

Walterboro City Council  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting  
May 27, 2008

### **MINUTES**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Charlie Sweat presiding.

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

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Mayor Sweat then opened a public hearing, duly advertised to receive public comments on two proposed ordinances. Approximately 25 persons were in attendance:

1. Ordinance # 2008-05, to Amend Chapter 4, Building Regulations, Article I, Section 4-1, Building Codes-Adopted, So as to Update References to the Building Code Editions, and Fee Schedule.

Mayor Sweat stated that this is basically something that we do every year. This is to adopt the changes in the Building Codes, as they have been changed from year to year. Every year, we have to go through and re-adopt the building codes. He asked if anyone had any comments. **No comments were received.** The Mayor then moved to the next Public Hearing agenda item.

2. Ordinance # 2008-06, to Enact a New City Ordinance Regulating Smoking in Public Places to Protect the Public Against the Harmful Effects of Secondary Smoke

Mayor Sweat noted that a public hearing was held on the new smoke-free ordinance at the last meeting. He asked if there were any additional comments from persons wishing to speak on this matter at this time.

**No additional comments were received,** and the public hearing was closed. The regular meeting then began.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ordinance # 2008-05 was given **Second Reading and Adoption** on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Peters, and passed unanimously being: **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 4, BUILDING REGULATIONS, ARTICLE I, SECTION 4-1, BUILDING CODES-ADOPTED, SO AS TO UPDATE REFERENCES TO THE BUILDING CODE EDITIONS, AND FEE SCHEDULE.**

Next, Ordinance # 2008-06 was given **Second Reading and Adoption** on the motion of Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Parker, being: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE WALTERBORO CITY CODE OF 2002, AS AMENDED, TO ENACT A NEW CITY ORDINANCE REGULATING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES TO**

**PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SECONDARY SMOKE.** The motion for adoption passed with a vote of 7/0, with all Council Members voting in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Under New Business, a motion was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls, giving **First Reading Approval** to Ordinance # 2008-07, being: **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY ENTERPRISE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO.** The motion for adoption passed with all members voting in favor.

Next, Ordinance # 2008-08, was given **First Reading Approval** on the motion of Council Member Peters, and seconded by Council Member Cannady, being: **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO.** The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Proposals for the Construction of a Public Safety Substation

The Mayor announced that this agenda item would be deferred to later in the meeting, because there are some items that need to be discussed with Council in our executive session.

Consideration of Bids for the Resurfacing and Repair of the City Parking Lot

City Manager Lord noted that staff only received one bid (from Lyons Contracting, Inc.) for the resurfacing and repair of the City Parking Lot, and the recommendation is to approve the bid. The bid amount of (\$92,820,86) was within the amount budgeted for this work. Council Member Parker asked if we needed to go any further. City Manager responded that (the job) was advertised and sent to local contractors. He said that the Public Works Director, Mr. Chewning, could speak more on this. He stated, because of the mixture between the asphalt and the other brick work, this is not attractive to the big asphalt companies.

Public Works Charlie Chewning added, by looking at the quote we received on this work, there is a mixture of landscaping and you have to deal with trees. A lot of the asphalt companies are not going to get involved in a job like this. We don't have very many of the locals that would tackle a job like this either, he said. So, it's pretty much a specialized thing. With the oil prices up like they are now, of course, the asphalt is sky high. Mr. Chewning stated that the prices listed here are only good for 30 days because of the oil prices. So, it is our recommendation that we accept the bid.

On a question raised by Council Member Parker, City Manager Lord responded that the amount budgeted for this work was \$100,000.

A motion was then made by Council Member Cannady to accept the bid received from Lyons Construction Company for \$92,820.86 for the repair and resurfacing work on the city parking lot. Council Member Young seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Progress Report of the Steering Committee to Establish a YMCA

Mr. Joe Williams appeared before Council to inform Council of what his committee is doing to establish a YMCA in Walterboro. He said, I have been interested in a YMCA for some time, and one of the items that is missing to improve the quality of life in Walterboro and Colleton County is a YMCA. We have been looking into it for a good while. We found that in

order to establish a YMCA, you have to have another YMCA in the local vicinity to sponsor you. So, Summerville has agreed to sponsor Walterboro, and they have done that.

Our Steering Committee now is officially a committee of the Summerville YMCA. Our purpose now is to start programs and to start partnering with various groups and agencies in Colleton County, hopefully, one day to have a full fledged YMCA facility. He reported to Council that Councilman Bill Young is on the Steering Committee, along with about 12 other community leaders. One requirement is that we raise in the neighborhood of \$500,000 and this can be over a period of years. But until we raise that money, we need that much in order to meet the payroll for the first 3 years. That's one of their requirements. In the meantime, Summerville will supply us with services and support to do programs and to partner with various agencies. The (groups) that we have targeted to partner with are the City, the County, the School Board, the ministerial association and civic clubs. We have established a liaison with all these groups now and my purpose here today is to let you know that it exists and what we are working toward - eventually, one day to have a full fledged state of the art YMCA.

Mr. Williams pointed out that raising \$500,000 is not an easy task with all the other things going on in the community now. There are a lot of demands on our community just to support civic clubs, civic groups and civic causes, but we have to start somewhere if we are ever going to have a YMCA. We have the recreation commission. We are looking for a facility and looking for funds right now. Essentially, that's where we are.

On a question raised by Mayor Sweat, Mr. Williams affirmed that the committee is looking for a facility; put officially does not have a campaign now to look for a facility because we have no financial means right now. We have zero money. But, yes we are looking for a facility that hopefully we could put together. If we can find a facility, for instance the Asten Hill facility, which may work. We have contacted them and asked them to consider possibility doing a YMCA or talk with us about doing something like that with that building.

He then stated, let me invite all of you. We have a regular biweekly meeting at Shoney's tomorrow morning at 8:00 A.M. for a dutch breakfast. If anyone wants to come to join us to see what we are doing, we'd love to have you come. One of the things we are trying to kick off right now is that the ministerial association has expressed interest starting an athletic association. So, we are going to try and kick it off with a mixed men and women's softball tournament in June.

Council Member Peters then asked Mr. Williams if the YMCA would be an addition to the Recreation Commission, or will it take over the programs that the Recreation Commission has - what is the relationship between the two.

Mr. Williams responded that the YMCA is adept to partnering and working in conjunction with local government sponsor recreation commissions. No, it is not the purpose of the YMCA to take over or replace the Recreation Commission, but to work in conjunction with it.

Council Member Smalls asked if a gymnasium is needed with the YMCA. Mr. Williams responded that one of the problems we have right now is that our facilities are fragmented. We got a facility here and a gym there and a gym over here and this one is being used and that one is not. So, it would be nice if we could do that. Hopefully, one day we will have gymnasium facilities, with a basketball court, handball courts and tennis courts, exercise facilities, and swimming pools. That's the goal.

Mr. Williams then stated that the Y does not turn away anybody because of their inability to pay. The Y does exist primarily on membership fees that they charge. If someone is not able to pay, the Y does not turn them away. They will look at an individual's ability to pay and try to adjust whatever fees they can afford to pay.

#### Issues Concerning Neighborhoods and Youths

Next, Mr. Horace Simmons appeared before Council. He said, I represent young kids. Our program is called Community Action Line Against Violence. We have been running for about 8 years, and we have tried to prevent youths from going to jail, getting on drugs, getting in trouble. We have to keep them in school and in church and doing something positive.

Mr. Simmons then stated that he had seen an article in the newspaper and he has said many times before. "I don't like to hear a child being called a hoodlum" or like to hear a child being labeled, because these kids are what we make them. Always remember, whatever a child knows or does, we taught them. So, we have to look at ourselves before we start labeling them.

Another thing in our community is that a lot of work needs to be done. We need ditches cleaned, and lots cleared. We are asking Council to look into these things. We need a playground for our kids. We are asking the City if they could over the summer, try to help us find some job relief for 8 to 9 kids. We will be out doing our part also. In our area, we need some speed limit signs. There is not a speed limit sign in that area, and I know they are driving 50 and 60 miles per hour through that area. On some streets, there are no stop signs. We are asking Council to please look into these conditions. Do what you can to help us help these kids. Every evening, they are in the streets bouncing basketballs, because they have no place to go and nothing to do. That's why so many of them get into trouble, and we, as adults, label them. That's not right. Let's all of us get together, and work together. These are our children, he said.

Mayor Sweat then asked Mr. Simmons if there were a basketball court at the Doodle Hill Park in his neighborhood. Mr. Simmons noted that he lives on Henderson Street. He said, I need not only Council; I will need the entire city to help save these children.

Mr. Smalls asked if a site were available in Mr. Simmons' area for the possibility of a playground. Mr. Simmons said, there was a baseball field there years ago, but somebody closed it up years ago. It was noted that there was a playground some years on Henderson Street, but houses were built there. There was a promise to give it back to the neighborhood, but they never gave the park back to the community.

Mayor Sweat agreed there is a need. He stated, I think that is one of the things Council identified in their retreat back in January, was the fact that we need to put a little more emphasis on our young people and try to get them involved in our community. Hopefully, as time progresses this summer, we will have some time to step forward and try and make some of that happen. Mayor Sweat thanked Mr. Simmons for bringing the matter to Council. He noted that Mr. Simmons' concerns would be referred to a group to try to get some action started.

The Mayor then announced that there will be a ground breaking ceremony on Friday, May 30 at 4:00 p.m. on North Lemacks Street for Habitat for Humanity, where they will be starting a new house in that area. He encouraged everyone to attend.

The Mayor then announced that Council will have an executive session to discuss a contractual matter on the Great Swamp Sanctuary and to discuss a matter on the Public Safety Substation.

Before entering an executive session, at this point, a question of clarification was raised by Mr. Cranny Boensch, who was present at the meeting along with members of his Boy Scout troops. He asked about items 1 and 2 under New Business regarding adopting the City Enterprise Budget and the City Budget. He asked the Mayor to explain the difference between the Enterprise Budget and the City Budget. City Manager Lord responded that the city's operations are divided into two. You have government operations, which is police, fire, planning and codes, etc. and then you have business, like a proprietary operation, which is your water and sewer. It's run like a business, and so it is accounted for like a business. You have to adopt a budget separately. Mayor Sweat added that the city did not have two budgets until last year, but because of our accountants and everybody else along the line, who said, 'now you got to do that'.

A motion was then made by Council Member Parker to enter an executive session as stated by the Mayor. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The meeting then entered an executive session.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and Council reviewed the two bids received for construction of a Public Safety Substation. The bids received were as follows:

Brightwell Engineering and Contracting, Inc.	\$149,880.00
Mitchell Construction Company, Inc.	\$190,000.00

Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid of \$149,880.00 from Brightwell Engineering.

A motion was then made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Cannady to accept the low bid of \$149,880.00 from Brightwell Engineering and Contracting, Inc. for construction of a Public Safety Substation to be located on Robertson Boulevard. The motion passed with a vote of 5/1, with Council Members Peters, Lucas, Smalls, Cannady and Mayor Sweat voting in favor. Council Member Parker voted against the motion for adoption, and Council Member Young did not vote on the motion.

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 7:12 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