

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Paul Siegel, Dwayne Buckner, Charles Lucas, Tom Lohr and Bobby Bonds. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. **Council Member Randy Peters was ABSENT.** Approximately 22 persons were present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order. Council Member Buckner gave the invocation and Council Member Siegel led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no comments or questions received on agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Mayor then opened a public hearing to receive comments and questions on 3 public hearing items, which were properly advertised in the local newspaper.

- 1) **Ordinance # 2013-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto.
- 2) **Ordinance # 2013-05**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto.
- 3) **Ordinance # 2013-06**, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the Utility Support Department.

The Mayor announced that item 1 was the general budget for the City and the second item refers to those parts of the budget that generate revenues, such as water and sewer. The third item is the fee schedule for the water fees, which is connected to the Enterprise Budget.

The Mayor then opened the floor to hear any comments on the above ordinances. No comments or questions were received. The hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 9, 2013 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and the Minutes of the April 23, 2013 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and **passed unanimously, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2013-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto, was given Second Reading and Adoption on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr.

Council Member Lucas reported that the general fund budget is \$7,324,272 and it includes a 2% property tax increase which is 4 mills and a 2.86 mills property tax

MINUTES/Page II

increase for an unfunded mandate to upgrade our radios for the Fire and the Police Departments. The 2.86 mills will be for a 5-year period until the loan is paid off.

Council Member Buckner then announced that this budget reflects a compromise. He further stated that City Council worked really hard to come up with the numbers that we thought would be best for the citizens and everyone in this process had to sacrifice. We cut \$189,000 out of the budget. We also looked at not increasing the water rates for 10% which was proposed, but we only raised it to 5%. We also tried to hold the line on the property tax increase. So, it was not exactly what I wanted, which was no tax increase and no water rate increase. We all have to share in the responsibility for making the City work. I will be voting in favor of this budget.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.

2. **Ordinance # 2013-05**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto, was before Council for Second Reading and Adoption. A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to Adopt Ordinance # 2013-05 on Second Reading as submitted. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion.

Council Member Lucas announced that the Enterprise Budget fund was \$3,401,950. It includes a 5% rate increase for water and sewer. In looking at both funds, the budget is less than the 2008 budget. So, the City has cut back a lot of things considering the increase in everything in the last 4 or 5 years. One of the things the City has been working on is infrastructures to bring down its ISO rating. We did that. It dropped 2 points. That should be money in your pocket in the future with reduced insurance rates on property insurance. So, I think the City has done well.

The motion passed with all members present voting in favor, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.

3. **Ordinance # 2013-06**, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the Utilities Support Department, was given Second Reading and Adoption on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr and **passed with all members present voting in favor. Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.** In discussing the motion, City Manager Lord pointed out that this amends the fee schedule for water and sewer.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2013-07**, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 6, Buildings and Building Regulations, to Amend the Adoption of Mandatory Standard and International Codes Relating to Inspection Activities by the City of Walterboro and Enforcement of Building Activities as Provided in Said Codes to Add the International Existing Building Code, **First Reading.**

City Manager Lord provided a brief explanation of the proposed ordinance, after which a motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2013-07 as submitted. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner pointed out that the ordinance suggests the creation of a Building Board. He asked City Manager Lord to comment on this. Mr. Lord answered, you already have a Building Board. What this does is that it adopts the administrative codes. The first chapter of all the codes is going to be administrative. The State Co-Council mandated that we adopt the code, but the Administrative Chapter is going to be permissible. So, you can either write

MINUTES/Page III

your own administration rules, or you can use their first chapter. We are using their first chapter, but we amended it for the Building Board. That is just an amendment to that Chapter to change the composition of the Building Board.

Attorney Cone added, there is no change in our present setup. We have already adopted that amendment before. This is just including it in this ordinance which automatically adopts whatever the state mandates, rather than just going back and adopting each one by the year the state mandates it.

Council Member Lucas then asked, does the County go by the same International Codes? Mr. Lord responded affirmatively. Mr. Lucas then asked if Council had to accept the sections in its entirety or could any of the sections be changed? Mr. Lord responded, the only thing you can change is the Administrative Chapter, because you have the authority to completely write you own Administrative Chapter, but anything else cannot be changed.

The motion then **passed with all members voting in favor except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.**

2. **Certification of May 28, 2013 Municipal Election Results - Resolution # 2013-R-05.**

Resolution #2013-R-05 accepting, ratifying and confirming the results of the May 28, 2013 Municipal General Election was adopted **unanimously on the motion of Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas with all members voting in favor. Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.**

This resolution declares Bill Young reelected as Mayor of the City of Walterboro for another 4-year term, Tom Lohr reelected and James Syfrett and James Broderick newly elected as members of City Council for a 4-year term. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

3. **Acceptance of Resignation of James Broderick from the Municipal Planning Commission and Resignation of Jimmy Syfrett from the Board of Zoning Appeals**

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to accept the resignations as submitted with regret and appreciation for their service. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion **that passed unanimously, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.**

At this point, Mayor Young announced that this is the last Council Meeting for Council Member Lucas and Council Member Buckner. For the record, he said, I want to say how much we appreciate their service to the citizens of Walterboro and their diligence in performing their duties as Council Members. It has been a pleasure to serve with you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports given.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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.

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 25, 2013

MINUTES/Page IV

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: August 20, 2013