

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 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 and James Broderick. (Note: The vacant seat of Council Member Randy Peters was filled at this meeting by Judy Bridge upon her swearing-in below). Interim City Manager Jim Duckett, City Clerk Betty Hudson, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Clenton Campbell were also present. There were approximately 30 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Council Member Syfrett led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

The Mayor then welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a special welcome to Judy Bridge's family members who were present for this special occasion.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No comments or questions were received.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Certification of November 5, 2013 Special Election and the November 19, 2013 Runoff Election Results - Resolution # 2013-R-10

(Note: The Special Election on November 5, 2013 and the Runoff Election on November 19, 2013 was held to fill the vacant seat on City Council due to the recent death of Council Member Randy Peters).

Resolution #2013-R-10 accepting, ratifying and confirming the results of the November 5, 2013 Special Election and the November 19, 2013 Runoff Election was adopted **on the motion of Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Syfrett with all members voting in favor.**

This resolution declares a runoff election to be held between Judge Bridge (175 votes) and Dwayne Buckner (169) votes as a result of the November 5, 2013 Special Election. Further, it declared Judge Bridge (341 votes) winner and newly elected as a member of City Council for the 2-year term remaining for this seat as a result of the Runoff Election held on November 19, 2013 with Dwayne Buckner receiving 248 votes. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

2. Swearing-In - Judy Bridge, City Council Member

Next, Council Member Elect Judy Bridge was officially sworn into office by City Attorney George Cone. Her husband, Jack Bridge, stood by holding the Bible during the swearing-in, along with her grandchildren: Carlyle Griffin, Matilyn Griffin, Lauren Astin, Tommy Astin, Owen Bridge and Jacob Davidson.

Council Member Bridge was then seated on Council.

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3. Proclamation No. 2013-R-06, Declaring the Month of November "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month"

A motion approving Proclamation No. 2013-R-06 as submitted was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

4. Consideration of Recommendation to Change Workers Compensation Insurance Carrier to SC State Accident Fund, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services

Next, Finance Director Bill Floyd recommended that the City change its current worker's compensation insurance carrier from SCMIT to the SC State Accident Fund Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management. Mr. Floyd pointed out that the Gallagher quote is through the State Accident Fund for a net of \$124,000 not only gives us a very similar premium but it also gives us a zero deductible. The SCMIT quote is for \$108,414. The SCMIT quote for a comparable zero-deductible policy is \$185,641. Mr. Floyd noted that our average payout under the \$50,000 per occurrence deductible, has been \$68,501 over the last five years, and since it is not capped, it could be even higher in the future. Mr. Floyd also pointed out that SCMIT tends to pay claims more readily with less follow-up, than the State Accident Fund, and since we insure 100% of the small claims, this really does drive up our experience rating. He recommended that the City make this change, effective on the policy anniversary of January 1, 2014.

A motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Siegel to approve the change for the City's Worker's Compensation Carrier to the SC State Accident Fund, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

Next, The following recommendations from the A-Tax Board were submitted for funding approval from the 65% Tourism Fund:

<u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Colleton Center & Coastal Electric SC Barbeque Association Cook Off	\$4,600	\$4,600
Colleton Museum & Farmers Market SC Humanities Council 2014 Festival	\$7,000	\$4,100
South Carolina Artisans Center Walterboro Antiques, History & Arts Festival	\$8,500	\$6,000
Walterboro Pro Rodeo	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total 65% Requests	\$30,100	\$14,700

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Siegel, to approve the funding requests as submitted by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

6. Request to Close Streets for the Missions 6K Run/Walk, February 1, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. by First Baptist Church

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A motion was made by Council Member Lohr to grant the Street Closing Request for February 1, 2014 from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. for the Missions 6K Run/Walk by First Baptist Church as submitted. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of Conditions to House Ducks and Chickens at 311 Warren Street in the City Limits, by Steven Gantt

This request was denied due to lack of a motion for approval.

8. Appointment of Associate Municipal Judge

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to newly appoint Attorney Deborah Kane to the position of Associate Municipal Judge. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0, with Mayor Young, Council Members Syfrett, Lohr, Broderick and Bridge voting in favor. Council Members Bonds and Siegel recused themselves from voting due to a conflict of interest in that their law firms may practice law before the City court from time to time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. There were no Committee Reports given.

Before adjourning, the Mayor announced that the City received notice last week that we have been awarded a \$500,000 CDBG Grant from the Department of Commerce to be used for the South Jefferies Loop Project. So, we will be going forward with this project. The Mayor also pointed out that the grant does require a match, but we will be allowed to use what we have already paid for engineering costs for the total project to qualify as our match. There may be additional expenses because things don't always match up exactly right, but we will be going forward with that. We are very pleased to get this grant and that is good news for Walterboro.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting 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: January 14, 2014