

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2009

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 12, 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 being a quorum present, Mayor Sweat called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls to give the invocation and Council Member Young to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Mayor Sweat welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then announced that the city is going to set up the 3rd Tuesday in each month so residents can meet with the Mayor, to be called the Mayor's round table. The meeting will begin at 6:00 P.M. This will be a time for residents to come in and talk with the Mayor about any issue of concern. The first meeting will be held the 3rd Tuesday in June 2009, and will be held at City Hall. He invited all residents to come and talk with the Mayor.

REQUESTS FOR APPEARANCE:

Horace Simmons - Community Needs on Proctor, Moore, Blanchard, Henderson and Other Streets in the Community

Mr. Horace Simmons appeared before Council to request the installation of speed limit signs on the above streets. He also asked Council to consider establishing a playground in that area, so the children will have somewhere to play. Mr. Simmons, a resident of Henderson, told Council that the lack of a playground or a recreation area in the neighborhood has resulted in the children playing in the streets. In a letter to Council, Mr. Simmons also pointed out that there are five old fuel tanks at the end of Henderson Street that needs to be removed. He stated that the tanks are hazardous, dangerous and may pose health problems for children and the elderly. Mayor Sweat thanked Mr. Simmons for coming and noted that staff and Council will look into this matter to make some changes. No formal action was taken by Council on this request and was accepted as INFORMATION.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the April 28, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously.

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance # 2009-03, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and Matters Relating Thereto, was given First Reading Approval on the motion of Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Bill Young, Chairman of the Budget

Committee, announced that the Enterprise Budget as proposed for next year is in the amount of \$3,165,500, which is roughly \$400,000 lower than last year's budget.

Ordinance # 2009-04, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and Matters Relating Thereto, was given First Reading Approval on the motion of Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Council Member Young stated that this proposed budget, which pays for the day-to-day operations of the city, was set at \$6,580,985, which is a decrease of \$160,000 compared to the current year's budget. Also, the general fund budget reflects a 1% cost of living increase for City employees and reflects the City picking up the increase in health insurance that would have been charged to the employees. There is no property tax increase in this budget.

At this point, the Mayor announced that the city would have a budget hearing and a seconding reading for discussion. If you have any questions, please write them down or if you come to city hall, you can request a copy of the budget.

Ordinance # 2009-05, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, Establishing a Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Administration; Building and Codes Department; Finance Department; Public Safety Department; Sanitation Department and Utility Support Department, was given First Reading Approval on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Parker, and passed unanimously. In summarizing this ordinance, the Mayor explained that staff took all the fees out of the code of laws and is now putting those fees in one place in this ordinance for the general public.

Proclamation No. 2009-04, Designating May, 2009 as Neurofibromatosis (NF) Awareness Month was approved on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

A letter request from Marilyn Bazzle, Co-Chair of Relay for Life, to place Relay for Life Sponsor Banners in the city limits **was approved** on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. In explaining the request, the Mayor stated that Council normally gets requests only to place a banner across Jefferies Blvd., such as the large Relay for Life Banners. This request is to put up the little plaque-type yard signs that say "Sponsor of Relay for Life." Mayor Sweat also stated that City Manager Lord has informed us that we have other type signs that do not meet the codes which have been put out in the city. Some of these signs the City has approved, and some it has not approved.

City Manager Lord explained that from time to time, the City receives requests for these type recurring events. An example right now is the blood drive that was going on yesterday. Other examples are the Edisto Event, the Relay for Life Event and the Rodeo. Mr. Lord than said, if you want, staff can put into place a permit for those signs and we can handle them at the staff level instead of having all these requests come to you. Because inevitably, they come to you late.

Attorney Cone then suggested a time line be placed on how long the signs can be up.

City Manager Lord then stated that staff can develop a permit that delineates the up and down times that staff can enforce. Attorney Cone also suggested having them up for a set occurrence annually. The Mayor then stated that Council will defer this matter over to the department heads to come up with this policy for the signs and banners.

As an add-on agenda item, Major Ken Dasen appeared before Council. Mr. Dasen told Council the city was eligible for \$47,422 in Stimulus funds as a result of the Economic

Recovery Act to be used for wireless connection and software upgrades for the City Law Enforcement. Mr. Dasen gave the following highlights:

- The name of the grant is the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), which the city applied for through the state. Major Dasen stated that they (the State) called and told him the city could also apply for the same grant through the local level. In order to do that, we would need a public hearing which we will defer to another date, and get the proper format to the media to advertise that, but it is also to get comments from Council concerning this grant.

Major Dasen provided the following highlights on this grant.

- It is 100% funding to law enforcement agencies. The title will be "Keeping Cops on the Streets." The eligible funding for our police department is \$47,422 from the federal Stimulus bill. The funds will be used to get our wireless connections into the police cars, so they can talk with the police database server, and the NCIC. The ultimate goal is to deter crime by keeping the officers in the streets versus coming back to headquarters to enter the reports and tickets.

Mayor Sweat then thanked Major Dasen and asked him to follow up with this matter when he has the public hearing set.

The Mayor then opened the floor for public comments. No comments were made.

A motion was then made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Parker, to enter an Executive Session to hear a contractual matter and a discussion of Appointments.

The meeting returned to Open Session and City Manager Lord announced that the Department of Transportation (DOT) has approved the City's bid for the landscaping project. This project will be advertised this Friday in the South Carolina Business Opportunities newsletter and we expect bids to come in Mid-June. So, that project is now moving forward. All of the roadblocks are apparently out of the way. This is great news. It was noted that the approval process through DOT took more than 3 years.

A motion was then made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to newly appoint Mr. Gary M. Pollard to the City Economic Development Commission for a 4-year term.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:54 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 2, 2009