

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 28, 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 17 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls for the invocation, and Council Member Lucas to lead the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Young announced that this is the last meeting of this Council. Councilman Smalls and Parker have been here a long time. Councilman Smalls served 22 years and Councilman Parker served 30 years and we want to thank them for their commitment and service to the citizens of Walterboro, and we wish them well in the future.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments received on the agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments on the following ordinances:

1. Ordinance # 2011-06, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Matters Relating Thereto. **No public comments were received.**
2. Ordinance # 2011-07, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Matters Relating Thereto. **No public comments were received.**
3. Ordinance # 2011-08, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, Adopting a Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Administration, Building and Codes Department; Finance Department; Public Safety Department; Sanitation Department and Utility Support Department. **No public comments were received.**
4. Ordinance # 2011-09, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a Not Exceeding Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) General Obligation Bond, Series 2011, of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended, to Provide for the Payment Thereof, and Other Matters Relating Thereto. **No public comments were received.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance # 2011-06, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Matters Relating Thereto, Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2011-06 as submitted. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

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2. Ordinance # 2011-07, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Matters Relating Thereto, Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2011-07 as submitted. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

3. Ordinance # 2011-08, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, Adopting a Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Administration, Building and Codes Department; Finance Department; Public Safety Department; Sanitation Department and Utility Support Department, Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Parker giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2011-08 as submitted. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion.

Council Member Buckner asked the City Manager to explain any new increases in the budget. Mr. Lord responded that there was a 5% increase in water/sewer, usage fees and tap fees and a new recycling fee to be billed at \$2.00 per cycle.

The motion then passed unanimously.

4. Ordinance # 2011-09, An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of a Not Exceeding Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000) General Obligation Bond, Series 2011, of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended, to Provide for the Payment Thereof, and Other Matters Relating Thereto, Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2011-09 as submitted. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner stated, I think at the last meeting we were trying to determine the value of the City's assets, so that we would be able to apply for this bond. Do you have that amount yet? Ms. Margaret Pope, the city's bond attorney, noted that she and the Finance Director have been working on this. We did have a certificate that states that your assessed value is not less than something over \$25,000,000. That is the number that will be used to calculate the value of a mil. We do not believe that is the final number, as we know there are some values that are not in that number that comes from the Department of Revenue. We are still working to get those numbers. We had to have, of course, a value not less than \$25,000,000 to come up with, in order to issue the \$2,000,000 debt. We have that, we are certain of that, and we have copies of that. But, we are continuing to work to get what we believe is the correct value for all of the taxable properties in Walterboro. The county auditor is, unfortunately, sick. We have been calling him but there has not been anybody there who could actually talk with us. We will get it. We know the value is in excess of \$25,000,000. We would not have progressed to Second Reading had we not been certain that we had the value that we would have to have. How much it will differ, I cannot tell you. It could be as much as \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proclamation # 2011-04

Proclamation # 2011-04, A Proclamation Designating the Month of July as Independent Retailers Month in the City of Walterboro, was before Council. Mayor Young read the proclamation in its entirety into the records.

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A motion to adopt Proclamation # 2011-04 as submitted was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

2. Resolution # 2011-R-09

Resolution # 2011-R-09, A Resolution of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina Authorizing the Refinancing of Outstanding Lease/Purchase Obligations of the City, Paid for by Local Hospitality Tax Revenues, was before Council.

Finance Director Dennis Averkin explained that because interest rates are low now, the city could realize a savings of \$78,400 if it were to refinance its lease purchase debt. In 2006 Council entered into a Project Lease Agreement for about \$1.56 million as part of a plan of financing the payment of a portion of the amounts owed by Colleton County to BB&T Bank for the new VA Nursing Home. He further stated that this resolution would authorize staff to obtain quote sheets and letters from banks that would participate, to get the best possible rate. This authorization will authorize us to come back and you would then have to pass a resolution, because this issue is secured by your local hospitality tax revenue.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to adopt Resolution # 2011-R-09 as submitted. Council Member Parker seconded the motion. Council Member Buckner asked which bank currently holds the Lease Purchase Agreement. Finance Director Averkin responded that the issue is currently held at BB&T Bank.

When asked by Council Member Buckner, if staff is recommending Regions Bank, Mr. Averkin responded, at this point and time, no, I'll have to go back out and solicit new term sheets because those rates have changed.

Councilman Parker asked Mr. Averkin, do you think that rate is going to be lower than that. Mr. Averkin responded, we think so, it is very possible.

Further discussion was held on how the city took over a portion of the debt from the County for the VA Nursing facility.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Mayor Young recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest because of his relationship with BB&T Bank.

3. Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

Next, Finance Director Dennis Averkin briefed Council on this agenda item. The following funding recommendations from the A-Tax Board were submitted for approval:

<u>Requests for 30% Tourism fund</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Walterboro Tourism Commission	<u>\$53,000</u>	<u>\$53,000</u>
Total 30% Requests	\$53,000	\$53,000
 <u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u>		
Walterboro Tourism Commission-		
Walterboro Rocks	\$53,000	\$32,000
City of Walterboro Billboard Campaign	\$20,000	\$20,000
Downtown Walterboro Criterium 2012	\$21,000	\$18,000
S.C. Artisans Center - Marketing & Promotion	\$15,000	\$15,000
Colleton County Rice Festival	\$15,000	\$10,000
Colleton County Historical Preservation Society	\$ 9,450	\$ 4,000
Colleton Museum & Farmer's Market	<u>\$ 1,500</u>	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total 65% Requests	\$134,950	\$100,500

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Mr. Averkin noted that should the requests be approved, the projected balance available in grants for 2011-2012 is \$45,793.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to approve the funding requests as submitted by the A-Tax Board. In discussing the motion, Mr. Buckner asked Mr. Averkin to explain more about the Walterboro Tourism Commission. Mr. Averkin responded, it's new and has not had any funding or operation until possibly tonight. I believe, it has four members, three of the four are city employees - the Mayor, City Manager and Tourism Director, and one individual to be designated by the city.

Council Member Buckner then asked, so this is the first funding for them. He then asked if the organization has its 501(c)6 status. Mr. Averkin affirmed that the group does have its 501(c)6 status, and it's filing zeros because it has been approved, but it is a registered nonprofit in the State of South Carolina. It has an IRS nonprofit designation.

Council Member Buckner then pointed out that the Colleton Co. Historical Society had requested \$9,450, but had only been approved for \$4,000. He stated, I think they have been around for a while. Could you explain why they didn't get the total funding that they asked for? Mr. Averkin responded, I think the feedback from the committee is that they felt that this was not enough draw from outside the area to warrant a request. So, the committee granted funds that were actually consistent with what we issued last year.

Council Member Buckner stated that he would vote against this request for the simple fact that I can't see the Historical getting a small amount. I see them really trying to get more events and things for the community and I would like them to get what they requested, \$9,450, because the Tourism Commission is a new group. He pointed out not only are they (Tourism Commission) getting \$32,000, but they are also getting \$53,000 from the 30% Tourism Fund. So, that brand new organization is getting \$85,000. Mr. Averkin pointed out that the \$32,000 is really for billboards, so granting less would mean fewer billboards than the Chamber had previously agreed. So, there is some tension there for us losing billboards and advertising space.

Ms. Alta Mae Marvin, Chairman of the A-Tax Board, then addressed Council on this item. She stated, we all recognize the value of the Colleton County Historical Society. They had a very quantitative program with a limited number of tickets available which were 200. So, we felt \$9,450 is an excessive amount when you are attracting only 200 visitors, and the fact they are going to be doing a plantation tour, so they don't have the same opportunity to make cash register receipts, like some of the other events.

The motion to approve the recommendations from the A-Tax Advisory Board was then approved on a vote of 6/1 with Mayor Young, Council Members Peters, Lucas, Parker, Smalls and Lohr voting in favor and Council Member Buckner voting against the motion for adoption.

4. Council Internal/External Committee Appointments by the Mayor

Mayor Young then made the following Council Internal/External Committee appointments:

Airport & Finance - Randy Peters, and Dwayne Buckner.

The Mayor stated, by statute on the Airport Commission, if the Mayor is white than the at-large appointee must be a minority, and the other way around, if the Mayor

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is black, then the appointee would have to be a white appointee. So, I am appointing Dwayne Buckner to the Airport Commission.

Budget - Charles Lucas - Chairman, Bill Young and Tom Lohr.

Firemen Insurance Fund Board of Trustees - Tom Lohr

Great Swamp Sanctuary Commission - Dwayne Buckner

LCOG - Bill Young

Joint Railroad Right-of-Way Committee - Charles Lucas and Randy Peters

Economic Development Commission - Randy Peters

City Appearance Board - Bobby Bonds

North Lemacks St. Revitalization Committee - Paul Siegel

Tourism Commission - Charles Lucas

Youth Advisory Commission - Tom Lohr

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 appointments and receipt of legal advice.

The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

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 Smalls and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:33 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 August 9, 2011