

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr and Judy Bridge. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Betty Hudson, and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Twelve (12) persons were present in the audience. Council Member James Broderick was absent.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order. He then said, this is the first meeting we have had since the tragic incidents in Charleston last week, so when we stand for the invocation and pledge of allegiance, I am asking that you join me in a moment of silence for those (9 persons) who were killed at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston last week. Then, we will have the invocation.

Everyone then stood for a moment of silence to honor those who were killed at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church last week (June 17, 2015). The invocation was given by Council Member Syfrett and Council Member Bridge led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

The Mayor then announced that Council Member Broderick would not be attending the meeting tonight, because he is with one of his students attending a national competition in Kentucky.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No comments or questions were received on agenda items.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution No. 2015-R-06, a Resolution to Formally Recognize and Offer Commendation to Bill Floyd, Finance Director.

A motion approving Resolution No. 2015-R-06 as submitted was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

The Mayor then asked Finance Director Bill Floyd, who is retiring after 6 years of service, to come to the podium. Mayor Young then read the proclamation in its entirety into the record. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Work Session for the Budget Committee were approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Syfrett, with all members voting in favor. Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

The Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Bonds and passed unanimously. Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

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There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

Next, City Manager Molinari advised Council that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee met on June 18th and approved the following requests for A-tax funding and to recommend those funding requests to Council:

<u>Request for 30% Designated Marketing Org</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Walterboro Tourism Commission	\$53,000	\$53,000
<u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Tuskegee Airmen-memorial brochure	\$ 1,029	\$ 1,029
Colleton Museum & Farmer's Market- Lowcountry Fiber Fair	\$ 1,063	\$ 1,063
Walterboro Tourism-signage for Sanctuary	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Colleton County Rice Festival	\$20,000	\$15,500
Downtown Walterboro Criterium	\$21,000	\$17,000
City of Walterboro-billboard program	\$21,000	\$21,000
Walterboro Tourism Comm-Walterboro Rocks	\$46,000	\$42,000

Mr. Molinari stated that should these requests be approved by Council, the projected remaining balance in A-tax funds would be approximately \$40,921. These remaining funds will be up for consideration for the next scheduled meeting in October.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett, seconded by Council Member Bridge, to approve the funding recommendations of the A-Tax Advisory Board as submitted. The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

2. Council Internal/External Committee Appointments - Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Young then announced that he will make the following appointments of City Council Members to the following boards and committees. He said, I tried to put people where I think they would do the most good for the City and also to share the work. He then made the following appointments:

- Airport and Finance - Jimmy Syfrett
- Airport Commission - Franklin Smalls and Bill Young
- Budget Committee - Tom Lohr-Chairman, James Broderick and Judy Bridge
- Fireman Insurance Fund Board of Trustees - Jimmy Syfrett
- LCOG - Bobby Bonds
- Joint Railroad Right-of-Way Committee - Tom Lohr and Paul Siegel
- Economic Development Commission - Judy Bridge
- City Appearance Board - James Broderick
- North Lemacks St. Revitalization - Paul Siegel
- Tourism Commission - Bill Young

The Mayor also announced that Council Member Lohr will continue to be Mayor Pro-Tem until after the next election.

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3. Recommendation to Purchase Three (3) Vehicles for Police Department

City Manager Molinari noted that he had submitted a recommendation in Council's agenda packet for the purchase of three (3) new police vehicles. As part of the 2015-2016 budget, the City allocated \$125,400 for the purchase of three new police vehicles. Mr. Molinari then recognized Chief Marvin to brief Council on this item.

Police Chief Marvin told Council that the 2015-2016 budget appropriated funds for two marked patrol cars and one investigative car. The Police Department received bids from three vendors as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
State Contract	2015 Chevrolet Caprice	\$126,935.34
Rizer Chevrolet (Walterboro, SC)	2015 Chevrolet Caprice	\$128,594.03
Butler Dodge (Beaufort, SC)	2015 Dodge Charger	\$115,985.34
Walterboro Ford (Walterboro, SC)	2015 Ford Taurus	Vehicle Unavailable

Per the City's ordinance, Chief Marvin recommended that the City accept the lowest bid from Butler Dodge for three (3) Dodge Chargers in the amount of \$115,985.34.

A motion to accept the bid of Butler Dodge for three (3) Dodge Chargers in the amount of \$115,985.34 as recommended by staff was made by Council Member Lohr and seconded by Council Member Bridge. The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

4. Consideration of Bids Received for Construction Contract for I-95 Business Loop Project, Phases 1C and 1D

City Manager Molinari stated that the City has been working on the I-95 Business Loop Project for some time. To that end, the City received a \$500,000 CDBG grant to improve the section of South Jefferies Highway from Elizabeth Street to Perry Road. This section is roughly .4 of a mile. On June 15, the City received three bids for the project:

Palmetto Site Prep LLC	\$1,443,607.10
Greenwall Construction Company	\$2,133,066.74
Anson Construction Co.	\$2,136,498.00

Mr. Molinari recommended the acceptance of the low bidder, Palmetto Site Prep LLC from Orangeburg, SC in the amount of \$1,443,607.10. He pointed out that a letter had been received from Mr. Charlie Johnson of Wood + Partners stating that the bid from Palmetto Site Prep was in proper order and recommended that the City accept the bid as submitted.

Mr. Molinari asked Council to keep in mind that pursuant to CDBG requirements, execution of a contract with Palmetto Site Prep will be contingent upon the Department of Commerce approving the contract.

A motion to accept the low bid of Palmetto Site Prep in the amount of \$1,443,607.10 for a construction contract for the I-95 Business Loop Project, Phases 1C and 1D, as recommended by staff was made by Council Member Syfrett. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lohr. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds asked if the City has dealt with Palmetto Site Prep before? Do we know anything about them, he asked? City Manager Molinari responded, to the best of my

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knowledge, I don't believe that the City has done any work with them. Public Works Director Charlie Chewing added, not under that name. They were a sub-contractor and did all of the sidewalk work on Henderson Street, Black Street, Gerideau Street and others. They finished that work about two years ago. They seem to be good contractors. When asked if the City was pleased with their work, Mr. Chewing responded 'yes'. Council Member Siegel then stated, I just question how there could be such a \$600,000 variance in those two bids. I am concerned that something that looks too good to be true, some times is too good to be true.

City Manager Molinari then brought attention to the two bids from Greenwall Construction Co. (2,133,066.74) and Anson Construction Co. (\$2,136,498.00). He said, I think both of those companies have a lot going on right now and I don't think that those bids are necessarily reflective of what the job is worth. But based on the engineer's estimate that we received from Wood + Partners that is significantly lower than what those two contractors have bid, so the \$1.4 bid is a more realistic assessment of what the job is worth.

The motion to award the contract for the I-95 Business Loop Project to Palmetto Site Prep then passed unanimously with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Broderick was absent and did not bid.

5. Consideration of Bids Received for the Hampton Street Waterline Project

City Manager Molinari reminded Council that the City had received a \$750,000 CDBG Grant last year to upgrade waterlines around Hampton Street. This project will increase water pressure and enhance fire protection in the areas of Edgewood Avenue, Third Street, Francis Street, Peurifoy and Hickory Street. The City received a good response, and we had bids from six (6) different contractors. Alternate bids were also received from the contractors to extend an 8" waterline from Robertson Boulevard to Francis Street. The bids received were as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Alternate Bid</u>	<u>Total</u>
BES Construction (Walterboro, SC)	\$509,466.96	\$62,877.00	\$572,343.96
Potters Construction (Guyton, GA)	\$772,720.00	\$90,145.00	\$862,865.00
L-J, Inc. (Columbia, SC)	\$973,518.50	\$88,824.00	\$1,062,342.50
MJL (Moncks Corner, SC)	\$937,828.30	\$139,640.20	\$1,077,468.50
Eadie's Construction(Ridgeville, SC)	\$993,111.90	\$98,001.00	\$1,091,112.90
Anson Construction (Ravenel, SC)	\$988,272.00	\$125,930.00	\$1,114,202.00

Mr. Molinari stated that staff is recommending acceptance of the bid from Potters Construction (Guyton, GA) in the total amount of \$862,865.00. This includes an alternate bid that will extend a section of water line from Robertson Boulevard to Francis Street. He also stated the City's match of \$112,865 will come from the Water Consumer Deposit account. Again, pursuant to CDBG requirements, execution of the contract with Potters Construction is contingent upon the South Carolina Department of Commerce approving the contact.

The City Manager then stated, if you have any technical questions about the project, our Utilities Director Wayne Crosby is here and he will be able to answer any questions. City staff is requesting City Council's favorable consideration of this contract.

A motion to accept the Potters Construction bid in the amount of \$862,865.00 for the Hampton Street Waterline Project was made by Council Member Lohr and seconded by Council Member Bridge. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked for the date this project would begin after the approval of the contract. City Manager Molinari said that his understanding is once we get the approval from the Department of Commerce, we can issue the Notice of Award and the Notice to Proceed. Utilities Director Wayne Crosby then responded, "within 30 days after the Notice of

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Award is given." The motion then passed with all Council Members voting in favor, except Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

There was no City Manager's Report given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Lohr So Moved and Council Member Bonds seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for receipt of legal advice on Project "C" and for a discussion of potential purchase of property.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

At approximately 7:29 P.M., a motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Syfrett, to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council Member Broderick was absent and did not vote.

The meeting returned to Open Session and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously. Councilman Broderick was absent and did not vote. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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