

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 24, 2008

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Charlie Sweat presiding.

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that, on behalf of City Council, we are very deeply disturbed about the death of Mr. John Truluck last week, and I'm sure that all of Council will agree with me that we were fully supportive of this individual, who did a lot for this community and a lot for this city. We are extending our sympathy to the family and others involved.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

The Mayor then announced a public hearing to review program accomplishments and performance of the Walterboro Bypass Water Extension Program. The public hearing was duly advertised in the local newspapers. The Mayor then recognized Mr. Chris Bickley of Lowcountry Council of Governments to lead the hearing.

Mr. Chris Bickley explained that this is a closeout public hearing on the accomplishments and performance of the Walterboro Bypass Water Extension Program funded under CDBG Grant # 4-CI-06-011. He stated that the City received a one-half million dollars (\$500,000) from the State Department of Commerce in June 2006 to install a 12-inch water transmission line to upgrade water pressure and fire flow to the southwestern portions of the city. This line runs from the intersection of Hill Street and Robertson Boulevard to the Greenpond Highway. In addition to the funds the City received in CDBG funds, the city spent \$137,000 of its own program income funds to complete the project.

In conclusion, Mr. Bickley pointed out that this project benefits 2,700 people, of which 1,700 are low to moderate income persons.

The Mayor then asked if there were any public comments from the public on this project. No comments were received, and the public hearing was closed. The regular meeting then began.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the June 10, 2008 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. Council Member Lucas was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance # 2008-09

A motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Parker, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2008-09; being: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING

CHAPTER 18 OF THE WALTERBORO CITY CODE OF 2002, AS AMENDED, TO REGULATE CERTAIN TRUCK TRAFFIC ON HAMPTON STREET, WICHMAN STREET AND PADGETT LOOP WITHIN THE CITY OF WALTERBORO.

Council Member Smalls then asked for clarification of a truck with 3 axels. City Manager Lord responded that the wording "commercial vehicle" with 3 axels or more, was added to the ordinance. So, the ordinance will only affect commercial vehicles with 3 axels or more.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Lucas was absent and did not vote.

Mayor Sweat announced that this new ordinance is something we have been working on for a good while. We finally got it accomplished after the rousing attendance at our last meeting from some of the Hampton Street and Wichman Street residents. So, we are making the steps, it will just take a little bit longer.

Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Committee

City Manager Jeff Lord introduced the recommendations for funding from the City's A-Tax Committee. He stated the board met on June 19 to consider funding requests. The committee received 5 requests, of which 2 were late which the committee did not consider. Those applicants were: Lowcountry Tourism Commission and the Historic and Preservation Society. The Committee did invite the late applicants to come back again to be considered for future funding. The recommendations for approval were as follows:

Walterboro Area Tourism Council	- \$ 92,000	(for operation of Welcome Center)
SC Artisans Center	- \$ 16,000	(for bill boards & Red Rocker)
City of Walterboro	- \$ 3,500	(for the downtown kiosks)
Total	\$111,500	

Mr. Lord stated that the estimated A-Tax revenue for this time period is \$137,963.06, so the \$111,500 amount is within the projected resources, and would leave a balance of \$26,463.06 for future allocations.

A motion was then made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Cannady to approve the recommendations by the A-Tax Committee as submitted.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters asked the City Manager if he had any idea why the other 2 applicants were late. Mayor Sweat felt that some people evidently don't read the newspaper with the legal notice. Council Member Parker then said, Lowcountry Tourism is usually right on the money. Mr. Lord responded that the city placed a public notice in the local papers and published the notice on the City's website. So, there was proper notice to the public.

The motion then passed with a vote of 6/0. Council Member Lucas was absent and did not vote.

Request to Place Safe kids Lowcountry Banners in the City Limits

Ms. Yvonne Penfield, on behalf of the Safe Kids Lowcountry program appeared before Council requesting permission to place banners in the city limits to announce car seat checks' events. Ms. Penfield stated that her organization has several car seat check events per year in the City of Walterboro. All funds to run the Safe Kids program come from grants. Ms. Penfield informed Council that the banners would be put up on Mondays and removed on Saturdays. The events are usually held on Fridays. The banner will display the date of the car seat check event and the time. She expressed concern that if the banners were not display, then the public would miss the event when riding by with children in their cars.

A brief discussion ensued. City Manager Lord informed Ms. Penfield that she could fill out a permit with staff to hold an event for 7 days once a year or she could come before Council and request an exception to the rule for the planned event.

City Attorney Cone told Ms. Penfield that Council could consider a year's worth of requests for the events if she would put the request in a letter, but Council could not

approve a blanket request. For example, you can request June 14, Sept 19, Dec. 20, etc. Put it all in one letter and come before Council one time with the request. If you don't know the dates in advance, then you could come before Council each session. Whatever is easiest for you, he said.

Concluding the discussion, Ms. Penfield agreed to write a letter requesting permission to hang the banners and include the expected dates for the events.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mayor Sweat displayed a plaque award (a big fish) received by the City in Greenville in January 2008. He announced that the award is the Organizational and Conservation Award from the South Carolina Wildlife Federation.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed unanimously. Council Member Lucas was absent and did not vote. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:39 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 July 8, 2008