

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
April 14, 2009

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Charlie Sweat presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Charlie Sweat, Council Members: Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Bill Young, Ted Parker and Franklin Smalls. City Manager Jeff Lord, Acting Recorder Bonnie Ross, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Ashley Amundson were also present. Council Member Mary Anne Cannady and City Clerk Betty Hudson were absent.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Sweat called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls to give the invocation and Council Member Peters to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CDBG Grant Application for Lincoln Apartments Water Project - Rhonda Davis, Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG)

The Mayor announced a public hearing, duly advertised to solicit public comments (pros and cons) on a CDBG application to be submitted for the Lincoln Apartments Water Project. There were approximately 36 persons in attendance at the hearing. A copy of the sign-in sheet is attached as part of these minutes.

The Mayor then recognized Ms. Rhonda Davis of LCOG, who conducted the hearing on behalf of Ms. Michelle Knight and Mr. Chris Bickley of LCOG. Ms. Davis opened by stating that this public hearing is being held in accordance with the City's Citizens Participation Plan to solicit comments on the CDBG application to be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Commerce on April 20, 2009. She stated that the hearing was advertised in the Press and Standard on April 7th. Ms. Davis gave a brief description of the project as follows:

The City of Walterboro is seeking \$206,000 in funds to extend approximately 1,500 linear ft of 6-inch waterline, and install two fire hydrants on Witsell Street, to increase the water pressure and fire flow in the neighborhood. This new waterline on Witsell Street will be connected to existing lines from Sweat Street and Springwood Drive. The proposed project will benefit 237 people of which 93% (or 216 people) were identified as low to moderate income.

Ms. Davis then opened the floor to receive comments or questions. There being no comments or questions received, the hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

PRESENTATION:

Letter of Thanks from Colleton County Veterans Council - James A. White

Mr. James A. White, on behalf of the Colleton Veterans Council, appeared before Council and presented a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Colleton County Veterans Council to the City for funding to support the newly formed Colleton County Veterans Honor Guard. Mr. White also asked the Veterans Council Honor Members to stand for recognition. He invited Council and the public to attend the Veterans Memorial Day Services on May 25th.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were no Minutes or Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution # 2009-R-06, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a CDBG Grant Application for the Lincoln Apartments Water Line Project in the Amount of \$206,000 and Committing 10% (\$21,000) in Local Match Funds, was approved on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

A request by Victims Advocate Denise Pinckney to place an informational banner across Jefferies Boulevard announcing Victim Rights Week on April 11-18, 2009 was approved on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote.

Requests by the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society for the 2009 Antiques and Arts Festival

Next, Council reviewed requests made by the Colleton County Historical Society for the 2009 Antiques and Arts Festival to be held May 15-16, 2009. A letter from Mr. Earl Jackson identified several items for Council's approval as follows:

1. Hanging 30 banners on Washington Street and 6 larger banners on Jefferies Blvd. for 10 days.
2. Close Lucas Street from Wichman to Hampton Street for 2 days on Friday morning May 15th through Saturday, May 16th.
3. Reserve 2 parking spaces on Washington Street (in front of the Cannady Agency) on May 15th-16th for the antique appraiser.
4. Reserve 2 parking spaces in the City Parking Lot adjacent to Lucas St. for port-o-lets for 2 days, May 15th - May 16th.
5. The City to turn off the waterfall on Washington Street, May 15th - 16th.
6. Approve a permit for an Antique Tractor Parade from City Hall down Hampton to Washington and return to the lot across from City Hall for both Friday, May 15th and Saturday, May 16th.
7. Allow for event direction signs to be placed where appropriate in the City during the 2-day Festival.

Mr. Jackson, who appeared before Council, stated that the Festival is shaping up to be a great festival again this year. He stated that there were no funds

available to use, but the Colleton County Historical Society, the Downtown Merchants and the Artisans Center have partnered to make this festival work.

Mr. Jackson announced that there will also be a walking tour of some of the historic homes in the Downtown Historic Area. They are also planning to have a van to pick up people at the museum for a short tour.

On a question raised by Council Member Peters, Mr. Jackson affirmed that the parade will begin this year at City Hall. He plans to secure the fenced-in parking lot behind the old Ford place to store the tractors. So, the parade will actually start right in front of City Hall, go around and end at City Hall. What we are talking about on Lucas Street is separate from the parade. Before the parade starts, we will have 5 or 6 of those tractors stationed on both ends of Lucas Street for exhibit.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to approve the requests as submitted by the Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society for the 2009 Antiques and Arts Festival. The motion passed unanimously, except Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote.

Funding Request for the Antiques and Arts Festival - Gale Doggette

Next, Ms. Gale Doggette, Director of the Artisans Center and on behalf of the Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society appeared before Council requesting funding in the amount for \$5,000 for the Antiques & Arts Festival to be held on May 15 - 16, 2009. These funds are to be used for advertising the event. Ms. Doggette submitted a short description sheet outlining the advertising expenses for this event. She explained that she was here making the request as a committee member and not as Director of the Artisans Center.

Council Member Lucas said, I know you have asked for \$5,000, but what amount can you get by on? Ms. Doggette explained that she could see getting by with the four advertisements for the Post & Courier, Beaufort Gazette, Island Packet and the State newspaper. This would come to about \$3,000. Council Member Smalls asked, other than the advertisement, are you able to take care of everything else? Ms. Doggette explained that the organization has done some inventive ways to make the whole thing happen. Mr. Jackson explained that as a result of the 501(c) 3 that is putting this together for us jointly, our group has agreed to underwrite whatever deficit that comes up. So, we are putting ourselves on a limb that we don't normally have to do.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to authorize \$3,500 to the Antiques & Arts Festival. Council Member Young seconded the motion that passed with a vote of 5/1 with Council Members Peters, Lucas, Young, Parker and Smalls voting in favor of the motion. Mayor Sweat voted against the motion. Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote. In discussing the motion, Mayor Sweat noted that the funds would come from the discretionary A-tax funds account.

Directional Sign Request from the Band of Blue - Mr. Tommy Finnegan

Mr. Finnegan appeared before Council requesting permission to put up directional signs for the motor cycle fund run and car show this weekend. He said, last year we had more than 100 riders and it brings a lot of people to the county.

The route actually takes in almost 110 miles around Colleton County. He requested permission to put up some small directional signs, 8 x 10 orange signs. The signs will be put up on Saturday morning, April 18th and removed the same day in the afternoon. The event starts at 10:00 A.M. and ends by 3:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas to allow placement of the directional signs in the City limits as requested by the Band of Blue. The motion passed unanimously, except Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote.

The Mayor then asked for any comments from the public. No public comments were made.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Young and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 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: April 28, 2009