

## **MINUTES**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 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. Thirty-eight (38) persons were present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said, we have some special guests with us and also glad to have Solicitor Duffy Stone with us. Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation and Council Member Broderick led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

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

There were no comments or questions on agenda items.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised to receive public comments on Ordinance # 2014-02, to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, So As to Clarify and Strengthen Portions of the Ordinance. The Mayor then recognized Mr. David Dodd, Planning Director, to give an overview on this public hearing item.

Mr. Dodd stated that the Planning Commission has recommended some changes to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to correct errors, improve clarity and enhance business friendliness. These changes are:

1. Add "correctional facility" to be used as a Special Exception in the General Commercial District on parcels that are a minimum of 2 ½ acres. (This will allow the Colleton County Jail to replace a dilapidated section of the older part of their building).
2. Section 3.4.4 – Delete item B which limits automotive service locations from having certain driveway distances from each other or intersections would be removed to give them the same driveway restrictions as imposed by SCDOT as all other businesses.
3. Add the condition of "permanent" to signs that require a certificate of zoning compliance with the associated fee of \$50 zoning compliance fee. In that way, temporary signs would no longer be charged this \$50.00 fee.
4. To allow the free standing signs in the General Commercial District maximum size to change from 16 sq. feet to 48 sq. feet. This will allow most of the General Commercial signs currently existing to become compliant, rather than being non-conforming, and will allow new businesses that come in to have a sign that's larger than what the ordinance currently would restrict it to.
5. Change the heavy vehicle special exceptions approval to include a one year limit, so that it would have to be revisited on an annual basis if they want to continue to keep another year after it's approved. To make some other grammatical corrections. To allow the sign faces on non-conforming signs sizes to allow to be maintained or replaced if they are damaged, as long as they do not change the cabinet size, to keep the messages current and the signs in good working order.
6. Section 10.4.1B – Planning Commission membership is being corrected to "four" year term to be consistent with the Walterboro Municipal Code.
7. To require the "grandfathered" electronic message display signs to come into compliance within 180 days after this change is adopted. So the appearance of

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motion will not be allowed on electronic message display signs on the ones that are already in existence at the time the original UDO was adopted in 2012. It has given them the advantage to have an appearance of motion, when new LED signs are not allowed to, and so we will give all businesses the same even chance to advertise.

The Mayor then opened the floor to receive any public comments or questions. Ms. Marsha Johnson raised concern on the change being made to Section 10.4.1B, Membership Planning Commission, of the UDO. She expressed concern that all the members shall continue to serve on the committee "until" their successors are appointed by City Council. Mr. Dodd noted that the only change being made to this section is to change the current term from "three" years to "four" years.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the April 22, 2014 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon the motion of Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Bridge, with all members voting in favor.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Proclamation No. 2014-05, to Recognize Police Week in the City of Walterboro, May 11-17, 2014.** A motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Siegel to adopt Proclamation No. 2014-05 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then read the proclamation in its entirety into the records. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.
2. **Proclamation No. 2014-06, to Recognize the Colleton County High School Band of Blue Varsity Winter Guard.** A motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Bridge to adopt Proclamation No. 2014-06 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of the proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

Mayor Young then called to the podium to recognize the students present from the Colleton County High School Varsity Winter Guard, along with CCHS Band Director Tom Finigan, and CCMS instructor Stacy Miller and his assistants Jeff Cobbs and William Thomas. The Mayor announced that the members of the Varsity Winter Guard won the 2014 Class SAA CWEA Regional Championship and competed with other schools from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The Mayor read the proclamation in its entirety into the records and presented a copy to Mr. Tom Finigan. Before leaving, Mr. Tom Finigan asked all the parents of the students to also stand for recognition.

3. **Resolution No. 2014-R-04,** A Resolution Recognizing and Commending Thomas Finigan, Jr. upon the occasion of receiving the U.S. Army All-American Band Status for 2014, was approved on the motion of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed with all members voting in favor. Mr. Thomas Finigan, Jr. (son of Tom and Lori Finigan) a senior at Colleton County High School, was one of two students selected from South Carolina and one of 16 trumpet players to make the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band 2014. He was honored for his exceptional accomplishment, musicianship, leadership and shining example he sets for his fellow band members and classmates. The Mayor read the resolution in its entirety into the records and presented a copy to Mr. Finigan, Jr. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

1 . **Ordinance # 2014-02**, An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, So As to Clarify and Strengthen Portions of the Ordinance, **Second Reading**.

The Mayor announced that this is the ordinance that we discussed during the public hearing earlier. A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to adopt Ordinance # 2014-02, with the following changes - under Section 3.9.6 A, it should read, "The minimum lot size shall be 2 ½ acres, with a maximum lot size not to exceed 3 acres" and under Section 10.4.1 Membership, it should read, "All members shall be appointed to four year staggered terms by City Council, and shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed". Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no New Business before Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

No Committee reports were given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

No report was presented.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. A motion to enter an Executive Session was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, for receipt of legal advice and for a discussion of boards and commissions appointments.

The meeting then entered into Executive Session.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:20 P.M. upon motion of Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed with all in favor.

A motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick to appoint Tony Hamilton to the Economic Development Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media and posted on the City Hall bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson  
City Clerk

**APPROVED: May 27, 2014**