommodate this Committee. If someone needs to see me some other time, they can call and we will set that up.

The Mayor then invited everyone to stand and join Council in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation and Council Member Siegel led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments made on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon motion of Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick, the following minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

1. Minutes of the June 1, 2016 Public Informational Meeting - I-95 Business Loop Project.
2. Minutes of the June 7, 2016 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.
3. Minutes of the July 12, 2016 Work Session- Proposed Plans for the Discovery Center.
4. Minutes of the July 12, 2016 Rescheduled Regular Meeting.
5. Minutes of the August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting.
6. Minutes of the August 25, 2016 Special Called City Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2016-07, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2016-04, So As to Set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget, First Reading**

City Manager Molinari told Council that the City does not receive the total appraised value of property in the City until the summer from the County, and we need that number to calculate the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor. It's a very simple formula where we take our anticipated collections and divide it by the total appraised value of property inside the City of Walterboro. So, we are anticipating \$894,396 in Local Option Sales Tax collections divided by \$516,176,154.00, which comes out to be a Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor of .001733. This number will be sent along to

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the County and will be reflected on next year's tax bill. Mr. Molinari asked for Council's favorable consideration of the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2016-07, being: An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2016-04, So As to Set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

2. **Ordinance # 2016-08, An Ordinance to Amend Appendix A, Meetings of Council, Section 2.218, Order of Business, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walterboro, First Reading**

The Mayor stated that basically this ordinance is to clean up what we have in our rules to make them fit with what we are doing. City Manager Molinari pointed out that the most significant change to Council's meeting agenda is under the "Open Session," where City Council will take action on matters discussed in Executive Session. The Mayor added that any time Council has an Executive Session item, you will see that (on the agenda) in case we do have to take action after the Executive Session. That is being done to put everybody on notice that action might take place. I think I have always told everyone this during our meetings, but now this puts it in writing.

A motion was then made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Broderick, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2016-08, being An Ordinance to Amend Appendix A, Meetings of Council, Section 2.218, Order of Business, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walterboro. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.

3. **Ordinance # 2016-09, An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, and Other Matters Relating Thereto, (Amended and Restated Bond Ordinance), First Reading**

Next, City Manager Molinari introduced the City's Bond Attorney, Mr. Lawrence Flynn to brief Council on both of the bond Ordinances No. 2016-09 and No. 2016-10. Mr. Molinari explained that these ordinances pertain to the \$1.5 million that the City is going to be borrowing from the State Revolving Fund for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Attorney Lawrence Flynn reminded Council that his law firm, Pope Flynn, LLC, is the City's longtime bond counsel. He said that many of you know Margaret Pope for her many years of doing your bond work. He said, what you have in front of you is the new master bond ordinance. The previous version of this document, you had back in 1998. The market has shifted a fair amount in the last 18 years. We have seen a lot of things that have otherwise changed. This is for debt only secured by the revenues of your Utility System. As your Manager was saying before that money is pledged as security for bonds. The way we sell bonds in the municipal marketplace is that bonds unlike your mortgage on your house are sold under what we call "parity provisions." What parity basically means is that when you sell bonds, every time you sell bonds subsequent to that initial series, everyone is standing in the same position. You stand shoulder-to-shoulder from a collection standpoint. So, this master bond ordinance is the way we dictate the flow of funds in the event of a default, and also basically it tells the market and any other bond holder how we go about issuing additional series of bonds, because every time you issue a new bond, you are effectively diluting the security of the folks that already have that outstanding.

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Now, with respect to the Utility System, you only have debt on the books through the SRF. That's the reason we can actually adopt this master bond ordinance amendment tonight because the State Revolving Loan Fund has consented to its provisions, assuming that (Council) do an enactment tonight. Generally speaking, there are some provisions in there that we just generally streamline. There are things in the marketplace that just don't work any more with respect to redemption provisions - some of the call provisions and also some restrictions that were previously in the document about when you are required in a covenant to furnish your annual audit. It was 120 days, but now we are moving that to 180 days. That has a lot to do with the way the State provides information on old debt liabilities and other pension liabilities about how that information is reported. Generally speaking, it's to clear things up. It just specifically identifies the source of revenues that we are otherwise pledging and it basically lays out all of the requirements about how someone goes about being repaid. It is the waterfall flow of funds - anything that you'd otherwise want to know with respect to the security provisions associated with the City's Utility debt.

Mr. Flynn pointed out that the master bond document in front of you is a really a long document. Generally speaking, most folks just like to know that this is the master document. It governs all of their additional series of bonds as you move forward. It's been generally drafted, so that if the event occurred that you were to go and borrow money outside of the State Revolving Loan Fund, that you could borrow from local banks. You could go out into the public markets and get a rating for your bonds, as well at some point in the future, which may be something that is also considered in the future, because there are some restrictions on your debt service reserve fund. Currently, with the SRF, you are required to fund what's called a debt service reserve fund - one year's debt service is set aside in your restricted fund account held with your trustee that you can't touch for the entire period that the bonds are outstanding. The market has largely moved away from that because the SRF requires that you still have funding. If you had a rating in place of "A" or better in the marketplace, that requirement goes away. So, there are some things that we are hopefully preparing you for, as we look for future improvements to the Utility System. We know there are some other coming improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant that will likely need to take place in the coming years. So, this is certainly at a good jumping off point for doing this upcoming SRF loan and basically putting everyone on an even kneel as we move forward to do this job.

The Mayor then opened the floor for questions. Council Member Siegel asked, on the SRF funding, can you distinguish that transaction from the normal selling of revenue bonds?

Mr. Flynn responded, absolutely. So, I will say the next item you have in front of you is the Series Ordinance, just to work you through the process. Your Master Bond Ordinance is the document that controls all of your debt. Your Series Ordinance is the document that controls this specific series. So, it only applies to the SRF loan we are about to issue. When you go through the SRF - the SRF is a program administered by the South Carolina Water Quality Association. It's a program that's funded at the Federal level by the Federal Clean Water Act, which is for sewer improvements and the Federal Drinking Water Act. Both of them basically come into this program to administer it as a Revolving Loan Fund through a branch of DHEC called the Rural Infrastructure Fund. So, it is administered by a lady named Trish Comp.

The way that the fund is set up is that they only lend for a specific water and sewer utility project. So, this is a wastewater project that you are undertaking, so you are borrowing money from the Clean Water Revolving Fund. The money in that Clean

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Water Revolving Fund comes from two sources. 80% of it is Federal grant money that comes in and is meant to be distributed out as quickly as it otherwise can. The State also has to match 20% of any of the money that comes in. So, that's the way program is initially funded. Then, it's revolving because the money is obviously paid back with an underlying interest cost. So, just like a traditional commercial loan, you pay on the SRF loan that we are about to present, the interest rate is at 1.8%. Actually, it's below the market from an interest standpoint, but the way that the program is administered is a little bit different. We are not going out and soliciting all of the banks that would otherwise be available. We know there are certain restrictions about the way that the SRF is willing to lend you money. They require, like we mentioned before that you must fund your debt service reserve fund as a condition of their closing, and have a small loan administrative fee which basically pays for the staff of the SRF. But generally speaking from an operational standpoint, your documents treat them just like any other traditional bond holder. So, while it is a state run program at a low interest cost, it's also done on a taxable basis, so I am not required to deliver a tax-exempt bond opinion, because it is not required because the holder of the loan does not care whether or not its interest free or not.

In the traditional sense if you were to go out and borrow money from a bank (if you have BB&T, First Citizens or Bank of America in your community), if they were to lend you the money, because you are a governmental unit and it's for a governmental purpose, you could borrow that money at what we call a tax-free interest rate. This means that they don't have to pay federal income taxes on the interest income you pay back to the banks. So, as a result of that, ideally the interest rate that you will ultimately pay to them should be reduced, because they are removing the burden of the taxes that they pay. We don't have that same situation in an SRF, because they are not lending on a tax-exempt basis, but they are actually below the tax exempt rates. It's basically a federally supported revolving fund to prop up infrastructure.

Council Member Siegel then asked, so, this document, even though it's not a typical bond that's sold on the market, it has to do with priorities in the event of a default. So, everything comes under this one umbrella. Mr. Flynn responded, that's exactly right. So, like we said before, all bond holders will stand shoulder to shoulder and if there were to be a default, you take pro rata based on the formula for the aggregate principal amount that each bond holder has outstanding.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to approve the amended restated bond Ordinance for the Issuance and Sale of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Ordinance # 2016-09.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2016-09, being:

An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, and Other Matters Relating Thereto, (Amended and Restated Bond Ordinance).

Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

4. **Ordinance # 2016-10, A Series Ordinance, Approving the Financing of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Through the Borrowing of Not Exceeding One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), Plus Capitalized Interest, If Any, from the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, by Agreement with the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority, Pursuant to Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as Amended; Providing for the Agreement to Make and to Accept a Loan, the**

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Execution and Delivery of a Loan Agreement Between the City of Walterboro, South Carolina and the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority, the Execution and Delivery of a Promissory Note from the City of Walterboro, South Carolina to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; and Other Matters Relating Thereto, **First Reading**

City Manager Molinari stated that he believed that our bond counsel has already described this ordinance in great detail.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2016-10, being:

A Series Ordinance, Approving the Financing of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Through the Borrowing of Not Exceeding One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), Plus Capitalized Interest, If Any, from the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, by Agreement with the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority, Pursuant to Title 48, Chapter 5, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as Amended; Providing for the Agreement to Make and to Accept a Loan, the Execution and Delivery of a Loan Agreement Between the City of Walterboro, South Carolina and the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority, the Execution and Delivery of a Promissory Note from the City of Walterboro, South Carolina to the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, City Attorney Cone said he would like to inquire whether Exhibit "A" would be attached to the document before Second Reading. Mr. Flynn responded, it should be. The plan is right now, you have the format of the series ordinance with Exhibit "A" attached to it. That is actually the loan agreement that is reflected in the caption of the ordinance. That comes from the SRF staff. As soon as that comes through, we will make sure that it comes through attached to the final document.

Attorney Cone said, I believe it will be necessary to attach this exhibit before final approval of the ordinance. Mr. Flynn responded, that's correct.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

5. Proclamation # 2016-06, A Proclamation Designating September 2016 as "Brag a Little About Walterboro Month"

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to adopt Proclamation # 2016-06, designating September 2016 as "Brag a Little About Walterboro Month." Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Mayor Young then read the proclamation in its entirety into the record. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

Mayor Young welcomed our Tourism Director Michelle Strickland back. Ms. Strickland told the audience that signs for the "Brag A Little About Walterboro" campaign could be picked up at the following locations: The Colleton Museum & Farmers Market, The Flower Barn and OC Counter, Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Bachelor Hills Antiques, South Carolina Artisans Center, Westbury Ace Hardware, Palmetto Parcels, and the Walterboro Welcome Center.

6. Resolution No. 2016-R-08, A Resolution Committing the City of Walterboro to Provide a Local Match in the Amount of \$2,500.00 for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant

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City Manager Molinari explained to Council that a couple of months ago, the Municipal Association announced that they would be awarding grants in the amount of up to \$25,000.00 to municipalities in the state for economic development. The Association approved \$200,000.00 overall for the entire state. As part of the application process, they require that a resolution be passed by Council committing a match. In our case, it's 10% or \$2,500.00. The 10% match is based on our population. The grant applications are due at the end of this month. They will be evaluated in October and I believe by the end of October, they will have awarded the grants. I felt that the Discovery Center at the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary would be a good candidate for this grant. It is a unique project. We are seeing it as a catalyst for economic development. From my perspective, there are resources out there through the Municipal Association. It's certainly worth staff's time to put together the application. Mr. Molinari asked for Council's favorable consideration of the resolution.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve Resolution No. 2016-R-08, A Resolution Committing the City of Walterboro to Provide a Local Match in the Amount of \$2,500.00 for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

7. Request to Hang Banner for Life Insurance Awareness Month September 12-16, 2016

Mayor Young then entertained a motion to approve this request. A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to approve the request to hang a banner for Life Insurance Awareness Month. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Ms. Ericka Kizer explained that when her insurance group submitted their letter to Council for approval, they were not aware that SCE&G would not hang their banner (whereas, they have in the past). She said that SCE&G told us that we are not a community-based organization. We are here tonight to see if the City can help us with that or to find another spot to hang our banner. We spent a lot of money on the banner. We talked to Tommie Bennett in Summerville, and he said that he will not put it up. At this point, the Mayor responded, this is the first time that I have known (SCE&G) to decline to hang a banner. So, maybe we can give them a call and see what their thinking is on this. I don't know that the City has the capability of hanging a banner. We will get the City Manager to give SCE&G a call to see what their thinking is on this.

No further action was taken and the motion died.

8. Request to Hang Banner Announcing Brag a Little About Walterboro September 18-25, 2016, Michelle Strickland, Tourism Director

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve the request to hang a banner announcing "Brag a Little About Walterboro." Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds asked if the City would be looking at spending money now to hang a banner if SCE&G will not be doing this, or will we need to find out what their policy is? City Manager Molinari explained that in the past, City Council has just granted the permission to hang the banner, but as far as installation we had absolutely nothing to do with that. That was strictly between the applicant and SCE&G.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

9. Request to Place Ribbons on Street Posts on E. Washington Street (Downtown) September 7-30, 2016, in Recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

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Ms. Suzanne Butler was present on behalf of Ms. Kendra Crosby, who passed away due to ovarian cancer. Ms. Butler addressed Council and asked to place ribbons on the street posts on E. Washington Street and in the downtown area in recognition of September being Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Butler asked if she could place the teal ribbons from September 7-30, 2016.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to grant the request to hang the ribbons. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

10. Request to Close Street for Walterboro Police Department Walk Against Domestic Violence, October 3, 2016, Denise Pinckney, Victims Assistance Program Coordinator

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve the request to close the streets for the Walterboro Police Department Walk Against Domestic Violence on October 3, 2016. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked for further clarification on closing the streets.

Denise Pinckney, Victims Assistance Program Coordinator, explained that the walk will start in front of City Hall on Hampton Street to Lucas Street, to Carn Street to Walter Street and ending back on Hampton Street at City Hall. Ms. Pinckney added to her request to place purple ribbons downtown on the light posts as well for the month of October, since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Council Member Broderick amended his motion to allow for purple ribbons to be placed on the light posts downtown during the month of October. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

11. Consideration of Veterans Day Parade Permit Request, November 13, 2016 - Veterans Council

Next, Council reviewed a parade permit request from Mr. Bob Tiegs to close the streets for the Annual Colleton County Veterans Day Parade on November 13, 2016. A motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick to approve this request as submitted. The motion passed with all members voting in favor. Mr. Johnny Holmes, on behalf of the Veterans Council, thanked Council for its approval of the request and said, we are looking forward to your support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Status of CDBG Closeout Hearing Held on August 23, 2016

City Manager Molinari stated that Ms. Kimberly Mullinax with the Lowcountry Council of Governments conducted a closeout public hearing for the City of Walterboro's Hampton Street Water Upgrade Project on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mr. Molinari said, as you recall the City was awarded \$750,000.00 in CDBG funds in June, 2014 to make improvements to the waterlines serving part of Hampton Street and several side streets in Walterboro. The project was designed to increase water pressure and fire protection in the area by increasing the size of the waterlines and adding additional fire hydrants. It serves 502 residents, of which approximately 86% are considered low-to-moderate income. The City originally allocated \$113,500.00 for this project. By project completion, approximately \$197,000.00 was spent in multiple funds. The majority of this was paid for through the Capital Projects Sales Tax. In fact, the City's original commitment was \$113,000.00, but instead ended up spending only \$77,000.00 out of pocket.

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Mr. Molinari pointed out that the City will own, operate and maintain the waterlines. The project was monitored by the Department of Commerce. All required documentation has been submitted and accepted. The final closeout of this project is pending preparation for required closeout documents. He said, this is important, because once we close out this project, this will mean that the City will have only two active CDBG projects, which will free us up to apply for additional grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Bridge made a motion to enter Executive Session. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for a personnel matter - appointment of the City Attorney and City Prosecutor.

The meeting then convened into Executive Session.

At approximately 7:18 P.M., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION:

The meeting returned to Open Session and a motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to re-appoint Maryann Seals as City Prosecutor. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed with a vote of 5/0 with Mayor Young and Council Members Syfrett, Lohr, Broderick and Bridge voting in favor. Council Members Bonds and Siegel recused themselves from voting due to the fact that they may practice law in the municipal court from time to time.

A second motion was made by Council Member Bridge to re-appoint George Cone as City Attorney. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:19 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media, 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: October 4, 2016