

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Paul Siegel, Dwayne Buckner, Charles Lucas, Randy Peters, Tom Lohr and Bobby Bonds. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were approximately 21 persons present in the audience.

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

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments were given on the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Upon motion by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, the Minutes of the August 23, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted with all members voting in favor.

At this point, Mayor Young recognized and welcomed to the meeting the new Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Karen Hinen.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Designation of Voting Delegate for 2011 Congress of Cities Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, November 10-13, 2011

Council Member Peters nominated Council Member Charles Lucas as the Voting Delegate. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion. Vote on the motion was unanimous, except Council Member Lucas did not vote.

2. Request to Use Downtown Plaza on Friday, September 16, 2011 for MIA/POW Recognition by Colleton County Veterans Council

A motion was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to grant the request by the Veterans Council to use the downtown plaza on September 16 for the MIA/POW Recognition as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to Hang Banner Across Jefferies Blvd. on September 16, 2011 Announcing the Annual Walterboro Band Classic, By Band of Blue Booster Club

Council Member Peters made a motion to grant the request by the Band of Blue Booster Club to hang a banner on September 16-26 announcing the Annual Walterboro Band Classic as submitted. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

4. Requests for Street Closing for October 15, 2011 for Oyster Roast by Colleton County Historical Society and October 29, 2011 for Oyster Roast by SC Historical Society

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Council Member Lucas moved to grant the street closing requests for October 15 for the Colleton Co. Historical & Preservation Society Oyster Roast and on October 29 for the SC Historical Society Oyster Roast as submitted. It was requested that the city close and barricade Church Street between Miller and Fishburne for the events. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

5. Request to Use the City Parking Lot on October 29, 2011 for Foods and Arts Festival by Lowcountry International Society, Inc. and Colleton County Arts Council

A motion granting the request as submitted by the Lowcountry International Society and Arts Council to use the City Parking Lot on October 29 for a Foods and Arts Festival was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Council Member Buckner then recused himself from voting because of his membership with this organization. The motion passed with a vote of 6/0 with Mayor Young, Council Members Siegel, Lucas, Peters, Lohr and Bonds voting in favor. Council Member Buckner recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest.

6. Veterans Day Parade Permit Request, November 12, 2011, by Veterans Council

Council Member Lucas made a motion to grant the request for a Veterans Day Parade Permit by the Veterans Council as submitted. Council Member Peters seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

7. Request by Walterboro Merchants Association to Use Downtown Waterfall Plaza on Saturday Dec, 3, 10 and 17, 2011 for Singing Christmas Carols by the Lowcountry Community Players

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr, to grant the request as submitted by the Walterboro Merchants Association. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner wanted to verify the organization's note in their letter that they would be agreeable to working with other organizations during these events. Mr. Buckner noted that the Lowcountry International Society had a "Christmas Sweets Around the World" event last year, and his organization is looking at doing the same thing again this year around one of the dates in December. A representative present on behalf of the Merchants Association agreed that they would be happy to work with other groups during those dates.

The motion then passed unanimously.

8. Request for Street Closings at 5:00 P.M. for the Annual Christmas Parade at 6:00 P.M. on December 4, 2011 by Rice Festival Board

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Buckner to grant the request as submitted. In discussing the motion, Council Member Siegel asked if the parade route would be down Washington Street. Mayor Young responded that he believed that the parade route has changed to what it had been some years ago.

Former Mayor Charlie Sweat, co-chair for the Christmas Parade, announced that the Christmas Parade route and time has changed. This will be a nighttime Christmas Parade. The two or three times that this was done in the past was received very well, but it was a hard task to accomplish. We think now we can do it again this year in conjunction with the Tree Lighting Ceremony which is at 5:30 P.M. that same afternoon. We are going back to the old parade route, which starts at the Old Hampton Street School, coming to Jefferies Blvd., making a turn on Jefferies going toward Washington, turning on Washington and going down Washington Street. We think for the children in this community, as well as the residents that this will be

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something very appropriate. I talked with Jeff Lord and Bill about it and I think that as Council, this should be well received too, to do something like this.

Council Member Siegel said, I think it is a great change and it takes us back to a time when we really did have tremendous Christmas Parades down main street and it was packed, shoulder to shoulder. It was great.

Council Member Peters then asked if there were a reason why the parade route would not turn on Walter Street, in order for us not to close Jefferies Boulevard. Mr. Sweat responded that the floats would not be able to make the turn on Washington Street from Walter Street. Since the new street scape was done, the corners are shorter; therefore the floats cannot make that turn.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Status Report on Youth Advisory Commission by Council Member Tom Lohr

Councilman Lohr presented copies of a three page update on the teen after school center. He explained that this initiative was a result of a \$141,000 grant that was presented to the City by Governor Sanford and the prior director of SLED, Reggie Lloyd. Our Mayor and City Manager worked cooperatively with those two people to get this grant. Walterboro received this grant along with the City of Laurens.

Mr. Lohr gave a brief overview of the Teen After-School Centers "Plus". This program is to try to help teens get job training skills and also help them have strong employability skills. The program serves about 120 students. We have about one-half in Laurens and the other half in Walterboro. They had a summer program that ran from July 11 to August 12, conducted by Mr. Wayne Bennett of the Department of Juvenile Justice. 26 students started the program and 23 students completed it. They had 20 hours of job readiness training and 4 weeks of internships. 23 students completed the internships and worked a total of 76 hours. 13 local businesses in Walterboro provided internship sites. There will be a fall and spring program continued. There will be 18 students in each of those programs. These are kids who are at-risk students. This is not to put anybody down, it's just trying to work with these kids, but again, they just don't have the old stereotyped two parents home situation.

The following businesses participated in this program: Bi-lo, Colleton County Arts Council, Bucks Pizza, S.C. Employment Security Commission, A Soulful Taste Restaurant, Colleton County Public Library, Tangled Toes Pet Salon, Colleton County School District, Rhodes Dentistry, Walterboro Police/Fire Department, Hill Tire, Super Bad Men's Clothing and the Colleton County Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Lohr also reported that he and Mr. Bennett attended a meeting and found that there will be another grant that the county can participate in. The city really does not have anything to do with this, but it does involve youth and I thought you'd like to know. The topic will be trying to do something about "under-aged drinking". Mr. Lohr then gave some of the contributing factors to under-aged drinking:

- 1) Alcohol being provided by older friends, family members, siblings, etc.
- 2) Low perception of social and illegal consequences by youth and the adults.
- 3) Failure to impose specified penalties and have diversion programs.
- 4) Insufficient levels of enforcement due to competing priorities by law enforcement.

Mr. Lohr also acknowledged that there are a lot of activities being planned for the youth to do, just at the library, that's coming up now. He also noted that the

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"Colleton Connector" newsletter has a lot material on the activities planned in Walterboro.

Mr. Lohr told Council that his Commission does not meet that often, but will be getting two new youth members since our representatives from Colleton Co. High and Colleton County Prep School have gone off to college.

Concluding, Mr. Lohr also noted that there are a lot of people doing a lot for the youth, and they don't ask for publicity. Parents and guardians need to pitch in and help their own ones they are responsible for.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Lucas so moved to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting would enter an Executive Session for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and for a personnel matter.

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 Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:25 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: September 27, 2011