

Walterboro City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2011

### **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Dwayne Buckner, Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Tom Lohr. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were approximately 16 persons in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Young called the meeting to order. The invocation was led by Council Member Smalls, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Lohr.

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

Former Mayor Charlie Sweat commented on agenda item number 5 under New Business - Consideration of Highway 64 Landscape Plan Submitted by the Appearance Board. He asked if this item would be put before the general public for discussion and comment. Mayor Young noted that Council would address that concern when it is considered on the agenda.

### **Requests for Appearance:**

1. **Mr. Pedon B. McLeod** appeared before Council asking them to consider making North Walter Street a two-way street instead of a one-way street. He stated that 40 years ago, Council made a mistake in making North Walter Street one-way. He said, I happened to be sitting on Council at that time next to Mr. Thomas Berry. Courtland Rizer was very opposed to us making that street one way. He urged Council to change this. He stated, I also have a slight personal interest. I happen to own the Enterprise Hardware Building. He stated, I came to see the City Manager about making this street two way and he said that plans had been drawn up and that I needed to talk to the landscape architect. I talked to Mr. Todd Theodore of Woods + Partners and he stated they had considered in their studies to make Walter Street a two-way street.

Mr. McLeod gave an option that the parking spaces and the two planters be offset, so that traffic goes around the planters. Mr. McLeod pointed out that he had spoken with someone about purchasing the Enterprise Hardware Building and the first thing they were concerned about was that Walter Street was a one-way street. Mr. McLeod stated that he had spoken with every business owner on Walter Street and none were opposed to making it a two-way street. Mr. McLeod told Council that Ms. Hodges, one of the business owners, had requested that Council send a police vehicle down Walter Street from time to time. Mr. McLeod stated that he did not feel there would be a high cost for eliminating the two planters proposed for the street and to allow two-way traffic.

Mayor Young entertained a motion to accept Mr. McLeod's comments as information. Said motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters to accept Mr. McLeod's comments as information. In discussing the motion, Councilman Smalls asked Mr. McLeod if there were a number of stores that had closed since Walter Street became a one-way street. Mr. McLeod stated that he would be glad to go back and count the number of stores that are empty now, however, at the time the street was made a one-way, there were no stores closed at that time. The motion then passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and the Minutes of the April 26, 2011 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as

**MINUTES/Page II**

submitted on the motion of Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business before Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Acceptance of Resignation of Barbara Kim Miller as City Prosecutor

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to accept the resignation of Barbara Kim Miller as City Prosecutor with regret. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Mayor Young requested that a letter be sent to Mrs. Miller expressing the City's thanks for her service.

2. Request to Use the Downtown Plaza for Gospel Singing Events on Sundays: May 22, June 26 and August 28 by Kim Lee

After a concern raised by Council Member Buckner, Council agreed to allow Ms. Kim Lee to use the downtown plaza on May 22 and June 26, and to allow her to return at a later date to request use of the plaza for the August 28 event. Council Member Buckner felt that reservations to use the downtown plaza should be made a month at a time and not three months ahead of time. A motion approving the use of the plaza by Ms. Kim Lee for a Gospel Singing Event on May 22 and June 26 was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Parker voted against the motion for approval.

3. Request to Use the City Parking Lot for Community Action Day Event on May 27, 2011 by Lowcountry Community Action Agency (LCAA)

After a review of a letter submitted by Ms. Arlene Washington of LCAA, a motion granting the use of the City Parking Lot to LCAA for a Community Day Event on May 27, 2011 was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Highway 64 Landscape Plan Submitted by the Appearance Board

City Manager Jeff Lord briefed Council on this agenda item. He reported that this was presented two weeks ago to Council from the Appearance Board. Staff has looked at it. There are a few concerns regarding irrigation and power lines. He stated, if Council wanted to do something out there, it could be something on two areas, like using the planters we already have at the Padgett Loop area or perhaps out just beyond Robertson Boulevard. That is something we could do, probably just within the right-of-way.

A motion was made by Council Member Buckner to accept the Highway 64 Landscape Plan Submitted by the Appearance Board. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Smalls asked if the city limits' question had been cleared up. City Manager Lord responded that the city limits do extend just beyond that intersection. The bigger question is power lines and the availability of irrigation. Mayor Young asked, do we have any idea about the availability of the sites that are being recommended, whether or not we can use those sites. Who is going to pay for it? Will the City Appearance Board pay for it or does it need to be in the budget? Mr. Lord responded that it was his understanding that the City Appearance Board would raise the money. Mayor Young then raised a question on whether or not the property owners would allow

**MINUTES/Page III**

use of the proposed land. Council Member Buckner responded, we were advised to get the approval first before we start writing letters to the property owners. After talking with Mr. Lord, we were looking at trying to do this in small phases. The first phase would be the ability to put it out there without asking any property owners, but using the right-of-ways that are already present. Then, slowly over a course of time, implement the entire project.

City Manager Lord then said, if you were to build upon the improvements you already have, you have the right-of-ways for doing that.

Council Member Peters asked if staff had met with the City Appearance Board to find out exactly what we have to do. I rode out there and looked at it and if I have read the plans correctly, there is a lot of covenant and work that need to be done. Has staff met and made any suggestions on it? City Manager Lord responded that staff had met with Mr. Buckner and asked if this would be implemented by staff or would this be contracted out. He also stated, I do not believe we have the capacity to implement this. It is intended that this will be paid for by monies raised by the City Appearance Board. Mr. Buckner responded, the City Appearance Board wants to raise as much funds as it can, plus whatever help we can get from the City, so everybody has a stake in this.

Council Member Peters, then asked, do we have the funds to maintain it? City Manager Lord added, if this project was implemented completely, then we would need to budget it.

Mayor Young then suggested that we have staff look at this project and come back with a plan that takes into consideration the irrigation, the power lines and the acquisition of land in cooperation with the plan that you have submitted. It is hard to accept a plan when there are so many questions.

Further discussion was held, after Council Member Buckner withdrew his motion with the approval of the second made by Council Member Smalls.

Mayor Young then entertained a motion to refer this agenda item to staff to consider all the infrastructure items and locations related to the Highway 64 Landscape Plan. Council Member Peters made said motion, and Council Member Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Rescheduling or Cancellation of May 24, 2011 City Council Meeting

Due to the City's General Election being held on May 24, a motion was made Council Member Lucas to cancel the May 24 regular meeting, but if there is a need to hold a meeting, a meeting would be called. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

No committee reports were given.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an executive session. Council Member Lucas so moved to enter an executive session. Council Member Parker seconded the motion. The Mayor announced that the meeting would enter an executive session for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

The meeting then convened into an executive session.

Walterboro City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2011

**MINUTES/Page IV**

The meeting returned to Open Session, and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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: June 14, 2011**