

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2009

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 28, 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, Franklin Smalls and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Ashley Amundson were also present. There were approximately 35 persons in attendance at the meeting.

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 Lucas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PRESENTATION:

Letter of Thanks from the Colleton County Arts Council - Heather Strickland

Ms. Heather Strickland, former Director of the Colleton County Arts Council, appeared before Council to present a letter of thanks for the City's recent generosity and financial support of the Colleton County Arts Council for 2008-2009. Ms. Strickland noted that the monies helped to fund the after school program classes for the remainder of the academic year. She assured Council that the funds had been very well spent. The student's academic scores are better, they are learning in different ways, doing better at school, and their self-esteem and social skills are better. Ms. Strickland then passed out a thank-you letter for Council to view. Appearing with Ms. Strickland was a student, Ms. Victoria Glover, who had also written a personal thank-you letter to Council for its support. Ms. Strickland read this letter in its entirety.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 24, 2009 Regular Meeting and the Minutes of the April 14, 2009 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously.

THERE WAS NO OLD BUSINESS BEFORE COUNCIL.

At this point, the Mayor recognized Police Chief Otis Rhodes who in turn introduced Firefighter Paul Seigler who has worked in the City Fire Department for the past 19 years. Chief Rhodes announced that Mr. Seigler has just graduated from the South Carolina Police Academy. He is now the second firefighter to complete crossover training for the City's Public Safety Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation # 2009-03, A proclamation designating May 10-16, 2009 as National Nursing Home Week, was approved on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of the proclamation is attached as part of these minutes. Ms. Rosanne Nettles was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Heritage Health Care of Walterboro.

Consideration of Rescheduling or Cancellation of the May 26, 2009 City Council Meeting

Due to the General Election to be held on May 26, 2009, Council briefly discussed the possibility of rescheduling this meeting. Concluding the discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Parker to reschedule this meeting to the 1st Tuesday in June, which falls on June 2, 2009. Council Member Cannady seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Requests Regarding the 2009 Salkehatchie Stew Storytelling Celebration June 5-6, 2009 - Mr. Travis Godley

Next, Council reviewed requests made by the Salkehatchie Stew Planning Committee for its annual "Salkehatchie Stew Storytelling Celebration to be held on June 5 and 6, 2009. A letter from the planning committee requested the following:

1. Waving of Business License requirements and sanctioned activities.
2. Cleaning of Washington Street, Lucas and Hampton Streets on June 4.
3. Increase in law enforcement presence to aid visitors with their needs.
4. That Salkehatchie Stew be given exclusive rights to control events related to all Celebration activities.
5. Use of the City Parking Lot on Friday evening, June 5th and all day on Saturday, June 6th.

Mr. Travis Godley appeared before Council on behalf of the Salkehatchie Stew Planning Committee. He told Council, we have a very large group that has been working on this. He explained that the Salkehatchie Stew is an economic development opportunity that is being guided by the Salkehatchie Leadership Institute in 5 counties. In each County, we are trying to gather some of the local stories and histories and present those to the community, in such a way that we can bring economic impact into the community. Bamberg County held one a month or so ago. Currently, Hampton County is conducting a play. The play is an original play written specifically about the area and things that went on in the history of the 5 county area. This is a wonderful program. He invited the public to attend.

Mr. Godley pointed out that the committee is not asking for any street closings. We are trying to bring in people to the event. We are advertising in a 250 mile radius. We are also asking for opportunity to control the vending and the food suppliers, etc. He stated primarily, we are looking for 501 C3 (non-profit) organizations within the county to provide the various vending.

Mr. Godley gave a brief description of the various events to be held during the Salkehatchie Stew Celebration.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters to approve the requests as submitted by the Salkehatchie Stew Planning Committee for the Celebration on June 5-6, 2009. Council Member Cannady seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Resignation of Shawn Jadrnicek from the Tree Protection Committee

A motion was made by Council Member Young to accept Mr. Jadrnicek's resignation from the Tree Committee with regret. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

There were no Committee Reports given.

The Mayor then opened the floor to receive comments from the public. No comments were given.

A motion was then made by Council Member Lucas to enter an Executive Session to receive legal advice related to threatened claims and a discussion of matters and negotiations incident to contractual arrangements related to the provision of services. Council Member Cannady seconded the motion that carried unanimously. The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

The Meeting returned to Open Session with no formal action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Cannady 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: May 12, 2009