

## **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, July 28, 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 12 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 Bonds led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

The Mayor announced that we are glad to have Brad Samuels with us here tonight from SCANA.

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

There were no public comments or questions on agenda items.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the July 14, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick with all members voting in favor.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business before Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request to Close East Washington Street from Walter Street to Lucas Street from 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 1, 2015 for Filming of Fireball Run

Tourism Director Michelle Strickland briefed Council on this agenda item. She stated that the Fireball Run is the story of 40 driving teams as they compete in a legendary 8-day, 2,000 mile trivia pursuit game to benefit America's Missing Children.

To compete, driving teams are presented clues which when solved, lead to a point of interest or location. While at the location, they must complete a challenge or task in order to achieve points needed to win. The series heavily incorporates destinations whereby integrating area history, corporate culture, museums, sites, monuments, people, and places. Clue narratives (text) are based on the subject matter of the challenge task or location, i.e., city history, products, etc.

The Fireball Run travels down the East Coast making stops along the way. It is published annually in the form of an international web series with 1.7 million viewers worldwide. This series wants to come to Walterboro on October 1.

Ms. Strickland told Council that she was first introduced to the concept by Peach Morrison with the Resort Islands Tourism Commission, who would like to partner with us on the project. Ms. Morrison has hosted this series in the past. The producers originally approached her with the idea of going to Beaufort, but she suggested Walterboro because of its proximity to I-95. Ms. Strickland stated that this would give

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Walterboro some great exposure. The producers met with her, Peach Morrison and Mayor Young on June 7 to discuss their ideas. She said, if approved, this would be a cooperative effort between the City of Walterboro and Lowcountry Resort Islands Tourism Commission. While the show is in Walterboro, it will visit the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market for its "point of interest task." Each of the 40 teams will be visiting the museum. We will then direct all of them down East Washington Street and create a big "Welcome Pep Rally." All along the crew will be filming Walterboro and the segments are specifically scripted to promote destination tourism integrating history, culture and "Slices of Americana," as the producer would say.

Ms. Strickland then made the following requests with regard to the Fireball Run:

1. That the City use A-tax funds, with the help of the Lowcountry Tourism Commission, to sponsor a lunch for 140 cast and crew. We would essentially split the cost. Tentatively the luncheon will be held at the Downtown Waterfall area.
2. That a proclamation proclaiming October 1 as America's Missing Children Awareness Day be provided.
3. That police assistance is made available to move 40 cars from the museum to East Washington Street via Hampton Street and Jefferies Boulevard.
4. That East Washington Street is closed from approximately 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve the request by Ms. Strickland as submitted. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Broderick asked what is the total cost for this event. It was noted that the total cost is about \$3,000. Mayor Young stated that the City would share in this cost with the Tourism Commission. The Mayor noted that this would bring a lot of people into town on that day. On a question by Council Member Broderick if the crew members would be staying overnight in Walterboro, Ms. Strickland responded that they would not be spending the night.

Council Member Bridge asked if there were many local people involved. Ms. Strickland responded that local people are very involved. She said I am thinking about having something like a pep rally involving the band.

The motion to approve this request for the Fireball Run then passed with all members voting in favor.

2. Acceptance of Resignation of Dr. Martha McKevelin from the Tree Protection Committee

A motion to accept the resignation of Dr. Martha McKevelin from the Tree Protection Committee with regret was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

There was no City Manager's Report given.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

- 1) Receipt of Legal Advice related to the settlement of a legal claim.
- 2) Potential Purchase of Property.
- 3) Personnel Matter on the Public Works Director Search Update.

The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

At approximately 7:09 P.M., a motion was made by Council Member Bridge to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. 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 Lohr, seconded by Council Member Siegel and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 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: August 11, 2015**