

Walterboro City Council  
Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2009

## **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 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 15 persons present in the audience at the meeting.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls for the invocation and Council Member Parker to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the floor to receive public comments on any of the agenda items. No comments were given.

The Minutes of the September 22, 2009 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor.

### **PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

A proclamation designating October 23-31, 2009 as Red Ribbon Week to bring awareness of alcohol and drug abuse in the community and recognizing Colleton County Drug Free Schools was adopted. The motion for adoption was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor.

Ms. Barbara Burns, teacher, and students from Forest Circle Middle School appeared before Council. The students read the proclamation in its entirety. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. A request to close a portion of Francis Street for a community church event on November 21 by Pastor Mary Memminger of the More than Conquerors Ministries was approved on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. In discussing the motion, Chief Rhodes told Council he did not see a problem with this event. He met with Pastor Memminger last week. Closing a portion of Francis Street at 319 Francis Street will maybe affect one house. He stated that the Department can block the street before and right after 319 Francis Street and at Bailey Street. There will still be an exit at Bailey Street and also at Chaplin Street.

2. Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase Two Vehicles for the Public Safety Department

Chief Rhodes informed Council that his department sent out bids for two new police vehicles to eight different dealerships. Four responses were received as follows:

Walterboro Motor Sales	\$67,106.00
Clint Brannen Ford	\$66,426.00
Bobby Jones Ford	\$66,385.28
OC Welch Ford	\$65,086.00

Chief Rhodes then recommended acceptance of the lowest bidder at \$65,086. He stated that the price was a little over budget, but the difference could be worked out within the budget.

A motion was then made by Council Member Peters to purchase the two vehicles from the local vendor, Walterboro Motor Sales, in the amount of \$67,106.00. Council Member Parker seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked Chief Rhodes what was the circumstances that warranted the need to purchase two vehicles for the Police Department. Chief Rhodes responded that the age of the vehicles was a factor, including maintenance. He said, we normally keep the vehicles for a certain time until they start having a lot of mechanical problems, and this is the time for some of the vehicles to be replaced. We originally asked for three vehicles, but due to budget restraints we reduce it to two to carry us over until next year.

Council Member Buckner then asked what is usually done with those vehicles which are no longer in use. Chief Rhodes responded that the vehicles are auctioned off in a public auction.

Council Member Peters then stated that he would like to explain the reason as to why the City should take the local vendor bid instead of the low bid? He explained that the local vendor pays local property taxes, and they employ people who spend money in the City. He stated, if we look at the total cost approach in this matter, the percentage is between 3% and 4% difference in the lowest bid and the local vendor. Mr. Peters said, but I feel that the City of Walterboro gets that money back in taxes and participation that having a local business in Walterboro brings. If we don't keep the Bucks in the Borro, which we are advertising to do, we could find ourselves with businesses closing.

Council Member Parker agreed with Council Member Peters and stated that the local vendor also pays a business license and they (Walterboro Motor Sales) probably employ between 25-30 people.

Council Member Lohr added, I think that the service issue is probably one too that we should consider. I am sure that maybe all of them would give us good service, but the local vendor is right in town and this would be a better thing overall.

**The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.**

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an executive session. Council Member Lucas so moved and Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would enter an executive session to hear contractual matters, for a discussion of appointments and for a discussion of

negotiations incident to purchase of property. The meeting then entered into an executive session.

Council Member Smalls moved to return the meeting to Open Session. Council Member Parker seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The meeting then returned to an Open Session.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Appointments to City Boards and Commissions

Mayor Young then entertained a motion for appointments to the City Appearance Board and Economic Development Commission. Council Member Lohr moved to appoint Jackie Hodgson to the City Appearance Board, and Henry Hiott, Mitch Mongell and Eduardo Dominguez to the Economic Development Commission. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:41 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: October 27, 2009**