

**MINUTES**

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Charlie Sweat presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Charlie Sweat, Council Members: Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Jeff Lord and City Clerk Betty Hudson were also present. City Attorney George Cone was absent. Council Member Bill Young was also absent at the start of the meeting, but arrived later in the meeting. Approximately 32 persons were in attendance.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The Mayor announced that Council Member Young was absent due to a family emergency.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

The Mayor then announced a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments on two proposed Ordinances # 2008-07, to adopt the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Matters Relating Thereto, and # 2008-08, to adopt the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Matters Relating Thereto.

To explain why the City has two different budgets, Mayor Sweat stated that the city has one budget that is concerned basically with our enterprise accounts, like water accounts, sewer accounts, etc. Then we have the main budget which is concerned with the operation of the city. This is the second year the city has adopted two budgets. Council Member Parker added that this was at the request of the auditors.

No public comments were received on proposed Ordinance # 2008-07 and # 2008-08. The regular meeting then began.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the April 22, 2008 Regular Meeting and the May 27, 2008 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting as presented. The Minutes of the May 13, 2008 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as corrected, with the following:

- 1) Page II, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence corrected to read, "Ms. Spivey read from what she indicated was an article written regarding the 1993 EPA Report . . ."
- 2) Page V, paragraph 5, at the end of paragraph, add the following: "Council Member Young then replied, "No, Ms. Cannady, that's not what I am saying, those are your words."

The motion for approval was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and carried unanimously, except Council Member Young was absent and did not vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Next, the Mayor announced consideration of Ordinance # 2008-07, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Matters Relating Thereto. A motion was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Parker, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2008-07, being: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY ENTERPRISE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO. The motion passed with a vote of 6/0. Council Member Young was absent and did not vote.

Next, the Mayor announced consideration of Ordinance # 2008-08, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and Matters Relating Thereto. A motion

was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2008-08, being: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO. The motion passed with a vote of 6/0. Council Member Young was absent and did not vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

(At this point, Council Member Young entered the meeting).

Presentation on Peak Oil by Shawn Jadrnicek

Mr. Jadrnicek, who is employed with the Clemson Extension, stated that tonight, he is reporting to Council as a concerned citizen. Because of the volume of the materials he wanted to provide to Council, Mr. Jadrnicek presented a CD to each Council Member, which contains two reports. He said, the first report was issued by the Government Accountability Office, at the request of the Congressional Peak Oil Caucus, which is being led by Representative (Roscoe) Bartlett of Maryland. Representative Bartlett is our only scientist in Congress. He has 17 patents under his belt. The second report is from the Department of Energy, which is known as the Herst Report.

Mr. Jadrnicek then gave a visual presentation on Peak Oil. Firstly, he said, if you look at oil production in an area, it tends to rise and decline as the geological limits are reached. Oil is basically a finite resource. It's non-renewable and there is only so much of it in the ground. As you can see, we reached our peak production in the early 1970's and since then; we have produced less and less oil.

Using charts and graphs displayed on the screen, Mr. Jadrnicek gave the following remarks.

- 1) World discovery of oil peaked in the 1960's and every since then, we have discovered less and less oil each year, and now for every barrel of oil that we discover we are using about 8 barrels of oil.
- 2) Recently, what's happened - Oil production has stalled. For the past 3 years, oil production has stalled and has basically been flat. Of course during this time period, demand has been increasing while production and supply are stagnant, and we have seen a price fight as a result of this relationship between supply and demand.
- 3) Projections of future productions vary. Some people think we have reached our maximum production peak, and they believe that now we will enter into a decline. Some people think that we will just continue increasing our production into the future. But, the most important thing here is that demand has exceeded supply. This information is from the Energy Information Agency. You can see that point occurred in 2006.
- 4) As we move into the future, at some point in the future, production will decline, and it's going to create an oil gap between supply and demand.
- 5) This is the problem, there is as of now, no renewable energy source or combination of sources that can scale up quickly enough to provide any where near the energy equivalent of oil to avoid a severe world wide energy shortage. We are basically heading into a crisis of epic proportions right now.
- 6) So, you may ask, what about the hydrogen economy. Well, hydrogen is an energy storage device. It's not a source of energy. You basically use energy to create the hydrogen fuel and then you run your car off the hydrogen fuel. It's a way to get electricity into a liquid fuel that can be transported into a vehicle, and you can see, it's not very efficient at that. Only 25% of the electric energy produced is actually used in the motor of an engine. Batteries are a little better at that - utilizing 86% of the energy produced.
- 7) Basically right now, the world uses 1 cubic mile of oil every year. To produce that amount of energy (that's contained in that oil - because oil is very energy dense), you'd have to build 104 co power plants every year for 50 years to equal the amount of oil that we use in one year. Same thing for wind turbines - we'd have to build 32,850 wind turbines every year for 50

years in order to produce the same amount of energy that we use in one year with oil. So, it's a matter of scale. Scale is the problem here.

- 8) Most of our energy right now comes from nonrenewable sources - oil makes up 90% of transport energy, then we have coal, and then we have natural gas and nuclear. All of these are nonrenewable, and they will reach a peak production, and that production of nonrenewable resources will decline. First it will be oil, then it will be natural gas, then it will be nuclear, then it will be coal.
- 9) So, what does that mean to you a consumer going to the store purchasing gas? It's not a one to one ratio. The only time we have experienced a decline in production, the United States, back in the 70's was when the OPEC had the oil embargo. That was a 5% reduction in production, and it created long lines at gas stations and gas shortages. So, it was not a one to one. For that 5% drop in production, prices went up 400%.

As you look at the power of the exponential decline, we are looking at \$4.00 a gallon for gas this year, \$4.66 a gallon in 2009, when my daughter will be driving it will be \$17.00 a gallon. Right now, it's predicted to be a 1% decline and that decline is going to drop off a little bit steeper to 4% and then maybe tailor off at 3%. In 2020, we are looking at \$243 per gallon.

Mr. Jadrnicek then pointed out some of the myths related to oil production. Summarizing the myths, he noted that nothing can really match the scale of the amount of oil that we have used. Nothing can be scaled up to use that amount of energy that we use today.

Mr. Jadrnicek further stated that there are stages that people go through, when the problem starts sinking in. First stage denial - not a problem. The second stage is anger - it's the oil companies' fault, it's OPEC's fault. They don't realize that it's just a geological fact. It's a finite resource. There is only so much of it in the ground, and you can only pull it out so fast. The next step is bargaining. Then you get to depression and you really realize the scale of the problem, and then acceptance. So, we are heading into an epic crisis right now. Everything in this room depends upon oil. Everything that we eat depends upon oil. Production, manufacturing - everything depends on this one energy source and this energy source is getting ready to decline. This decline is going to cause drastic, drastic changes in the way we live and the way we do business. The sooner we can prepare for this, the better. According to the Herst Report, he says that it takes a crash course of 20 years to prepare for a decline in oil production when this happens. But, we don't have 20 years, it's probably happening right now. We have, maybe, two or three years at best.

Mr. Jadrnicek concluded by stating, it's a problem, and I just wanted to make you aware of it, because I am scared. I am scared for my family. I'm scared for our community, for our county, and for all my friends. So, I just wanted to prepare you for what's going to happen.

Mayor Sweat then thanked Mr. Jadrnicek for bringing this information to Council.

#### Concerns of Residents on Hampton Street

Next, Mr. Danny Riddle, Mr. Bert Artlip and Mr. Don Sterling, residents of Hampton Street, appeared before Council to express several concerns and problems on Hampton Street. Several residents of Hampton Street were also present on behalf of this issue.

Mr. Danny Riddle expressed concern with tractor trailers using Hampton Street as a thoroughfare. He stated that tractor trailers have continued to come down Hampton Street on a regular basis. He noted that he had spoken with the Mayor several months ago about the problem. He indicated that the Mayor stated that the city was trying to change the signage to detour the trailers from coming into town. He said that this has been an ongoing problem for years. I have been a resident there for more than 7 years, and have actually seen 2 trucks pulled (over by the Police) on Hampton Street. Whether they were getting tickets, I don't know. Mr. Riddle stated that he counted 13 tractor trailers to pass his house one afternoon, while working in the front yard. Last Wednesday, for 2 hours, I took photographs. I have 9 images of tractor trailers coming down Hampton Street, and none of those tractor trailers were delivering anything in this town. If you look at the cargo they are carrying, they are not delivering. Some of them are container trucks going to the Port Authority in Charleston. So, they are not delivering anything in downtown Walterboro.

I think, we have more than a hundred trucks to come through a week, and probably more than that, he said. Every time one of those guys comes by my house, it shakes and rattles, and it's ticking me off. I have 2 stress fractures in my porch right now and I know that's what it's from. They come through 24 hours a day, and wake me up a 4:00 in the morning. They are tearing up the limbs off our road and nothing is being done about it. We, as neighbors, collectively came here tonight, because we feel like we want something done about it. There is property damage going on, there is a noise issue and they are coming through Walterboro because they know they can come through Walterboro. Every now and then, I'll see one truck taking the bypass. But these trucks are coming downtown, down Hampton Street and I'm speaking for Hampton Street, not Wichman Street, because I know Wichman Street is equally as bad if not worse.

When questioned by Mr. Riddle, Council Member Parker affirmed that the tractor trailers are coming down his street, Wichman Street, every day, every hour.

Mr. Riddle then asked Council to give the residents of Hampton Street a hand in stopping these tractor trailers once in for all from coming down Hampton Street. He said, I know it cannot be stopped completely, but it can certainly be curbed. The other thing is, the City spent x amount of dollars in infrastructure on Hampton Street underground and resurfaced it. If you go out there and look at it now, you see the stress fractures on Hampton Street, and that's not from cars, that's from tractor trucks. They are tearing the road up. In five or six more years, I promise you Hampton Street will be torn up. In concluding, he stated, I am here tonight speaking for my neighbors and on their behalf to try and rectify this problem once in for all.

Mr. Bert Artlip stated that we as citizens have a problem that's not being addressed. We come to you, our elected officials, to remedy that problem. When the safety of the citizens is involved, I would think that you would consider it a matter of high priority. We have lived on Hampton Street for 30 years, and I have been complaining about the speeders there, since Tom McJunkin was Police Chief. To prove his point, Mr. Artlip stated that he purchased a radar gun and yesterday morning, clocked an 18-wheeler coming by his house at 56 miles an hour. That's not the first time, and it was not a log truck. It was a transit truck coming through. Mr. Artlip stated that between the hours of 6:00 and 7:30 in the morning, many of the drivers are going in excess of 40 to 50 miles an hour on my street. The speed in front of my house is 35 mph. At 8:00 A.M., further down my block where the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, those trucks speeding went from 36 to 46 miles an hour in a 25-mph zone. Mr. Artlip stated that last week, two cars were coming by my house racing, and one passed the other on a double yellow line. He stated, I know the police can't be every where, and you are doing what can be done.

In concluding Mr. Artlip stated that the residents would like to see that the traffic laws are enforced. That the speed limit of 25 mph is extended down to Padgett Loop and that a red light is installed around Lemacks and Hampton Street. He stated, how would you like to see 18 wheelers come down your street going 50 and 60 miles an hour? It's just not right. You would feel unsafe backing out of your driveway onto the road. He stated, we had one Chief of Police that I know of that if you were speeding or made an illegal turn, it didn't matter who you were, you got a ticket. That's the way it should be. If you break the law, you have to pay the price. I hope that it does not take somebody being killed on Hampton Street before we get something done.

Next, Mr. Don Sterling addressed Council. He stated he has a bed and breakfast on Hampton Street. We have a lot of nice guests in town and receive a lot of nice compliments on the town, except for one little house (at the corner of Hampton and Gerideau Street). I don't know what we can do about it. It looks trashy all the time. They are burning trash, and there is trash around. There are gangs hanging around there. Mayor Sweat thanked Mr. Sterling for bringing the matter to our attention. He stated, I won't tell you how many times we have heard about it, but we'll look into it again.

Mr. Bill Richardson, a Hampton Street resident, then spoke. He stated that when he first moved here in 1999, there was an area on Lemacks Street called the block. While the block continued to thrive and thrive, just like this area on Gerideau and Hampton Street is thriving. Everyone knows what's going on in that same neighborhood that you were talking about and it's the same thing that was happening on Lemacks Street.

Mayor Sweat stated that's something that will have to be discussed in Executive Session, rather than in Open Session. So, Council will have to take that matter up again later.

Council Member Young then stated that five of us here recognized that there is a problem with the truck traffic. Five of us were on Council when we passed the ordinance that restricted truck traffic coming down Hampton Street and Wichman Street. We still understand that it's a problem. While it may seem like we are not saying anything about it, that's not the case. It has been brought to the City's attention and to the people that need to take care of it. But, we need to do a better job with it. As far, as I am concerned, we will do a better job and try to take care of it. I am sure the rest of Council feels that way too.

Ms. Beverly Harrison then asked to address Council regarding the remarks made about the house on Gerideau Street. Ms. Harrison stated that the house on Gerideau Street is where she was raised. She went there in 1983-85. She said, that's my grandma's house, and I was raised there. She said, on Gerideau Street, it's nothing like the block. What's going on- on Gerideau Street - is nothing like the block. That's my grandma's house, she has a lot of grandkids and great grandkids who hang out there, and it's not trash. That's her house, she works hard for it and we worked hard to help her get that house, and we are working hard to help keep her in that house. They are her grandkids that are in that yard. They have been talked to about being in my grandma's yard, and those are her grandkids. On burning trash, she cleans her yard up and burns her trash. Her house is not trash. There are things going on over there that has no concern with my grandma, she does the best she can. When I came to the Chief about things going on in that neighborhood, no one listened to me; I had to go to Channel 5 news to get some action in this town. If I have to go back to Channel 5 to get some action, I will, because I don't appreciate people labeling my grandmother, because when you go out there and talk about somebody's house, know what's going on inside that house. Because when you start doing that, you discredit somebody. To call her trash, and her yard trash and something needs to be done about it, that's your opinion. In concluding, she stated when you talk about things; please have your evidence to back it up.

#### Update on Preserve America Program

Ms. Sherry Cawley, Vice Chair of the City Historic Preservation Commission then addressed Council regarding Walterboro's status with Preserve America. She announced that the City's application had been approved by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which manages the Preserve America program, the National Parks Service and the White House.

Since the Preserve America program began in 2003, about 600 communities in the 50 states and our territories have achieved designation. There are only 12 communities in South Carolina who have received Preserve America designation - 9 cities and 3 counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Bluffton, Camden, Charleston, Chesterfield, Dillon, Horry County, Lancaster County, York County, and now Walterboro makes the 12<sup>th</sup> community in South Carolina to become a part of Preserve America.

Ms. Cawley further stated, not only will Walterboro be able to use the Preserve America logo in signs and commercial materials, and be eligible for Preserve America grants, notification that Walterboro has been selected as a Preserve America community has already gone out to the state tourism offices. We will be listed in a web-based directory that showcases Walterboro's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. We will also be featured in the National Register Travel Itineraries and in "Teaching With Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

Ms. Cawley explained that the main Preserve America grants come from the National Park Service. The deadline for the second round of these grants is June 30, 2008. However, the State Historic Preservation Offices has created the South Carolina Preserve America Initiative. They applied for and were awarded a \$150,000 grant. They are now accepting applications for this funding. The first criterion is that the town must have a population of less 25,000. I think I can safely say that we qualify. Grant awards will be a maximum of \$20,000 and require a dollar-for-dollar match. The only catch is that the matching cash cannot come from federal monies. They do stress the "partner's" role in developing Heritage Tourism. The application deadline for these grants is July 31, 2008. This date is more doable.

Ms. Cawley then stated, I also want to make you aware that the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism has a number of grants available, and as a Preserve America Community, we are considered "partners" with them. What this means is that as a part of Preserve America, we will get preferred treatment for any of the following grant programs: the Tourism Partnership Fund, the Product Development Grant Program, the Heritage Corridor Development Grants, the Recreation Land Trust Fund, the Parks and

Recreation Development Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreation Trails Program. The deadline for these grants is annually, the first of December for the following year.

In conclusion, Ms. Cawley stated that she had a listing of the national Preserve America grants available and the criterion for each, a list of the acceptable projects for the South Carolina PA Initiative, and a list of the acceptable grants available through the South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism. She said, if you want a fuller packet, you can check with Bonnie in the Code Enforcement Office and she can give you more detailed information. Concluding, she stated that eligibility for all projects for any of the Preserve America grants will be determined by the Historic Preservation Commission and the City.

Mayor Sweat thanked Ms. Cawley for the information and noted that Ms. Cawley and that board really worked hard on this to get (the Preserve America designation) for us.

At this point, Mayor Sweat also thanked all persons at the meeting from Hampton and Wichman Street for coming out tonight. He said that your presence here means a lot to us. As Councilman Young stated a few minutes ago - You're not talking to deaf ears. The City has been very aware of this for several months now, and we are looking into it. We have been informed by the Highway Department that there was a problem with our signs that they put out for us. We have to have those changed and relocated, and we are working on some of this. It's not a thing where you can flip the switch and it happens and it changes right away. It's something we have to work on.

Next, with the Mayor's approval, Mrs. Janice Alexander addressed Council concerning the Lemacks Street and Hampton intersection. She stated that she has been living on Hampton Street since 1980 and has seen many wrecks, not bumpers or fender benders, but flipping of cars, flipping SUVs, end over end, glass everywhere. A county truck was coming out of Lemacks Street, and a pick up truck was going down Hampton Street, while an elderly couple was sitting on the other side at the stop sign. The van comes, the truck hits the van and they hit the elderly couple, who were sitting there minding their own business. I have seen a lot of wrecks there, and I think there should be a traffic light there, she said. That would slow down the traffic going down that street.

The Mayor then asked for a motion to enter an executive session to hear a contractual matter on Parks Improvements and a Personnel Matter on the City's Boards and Commissions. Council Member Cannady moved, and Council Member Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then said, we again thank you all for coming and attending tonight. Do not think, Mr. Riddle that you have been talking to deaf ears. We are listening and we have been listening for many months now. Our problem is trying to find the correct solution, and do it right the first time.

The Meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:55 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 24, 2008**