

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
January 22, 2008

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Young, Council Members: Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Mary Anne Cannady. Jeff Lord, City Manager, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Mayor Charlie Sweat was absent.

The invocation was given by Council Member Smalls, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag led by Council Member Cannady.

PRESENTATIONS:

Introduction of New Police Officers - This agenda item was deferred to later in the meeting.

2006-2007 Audit Report was given by Mr. Rep E. Whiddon of Baird and Company, CPAs, LLC. Mr. Whiddon gave the following highlights of the audit report:

1) Looking at the financial statements, the City has been good stewards for the citizens of Walterboro. The City is in good financial position.

2) Their firm issued an "unqualified" opinion, which is the opinion you want. This speaks highly of your financial statements and of the people who are preparing them.

3) The total primary government experienced a 5.9% increase in net assets from 22.5 million at June 30, 2006 to \$23.8 million at June 30, 2007. This change in Net Assets is due primarily to both a \$511,037 increase in capital assets and a \$400,938 decrease in notes payable.

6) On the balance sheet, the City has \$6.1 million in cash and under business type activities; the City has \$2.9 million in cash at year end. The net assets are \$6.5 million and \$17 million. Most of the net assets are capital-related in the business type activities.

7) The key sources of revenue are property taxes, sales taxes, and business licenses.

8) Under the general fund - this is where your operating expenses come from. Under cash, there is \$3.7 million, and that's enough cash to operate without anything else for 180 days, and that is a pretty good financial position. So, it speaks highly of Council and management. You're doing a good job of building assets to operate for the future. You also have \$3.7 million available in unreserved fund balance.

9) Under the Income Statement for Governmental Fund, primarily the General Fund, the total expenditures amounted to \$5,200,000, and net income was \$594,000. So, you generated a good bit of income for use in the future for the City.

10) Under water and sewer - the operating revenues were about \$2.7 million. The income before transfers was \$721,000, which is very profitable and very well managed.

Concluding the presentation, Mr. Whiddon stated that his firm did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that would be considered to be material weakness. Once again, this speaks highly of the way you're managing the city.

City Manager Jeff Lord stated that this was the first year the city has used this firm. The firm was great to work with and asked hard and fair questions. They did a good job for us. Mayor Pro-Tem Young also thanked Jeff and the Finance staff for the good work they have done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the January 3, Special Called Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

The Minutes of the January 8, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Cannady, and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance # 2007-14, An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, So As to Allow Limited Use of Electronic Display Signs, and Limited Use of Wall Signs, was before Council. Council Member Lucas moved to send this ordinance back to the Planning Commission to revisit the option of multiple colors and pictures on electronic signs. Council Member Cannady seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters stated he would like to see the Commission get involved with some of the merchants who own these type signs to get some input from them. The motion passed with all members voting in favor. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

Ordinance # 2008-01, An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.103 of the Walterboro City Code to Provide That City Council Shall Determine the Number of Associate Municipal Judges; to Provide for the Appointment of and Contracting for the Services of Judges by City Council, and Related Matters, was next on the agenda. A motion to adopt said ordinance on **Second and Final Reading** was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls, and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance # 2008-02, An Ordinance Amending "Ordinance # 2007-05 Authorizing the Leasing of the 'Little Library' Property on Wichman Street in the City of Walterboro to Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society," By Deleting There from the Draft Lease Agreement Attached Hereto as Exhibit "A" and Substituting Therefore a New Draft of the Lease Agreement was before Council. A motion to adopt said ordinance on **First Reading Approval** was made by Council Member Cannady, and seconded by Council Member Lucas. In discussing the motion, Council Member Lucas asked if the Historical Society could charge other people to use the Little Library. Attorney Cone stated that he did not know for sure if anyone had been charged to use it, but I think they generally do charge. The difference between this lease and the current one is that they (the Historical Society) did not want to carry insurance and the City already has the building listed with Municipal Insurance. We are just substituting the lease, and this is the only change. The motion then passed with all members voting in favor. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

Resolution # 2008-R-01, a Resolution to Approve and Adopt a Reasonable Accommodation Policy as Required by the ADA Americans With Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, was adopted on the motion of Council Member Smalls, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

Next under New Business, Mr. Johnnie Thompson, appeared before Council with a request for support for a museum at the Walterboro Army Airfield. Mr. Thompson informed Council that an exploratory committee met some time ago to look at the feasibility and possibility of putting a museum at the Walterboro Army Airfield Memorial Park. Mr. Thompson stated that the group had received the support of Colleton County Council, and possibly the Airport Commission. His group raised monies and opened the park in 1997 and unveiled the Tuskegee Airmen Monument. In 2005, the group completed a major renovation of the park with matching funds for around \$42,000. The group has received a master plan for the park and one of the things called for in the master plan is a vintage type aircraft of the 1940's period.

Mr. Thompson reported that he tried two sources to secure this type airplane. He was told by both locations that it would be easier to get the airplane from any museum if we (Walterboro) had a museum to bring the plane to, under consignment. Mr. Thompson said that's one of the reasons we want a museum out there. Another reason is when we put those directional signs out on I-95, two or three car loads of tourists would come to the park and they would ask where is the museum? They were looking for something tangible. He then asked for the city's support for having a museum at the Walterboro Army Airfield Memorial Park. He stated we feel this would be a major tourist attraction for this area.

A motion was then made by Council Member Cannady to endorse the general support for the creation of the Airport Museum in concept. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smalls. In a brief discussion of this agenda item, Council Member Cannady pointed out that there are too many things going on at the airport at this point for us to designate an area. Attorney Cone noted that the Airport Commission was more concerned about the impact on industries they are currently discussing to locate out there, than the impact on what the Tuskegee Airmen and the museum intend to do rather than vice versa. This is a matter that the Development Board and no one else can discuss. **The motion then passed unanimously**, except Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

Next, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby reported that staff had received bids to replace two vehicles - one for the water department and one for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He recommended approval of two low bids for \$12,156 and \$19,958 from Walterboro Motor Sales. These bids were less than the state contract sales price. A motion was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Parker to accept the low bids of \$12,156 and \$19,958 to purchase two vehicles from Walterboro Motor Sales. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

Next, Public Works Director Charlie Chewing presented bids received for the purchase of a crew-cab pickup truck for the Public Works Department. The low bidder was Walterboro Motor Sales. A motion to approve the low bidder, Walterboro Motor Sales, in the amount of \$19,582.00 for the purchase of a crew-cab pickup truck was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

Next, Mrs. Cornelia Neeley addressed Council. She reported on a meeting with the new City Manager, Mr. Jeff Lord. She stated he was very courteous and respectful and took his time to explain the sign ordinance to her. She stated, I really came out of the meeting feeling good. She stated that she and her husband wanted to work with the City of Walterboro in a cordial and cooperative manner.

Chief Rhodes then reported on the recently hired police officers, who were unable to attend the meeting due to calls backed up. He stated that Officer Ken Billings was the first person hired in Public Safety who is both fire and police certified. We hired him from Hanahan, SC. He has been with the Department for 6 months. We also hired Officer Lindsay Eversole, a female officer, who has currently been with the department for 1 year and is currently going through the firefighting training. She completed the academy 6 months ago. She has a four-year degree and is from Virginia. Chief Rhodes reported that the department has one vacancy at this time.

A motion to enter an executive session was then made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Young then stated that the meeting would convene to an executive session for a personnel matter related to an appointment and employment, a discussion of contractual arrangements and a legal matter related to garbage collection.

Before entering an executive session, Ms. Susan Smith, a Washington Street merchant, expressed concern about street lights not being on at night on Washington Street. Chief Rhodes responded that all the posts on Washington Street did not have a pole number, so his officers went around during the night and marked those poles where the lights were out. SCE&G will now be able to replace the burned out bulbs. The meeting then entered into an executive session.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and Mayor Pro-Tem Young asked for a motion to appoint an Associate Municipal Judge for the remainder of term ending, June 30, 2009. A motion was then made by Council Member Cannady to enter into a contract with Morrison Payne for Associate Municipal Judge. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat was absent and did not vote.

There being no further business to consider a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor Pro-Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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: February 12, 2008