

Walterboro City Council
Special Called Meeting
March 5, 2008

MINUTES

Having been duly advertised as required by law, a Special Called Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 12:00 noon to discuss recommendations for acceptance of bids received for the Highway 63 Waterline Looping Project. Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Young presided.

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

There being a quorum present, Mayor Pro-Tem Young called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls for the invocation and Council Member Lucas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Highway 63 Waterline Looping Project

Under New Business, City Manager Lord told Council that the Highway 63 Waterline Looping Project would connect a 12-inch water line from the Mable T. Willis water tank, proceed all the way down Highway 63, then go down Acorn Drive and then come up Cane Branch Road and then connect in on the other side of the interstate. This is the looping line that will handle the pressure for the growth we have out there, and for fire protection purposes. The budgeted amount for this project was \$1.2 million and the low bid came in at around \$453,000.

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby reported that our engineering firm, Genesis Consulting, recommended the acceptance of the low bidder, MV Poole Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$462,671.00. This contractor has a good record. Mr. Crosby stated that boring was something we were concerned in the past. This company has also done some boring work for a project we currently have with Carroll Enterprises on the bypass project. Mr. Crosby further stated that staff is familiar with this contractor, and they have a great reputation. He then recommended that Council accept the low bid from MV Poole Construction Co.

A motion was then made by Council Member Smalls to accept the low bid of \$462,671.00 from MV Poole Construction Co., Inc. for the Highway 63 Waterline Looping Project. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Parker asked for an explanation of the bid bond. Mr. Crosby answered that this is a performance bond. It insures that the job is done in accordance with what our engineer has presented, and if it's done, then we have something to go back to make sure it is done. It is insurance. Council Member Smalls pointed out that there was a considerable amount of

difference between the low bidder and the high bidder and what was budgeted. He then asked Mr. Crosby if he were satisfied that this contractor would do a satisfactory job.

Mr. Crosby stated that the company is located upstate. Apparently, there is not a whole lot of construction going on. They are from around Newberry County. There was some question about their qualifications, but our engineer feels confident. Also, I just spoke to one of our major suppliers in the Columbia area, and they said MV Poole was one of their biggest customers, and recommended MV Poole for the job.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Cannady and Mayor Sweat were absent and did not vote.

Engineering Study for Waterline Looping Project in Forest Hills Area (Add-on agenda Item)

City Manager Lord pointed out that the city does have a significant cost savings on this project (Hwy. 63 Waterline Project). He said, a lot of that is because contractors are hungry for work. We had also talked about the next looping project to come into the Forest Hills area. He then asked for Council's approval to proceed with the engineering work on the Forest Hills area project using a small portion of the cost savings on the project, so that we will have a better budgeted figure when we come to you again to budget that project. Mr. Crosby stated that the estimated cost for the engineering on this work would be somewhere from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

A motion to allow the engineering study for the looping project in the Forest Hills area as requested was made by Council Member Lucas and seconded by Council Member Smalls. In discussing the motion, Council Member Parker asked where the water line would extend. Mr. Crosby responded that the water line would extend from our Bells Highway water tank, which is at the beginning of Hiers Corner and Bells Highway, extend along Hiers Corner Road and coming into the back side of Forest Hills. This would be a 12" water line. Mayor Pro-Tem Young asked if this were the area where we have spots with low water pressure. Mr. Crosby affirmed that this was correct.

Council Member Parker asked if this new water line would help the Forest Hills area. Mr. Crosby responded that the water model shows that this line would increase the flow of some of the fire hydrants in the back side of Forest Hills which now record less than 400 gallons a minute. Anything less than 500 gallons a minute is not recognized by ISO. The installation of this new water line, according to the water model, would increase that flow up to 1,200 gallons per minute, which is a significant increase.

The motion then passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady and Mayor Sweat were absent and did not vote.

Appointment of Persons to Serve on the Coastal Electric Business Industrial Corporation Board

Next on the agenda was appointment of persons to serve on the Coastal Electric Business Industrial Corporation Board of Directors.

City Manager Jeff Lord briefed Council on this item. He stated that the city had been working with Coastal Electric to help finance the pump station upgrades. The way it has to work is that a nonprofit organization has to be set up to handle the property that is out there, in order for them to be able to give the city the money for this project. This is not a Coastal Electric Board. This is a board for the nonprofit that is associated with that piece of property. According to the proposed bylaws, there are (5) members of that Board, being: Mayor, Mayor-Pro-Tem, City Manager and 2 other persons to be appointed by City Council. The intention is that one of those persons would be a representative of Coastal Electric. Mr. Lord stated that he spoke with Mr. Larry Hinz of Coastal, and his recommendation was to offer for an appointment Mr. LaVern Polk from his Board. That would give us a quorum, so we can adopt the bylaws and then move forward with that project.

A motion was then made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Parker, and passed unanimously to appoint Mr. LaVern Polk to the Coastal Electric Business and Industrial Corporation Board of Directors, which is a nonprofit organization. Mayor Sweat and Council Member Cannady were absent and did not vote.

City Attorney George Cone reported that he had not spoken with Margaret Pope, as to what effect having her new firm certify our bond issues would have on our bond ratings. By that, what interest rates the city would be able to place the bonds. Attorney Cone informed Council he would get in touch with Ms. Pope on this matter.

Next, Council Member Lucas asked Police Chief Rhodes if he had an update on the lady whose car was broken into and a purse stolen on West Washington Street near the Great Swamp Sanctuary. Chief Rhodes stated he had spoken with the lady about the incident. He is currently following up on more information she gave him.

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 Pro-Tem adjourned the meeting at 12:11 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 8, 2008