

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 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 17 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 Siegel led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Former Mayor Charlie Sweat addressed Council regarding Budget Ordinances # 2015-03 and # 2015-04. He asked Council at this time to explain to the public why they are raising the water and sewer rates 5%. He said, you also need to go back and tell them (the citizens) why 5 or 6 years ago, for a 3-year period you increased the water and sewer rates so that Walterboro would no longer have the lowest water and sewer rates in South Carolina.

Mayor Young thanked Mr. Sweat for his comments and noted that Council will address that matter further down on the agenda.

Ms. Paula Todd, a citizen, raised a question on Ordinance # 2015-05, An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Walterboro to Grant an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company Over property on or Near Robertson Boulevard, First Reading. She said, I would like it if you have someone here from SCE&G to explain that to me - exactly what this is. I live on Durham Street, which is right off Robertson and North Lemacks Street. I think I have an idea, but when I saw the actual pictures and drawings, it looked like an awful lot of poles, and I was just wondering how that would affect the look of the area. It looks like a lot of different poles and different things. If someone could just give me a better idea of what that is.

Mayor Young then stated, if there is no objection from Council, if we could just wait until we get to that point on the agenda. Mr. Todd Litchfield is here and I think he has some diagrams and things, and he can show you exactly what we are doing and where they (the polls) are going. Then, if you have more questions, then I will allow you to ask them at that time, if Council has no objections. There were no objections from Council.

No further comments or questions were raised under Input on Agenda Items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments and questions on Ordinance # 2015-02, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Article VII, Wrecker Rotation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walterboro.

The Mayor then asked Chief Marvin to give the public a short briefing on this ordinance. Chief Marvin told Council that use of private wrecker companies occurs almost daily by the Walterboro Police Department. The policy needed to be updated to establish revised guidelines to becoming eligible to operate in the City of Walterboro. It had not been updated for several years, around 2006. We have added requirements for the owners of larger vehicles and vehicles that require a commercial driver's license

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to operate. This was not covered in the original policy. In fairness to the wrecker companies, we have updated the prices that they can charge for their services, and in some cases doubled the amount they can charge. The requirements and prices of the new policy have been updated to reflect what other law enforcement agencies in the area and state have been doing. This gives an across-the-board idea of fairness. The revision of this policy will allow the Walterboro Police Department to conduct their business with the public in a more professional manner.

The Mayor then opened the floor to receive comments or questions from the public on Ordinance # 2015-02. No further comments or questions were received and the public hearing was closed.

There was no Minutes before Council for approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance # 2015-02, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Article VII, Wrecker Rotation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walterboro, Second Reading

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2015-02, being An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Article VII, Wrecker Rotation, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Walterboro. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance # 2015-03, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Matters Relating Thereto, **First Reading**
2. Ordinance # 2015-04, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Matters Relating Thereto, **First Reading**

The Mayor announced that the two agenda items (above) would be considered together by Council. He then called on Mayor Pro-Tem, Tom Lohr, for a brief highlight on the budget.

Council Member Lohr stated that the City Budget is about \$10,896,586. The General Fund Budget is \$7,378,848. The difference there would be the Enterprise Budget.

Council Member Lohr then stated as he goes through the highlights, he will not identify which budget it belongs to, but I will just identify what it is and what's going on there.

- 1) There will be no property tax increases and no business license increase.
- 2) In response to Mr. Sweat's question, we are proposing a 5% water increase and a 5% sewer rate increase. Basically, we are still, I think, in the bottom level of where we rank with other municipalities.
- 3) We will be having more and probably more stringent long term and short term needs in terms of waste disposal. I am sure Wayne could give you more information. We are going to be in very close contact with DHEC whether we like it or not, but we are going through the same thing as other municipalities are going through. Nobody is going to get a free ride on this. So, my simple comment would be it has to do with waste

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disposal. I think what we are doing now is all right, but how we are doing things today is not going to work down the road that far. That's the reason why I said short-term as well as long term. We can wait and wait and wait and then so, okay now we are going to do it. The cost of everything will be going up in the meantime. Obviously, this will increase the cost for the people who have water and sewer bills. We are very much aware of that.

- 4) There will be a 3.4% increase in health insurance premiums for all the employees in the City.
- 5) The South Carolina Retirement System increases will be effective July 1, 2015. It's not much of an increase, but it is still an increase. This will be from the State, and of course, we have a certain portion that we have to also increase for the City.
- 6) The Police Officers Retirement System has some increases effective July 1, 2015. Again, it's not a lot of increase, but if some increases and any increase is multiplied by the number of employees, this will send a few more bucks up.
- 7) There is no change in the Mayor and City Council Budget, the City Manager's Budget, the Planning and Codes Department, Judicial, Sanitation, Utilities Support and Sewer Support. Under the Sewer budget there is an increase on increased sludge and disposal cost. It will not be the same this year as it probably will be next year. So, we just can't afford to sit and not be ready for that.
- 8) The Water Department will have one new technician to help with some water issues.
- 9) Under the Parks Department, there will be a purchase of one F-250 truck.
- 10) The Fire Department will ask for and hopefully get 3 new firefighters. This will help give better coverage for all shifts.
- 11) The Police Department will ask for 3 new vehicles.
- 12) We will be purchasing a front loader with a tink bucket and we will be painting the annex building.

Mr. Lohr then asked that Council give First Reading approval to the budget ordinances. You will have a chance at a next meeting, if you want to come and express some concerns you have about the budget. He announced that Jimmy Syfrett and James Broderick were members of the Budget Committee, Council Members Bonds and Siegel also attended the meetings and the City Manager gave Council Member Bridge a tutorial on the budget. So, we all have some input, but it is basically the Budget Committee's job. So, tonight, we are requesting a first reading of the budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Siegel, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2015-03, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Matters Relating Thereto. The motion passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2015-04, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and Matters Relating Thereto. The motion passed with all members voting. At this point, the Mayor said that the simplest way to understand the difference between the two budgets is that the Enterprise Budget relates to items that generate revenue. Water and sewer would be in the Enterprise Budget.

3. Ordinance # 2015-04, An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Walterboro to Grant an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company Over Property on or Near Robertson Boulevard, **First Reading**

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City Manager Molinari, with the use of overhead screen and map, pointed out the location of the easement and placement of 3 utility poles on City owned property. He explained that these 3 utility poles will be used to service a new industry which will be located on Airport Commission property along Robertson Boulevard. Mr. Molinari pointed out that Mr. Todd Litchfield was present tonight if anyone had any technical questions about the utility poles.

Ms. Paula Todd then asked about the cluster of items on the map. She asked if they were poles or what. Mr. Litchfield responded, those are our transformers. Mayor Young stated, those are existing things, that's not anything new that we are addressing. Mr. Litchfield then stated, the only things new are the circles with the "x" on them. Council Member Bonds, then said, I looked at this and I saw all that, and I said oh, my gosh. So, the only things new we are talking about are those poles which are located right where our maintenance shed is? Mr. Molinari then pointed out the location of the poles. Mr. Bonds, then asked, so everything else that is existing will not change in any way? Mr. Molinari responded, that is correct. Mayor Young added, and some on Robertson Blvd. Mr. Molinari then said, as Mr. Litchfield has indicated, the circles with the "x" indicate new service. The Mayor then added, and this is to service a potential development at the airport.

Council Member Bridge then raised a concern on the placement of the poles. She stated, the location of those is so near the runway, is there a problem with this by the airport? Mr. Litchfield responded, we have talked with Tommy Rowe and based on the height, he has already indicated verbally that the height would be okay. The height will be about 40 ft. from ground level. Ms. Bridge then asked how far are the poles located from the industry's proposed location and how is that helping the industry?

In answering Ms. Bridge's question, City Manager Molinari asked if he could advance the overhead screen to the next map. This will probably give you a better idea. He pointed out the location of the industry on airport property. Mr. Litchfield said, right now in that area, we have single phase service. What we will be doing is upgrading the line down Lemacks Street. We will be upgrading it to a 3-phase line. We will be putting in larger wires and replacing a good many of the poles in the area. They will all be new poles coming back down Robertson Blvd. It will give us a chance to make that a feeder line. It does two things for us. One, it would serve any additional customers coming to the airport. They are going to need 3 phase power. The other thing, it will give us a chance to make it a feeder line through there, because with an industrial customer, you don't want him on a regular feed, because he will not be happy with a 6-hour outage or an 8-hour outage. Making it a feeder line, we can tie it together and open and close switches and minimize his outage down to 30 minutes to an hour or less. Upon further questioning, Mr. Litchfield pointed out that the 3 phase line had already been placed up at the intersection of Colleton Loop. So, we are just going to upgrade that line from a single phase to 3 phase.

Council Member Broderick then asked if the 40-foot pole was the standard size pole that goes down the side of the road? Mr. Todd responded, any time you do a 3-phase line, we try to set 45 foot poles. That way, if we put any equipment on it, it wouldn't be overcrowded. If we do put equipment on it, like from Comcast or the telephone company, then we will have enough room for them. Mr. Broderick then asked, so the 3 phase size is similar to what going down the side of the roads right now? Mr. Litchfield responded affirmatively. Mr. Broderick then said, so it's not anything out of the ordinary. Mr. Litchfield responded no, it's just like down Jefferies Blvd.

Ms. Paula Todd then stated that Mr. Litchfield had told her previously that some of the old transformers would be replaced. She asked him to explain this. Mr.

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Litchfield explained that the transformers are about the same size as they were twenty years ago. He explained that when we come to those that have some abuse or wear on them, we will replace them. The ones that are PCB unknown, we will replace those also.

Council Member Siegel then said, I think Jeff mentioned there are only 4 poles being replaced, and he is only talking about those in our easement area. Apparently, there are some other poles that show "x's" on them, but those are outside of the easement.

Mr. Litchfield then pointed out the area that is owned by the City containing the easement. He also identified other areas owned by the Airport Commission and the City that will also be identified in Ordinance # 2015-06.

A motion giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2015-05 as submitted was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Syfrett, and passed unanimously.

4. Ordinance # 2015-06, An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Walterboro to Join with the Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission and the County of Colleton in Granting an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company Over Property on or Near Robertson Boulevard, First Reading.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2015-06 as submitted. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

5. Request for Approval of Purchase of Materials for North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project, Phase III, in the Amount of \$33,357.33

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this agenda item. He stated, as you are aware, phase III of the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project is getting ready to begin. Mission Serve will be in town the week of June 15-19th. In accordance with their presence, they are going to be doing rehab work on 10 different homes in that area. In your packets, you have supporting documentation from Michelle Knight and the Lowcountry Council of Governments for the purchase of roofing materials, other materials and dumpsters and portalets for the construction sites. This is for a grand total of \$33,357.33. Mr. Molinari stated that this entire cost will be covered by the Community Development Block Grant. Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

A motion was made by Council Member Lohr to approve the purchase of materials for the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project, Phase III, as submitted. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Siegel then asked Mr. Molinari, does that mean that the grant is going to pay us back, are we advancing this money, or is it part of the grant money that we are actually appropriating? City Manager Molinari responded, there is a component of it that the City will be advancing. The other will go through the regular procurement procedures through CDBG, which basically we submit the invoice to the Department of Commerce and they cut us a check and then we write a check to the vendor. Because all these 3 elements were combined as far as being one project, it was above and beyond the \$25,000 that I, as City Manager, am authorized to approve. So, that's why it is before you.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

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6. Request to Use Pinckney Park for Back Yard Bible Club from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. the week of June 15-19, 2015

City Manager Molinari explained that the City received a request from the Youth Minister at First Baptist Church, in conjunction with "Mission Serve" being here the week of June 15-19, they have asked permission to use Pinckney Park each day from 10:00 to 12:00 noon to conduct their Backyard Bible Club.

The motion to approve the request from the Youth Minister at First Baptist Church to use Pinckney Park June 15-19, 2015 for the Back Yard Bible Club, as submitted was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. The Mayor then asked if a sign would be posted at the park to let others know that the park will be in use. The City Manager responded, we certainly can do that, but typically, it doesn't apply to all citizens, we have an application that people wanting to use the park must fill out. Sometimes that doesn't happen. I can certainly coordinate that with Adam.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Bridge So Moved and Council Member Syfrett 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 discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements - I-95 Business Loop Streetscape Corridor.
- 2) Receipt of Legal Advice.

At approximately 7:39 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. None opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to authorize the City Manager to execute the General Agreement for Engineering Services with AECOM for Phases 1C and 1D of the I-95 Business Loop in an amount not to exceed \$136,850. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Bonds and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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: July 14, 2015