

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2006

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr. presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr., Council Members: Charles Lucas, Bill Young, Johnnie Thompson, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Tuck McConnell, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Sweat welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. He then called on Council Member Smalls for the invocation and Council Member Lucas to lead the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

The Minutes of the December 13, 2005 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Cannady, with all members voting in favor.

There was no Old Business before Council.

Under New Business, the Mayor announced that a recognition plaque had been received from the National League of Cities (NLC) recognizing the City of Walterboro for its 25 years of membership. The plaque and award letter was then passed to each Council Member to view.

Next, Mr. Chris Cook, on behalf of the Cub Scouts Pack 678 in Walterboro, appeared before Council requesting permission to close Forest Hills Road from Jefferies Boulevard to Ireland Creek Road on February 25 or 26, 2006, to hold their annual soapbox car race. This is their 2nd annual event and will include club scouts and boy scouts from 1st to 5th grade. Mr. Cook told Council that the businesses on the road, the Bank of Walterboro, Rizer Chevrolet and Jones and Jones Insurance would be closed on Saturday; so this will not affect their business. He asked that the street be closed from 7:30 A.M. to 12:00 or 1:00 P.M. The race will be held on Saturday, Feb 25, but if it rains the event will be held on Sunday morning, Feb. 26. Council Member Parker asked how liability would be handled. Mr. Cook noted that liability would be handled through the Boy Scouts of America. A motion approving the request was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed unanimously.

Next, Mayor Sweat announced that a request had just been received from Mr. Herman Bright of the Walterboro Shriners club, to hold the Martin Luther King Parade on this Sunday, January 15, 2006. He then asked for Council's action on the request. A motion approving the request was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed with all members voting in favor. The Mayor announced that the lineup for the parade would start at 1:30 P.M. at the Crab City Restaurant on Jefferies Blvd., and the parade would begin at 2:30 P.M.

As information under New Business, Mayor Sweat made the following announcements.

1) The City has received a letter back from SCDOT stating that the Highway Department would do an analysis study on the turn signals from Jefferies Boulevard onto West Washington Street and onto Hampton Street.

2) The City has received word from SCDOT that the right-of-way team is in town now to make purchases for the extension of the beltline.

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Council Member Young informed Council that he had received comments from people concerned about the traffic problem when getting off the interstate (I-95) onto Bells Highway. This is due to the increased traffic flow to the new Super Walmart. He expressed concern that this is creating a safety hazard.

Further discussion was held by Council on this matter. Police Chief Rhodes pointed out that his department had also received complaints. He explained that part of the problem is coming from the traffic at the intersection of Mt. Carmel Road at Bells Highway. If you make a left turn there, the flow of traffic is extremely difficult. He stated because of the way this intersection is configured, it's also hard to look back to the left to make a right turn. He suggested that a traffic light may help the problem there and also the interstate traffic. Council Member Cannady expressed concern that the exit at the new Walmart was a major concern. Chief Rhodes noted that the light at the Walmart is timed and one can make a right or left turn onto Bells Highway. There is only one way in and one way out.

Council Member Young suggested that a traffic study should be done for the following intersections at Bells Highway: 1) from Dandridge Road; 2) from Mt. Carmel Road and 3) from the interstate. He stated that SCDOT should determine where they can put traffic lights which will make the traffic flow work.

Concluding the discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Parker, to have SCDOT conduct a study for the area on Bells Highway from Dandridge Road to the Walmart light and determine where they can place additional traffic lights that can expedite the flow of traffic. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager McConnell informed Council that the entrance to the new Walmart would be re-poured (where the 'cones' are now located). It was found that the aisle entrance was not made high enough. In addition, he stated that more time had been added to the traffic signal at the one-way exit. Now, more cars (about 8 or 9) can exit at once with the timed signal.

A motion was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls, to enter an executive session to discuss three contractual matters: 1) the Colleton County Schools Land Purchase; 2) Colleton County Intergovernmental Agreement and 3) a proposal on the North Lemacks Street Property. The meeting returned to Open Session with no action being taken.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Young and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:26 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