

MINUTES - Corrected

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, October 28, 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, along with Attorney Matthew Gates, were also present. Attorney Gates is a new attorney with the McLeod, Fraser and Cone Law Firm. There were approximately 14 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 Broderick led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments or questions on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the October 14, 2014 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted upon 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. Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

The City Finance Office Manager, Ms. Amy Risher, reported to Council that the A-Tax Board met on October 16, 2014 and approved the following funding requests:

<u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Historical & Preservation Society's Annual Champagne Brunch & Croquet Tournament	\$ 1,750	\$ 500
Colleton County Rice Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000
Colleton Center-SCBA BBQ Cook Off	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
SC Artisans Center-Antiques, History & Arts Festival	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,000
SC Artisans Center-marketing & promotions	<u>\$11,000</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>
Total	\$33,250	\$28,000

Ms. Risher told Council that should the requests be approved, the projected remaining balance available for 2014-2015 grants is approximately \$31,620. She also announced that the board will hold a meeting in February 2015 and anticipates additional funding requests at that time.

A motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Bonds, to accept the recommendations for funding by the A-Tax Board as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

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2. Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase Three (3) Vehicles for the Police Department

City Manager Molinari informed Council that in the 2014-2015 budget, City Council allocated \$132,600 for the purchase of new police vehicles. He then stated that he has asked Police Chief Wade Marvin to give Council an overview of the vehicle request.

Police Chief Wade Marvin then addressed Council. He told Council that three bids were received for the purchase of the three police vehicles as follows:

Rizer Chevrolet - 2015 Chevrolet Caprice police package	No bid
Walterboro Ford - 2015 Ford Interceptor police package	\$112,877.93
Butler Dodge - 2014 Dodge Charger police package	\$108,558.93

Chief Marvin pointed out that Butler Dodge holds the State Contract for the police package on the Dodge Charger. Chief Marvin also explained that this month (October) is the cut-off date for state purchase. Every car would have to be resubmitted through the state when the cut-off date comes. So, if you don't get your bids in by October 31, then by Nov 1 the price rises, and this usually averages between \$700 to \$800 per car. He stated that Butler Dodge has the vehicles on their lot already, because they provide Dodges for the whole entire state. Colleton County just purchased some vehicles from them. Mr. Marvin also explained that Butler told him they would discount the state purchase price as well, and knock off an additional \$800 from the price of each car because they have them in stock and they know that 2015 is coming up. The difference between the 2014 and 2015 cars is really nothing. You might have an automatic up or down window. At the very minimum, the vehicle itself is not going to change from a 2014 to 2015 for the Interceptor or for the Dodge.

Chief Marvin told Council that the Butler Dodge's vehicle was cheaper every way he looked at it, whether it included the 3 percent local preference or not. The fact that the Butler Dodge gave us the state purchase price and an additional discount, moves them ahead of the other bidders. He reported that he had talked with several other police agencies - The City of Charleston goes with the V-6 model. He also stated that Dodge Chargers are a little roomier and the police officers love them. They handle well. It has a 0-36,000 miles warranty. After that, I spoke with Gerald's automotive, who does our routine maintenance, and he did not have an issue with working on a Dodge. We have two Dodge trucks in our fleet now.

In conclusion, Chief Marvin stated we would be saving tax dollars for the citizens if we go with the Dodge Charger and the fact that we can immediately put them into service.

Council Member Broderick then asked about the maintenance on the vehicles. He asked if any of the warranty work were needed, would it be done in Beaufort or could we do the warranty work here? Mr. Marvin responded yes, it depends on what it is. If the windshield wiper motor goes out, Gerald's can do it, and then they send it to them, and they reimburse them in some kind of way. At the county in the past, if it was something minor, a lot of time they would run it to Beaufort and if it was major, they would run it to Beaufort as well.

Council Member Bridge then asked if the bid total was the price for the cars regardless of whether it is purchased by the end of October or not? Do you have to go through the process all over again for submitting bids? Mr. Marvin explained that he would not have to rebid a 2015 vehicle but would have to redo the 2014 vehicle bids. He also explained that the Chevrolets come from Australia, and the Fords come

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from somewhere else in the country, and they have not even started making the 2015 Ford Interceptor yet. So, it's at least 10 or possibly 16 weeks out.

Mayor Young then asked, would the fact that one is a 2014 and one is a 2015 vehicle account for the difference in the prices? Mr. Marvin responded, I think that's a little to do with it, but the fact that the Dodge came off with a discount of another \$700 or \$800 off the 2014 - that's where the biggest price difference is because of the additional discount.

Council Member Siegel then asked, after a bid is made, do you continue the negotiation? Mr. Marvin answered affirmatively. Mr. Siegel then asked, so that \$800 discount was in the original bid? Mr. Marvin responded, yes.

Mayor then asked what was the difference even when you considered the local preference? Mr. Marvin responded, with the local preference, they were still less. It was \$632.60 higher with the 3% preference. Mayor Young then said, so even when you apply the local preference to the local bid, does it still come in higher? Mr. Marvin responded, yes it does at about \$632.60. Mayor then added, but it is a year newer car.

Council Member Siegel then asked Chief Marvin, do you prefer the Dodge over the Ford, notwithstanding the delay and delivery? Mr. Marvin responded, I don't personally, I don't have a preference. But the general consensus of this Dodge Charger - back in the day did not make a V6 model, only a V8. For a city to purchase one, it was not really recommended. But with the new V6 model over the last few years, Charleston City and Charleston County have had these vehicles and have really loved them. They say they are roomier. I called Chief Woods at Charleston County and spoke with him and a few other departments, and they all said the Dodge was roomier. It performs and handles really well. Chief Marvin also stated that the Michigan State Police has a test with all police vehicles. Anything you buy which is at the state purchase price, they do a test on it, and it (the Dodge Charger) is highly recommended in the Michigan State Police Test as well. So, it is a morale thing, the guys get to see a different car, they get a new car, and it's well liked by the police officers and it is cheaper.

Mayor Young then asked why Butler Dodge bid 2014 Chargers instead of 2015 Chargers. Is it just because they had the vehicles on the lot? Mr. Marvin, yes, because they were right there, and Ford gave us a 2015 bid, but they were guesstimating that the price was going to go up \$780. Mayor Young then asked, is the Ford bid a state contract bid? Chief Marvin responded, No, not for Walterboro Ford. He added, if you don't have that state purchase contract, it is extremely hard for anybody to meet it. For example, Love Chevrolet in Columbia has the Chevrolet state purchase price, and it is extremely hard for Mr. Rizer to come close. Mayor Young then said, I know in the past he has met state contract price on a lot of vehicles we purchased from him. Mr. Marvin responded, his bid came in late and it was around \$3,000 more than the state purchase price.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick to approve the recommendation to accept the bid to purchase two police vehicles from Butler Dodge in the amount of \$108,558.93. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

3. Request to Close Church Street between Fishburne Street and Miller Street for Fall Picnic and Cake Walk on Sunday, November 23, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. by Historical and Preservation Society

Dr. Sarah Miller was present on behalf of the Historical and Preservation Society. She told Council closing the street was for safety reasons.

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A motion to approve the street closing request as submitted was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Lohr, and passed unanimously.

4. Designation of Voting Delegate for NLC Congress of Cities and Exposition in Austin, Texas November 19-22, 2014

A motion was made to Mayor Young, seconded by Council Member Bridge, to appoint Council Member Broderick as the voting delegate for the NLC Meeting in Austin, Texas. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

5. Request to Hang Purple Ribbons Downtown in Recognition of November 2014 as Hospice Month

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve the request to hang purple ribbons downtown in recognition of Hospice Month as submitted. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

There was no Manager's Report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Syfrett So Moved and Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for:

- 1) A discussion of Proposed Contractual Arrangements, and
- 2) A discussion of Proposed Purchase of Property.

The meeting then convened into Executive Session.

At approximately 6:59 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Broderick, to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and a motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick, to approve the mutual aid agreement for law enforcement services with Colleton County. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Syfrett and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 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: November 25, 2014