

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 13, 2006

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 13, 2006 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr. presiding.

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

There being a quorum present, Mayor Sweat called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Smalls for the invocation and Council Member Parker to lead the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

The Mayor then announced a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments on the proposed budget ordinance # 2006-16 for fiscal year 2006-2007. City Manager McConnell informed Council that Council Member Cannady has requested that \$35,000 be taken from the contingency fund and place into a water meter replacement fund for the radio read meters. He stated that staff had no problem with doing this if Council so desired. No further comments were received.

Next, Mr. Bernard Warshaw appeared before Council with an update on the dedication ceremony for the new VA Nursing Home. Mr. Warshaw stated that he was asked to chair the state committee for the dedication of the VA Nursing Home to be held on November 11, 2006. The dedication will be held after the downtown parade. Council Member Thompson is chairman of the parade committee. The dedication ceremony will begin at 11:30 A.M. and end around 1:00 or 1:30 P.M. The name of the VA Nursing Home is Veterans Victory House - Home of the Greatest Generations. Mr. Warshaw stated that a gentleman has agreed to publicize this particular project to all national magazines dealing with veterans. He stated that they are looking forward to big things. They expect to have 800 to 1,200 persons attending this event. Mr. Warshaw briefly gave more details concerning the VA Nursing Home dedication and employment information. In closing, he stated that in the future, he would like to come back to Council to ask for financial assistance for the project.

The Minutes of the May 23, 2006 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote.

There was no Old Business before Council.

Under New Business, **Ordinance # 2006-17**, An Ordinance Providing for a Local Accommodations Tax, was given **First Reading Approval** on the motion of Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote. Mayor Sweat explained that this was not an additional tax. It takes 1½ percent of what the county was charging on the local accommodations tax. There is a state accommodations tax which is a 2% tax, which goes to the state. Then, there is a possibility for an additional 3% local accommodation's tax in the county, of which the municipality can only have 1½ percent. The city has chosen to levy this tax to help pay or defray the cost of the work planned for the two interstate interchanges, the light bill and the maintenance fees.

Ordinance # 2006-18, An Ordinance to Amend Section 18.311. Parking Tickets Authorized, Subsection c., So As to Correct the Reference to the Applicable Penalties, was given **First Reading Approval** on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote. City Attorney Cone explained that when the City Code was recodified, it incorrectly cited Article "IX," instead of the correct Article "X" for the penalties

on parking tickets. He stated that the municipal judge felt uncomfortable imposing the penalties without the ordinance being amended. Attorney Cone stated that this should take care of our problem with outstanding parking tickets.

Next, Council reviewed a request for street closings for an Alumni Community Walk by the Colleton Training School/Colleton County High School Alumni Association on July 1, 2006 at 7:30 A.M. and ending at 9:00 A.M. A motion to approve the request was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote. In discussing the motion, Council Member Parker asked Chief Rhodes if everything was in compliance with this request. Chief Rhodes responded that there was not enough time for the 45-day notice. He stated he did not know exactly how many people this involved, but it should not take a lot of time. Chief Rhodes affirmed that this request was okay with his department.

Next, a proclamation designating July 2006 as Colleton Training/Colleton High School Alumni Month was **ADOPTED** on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

Next, before Council was a request for waiver of a 10% penalty on Business License for Edisto Orthopedics. Council Member Lucas moved to approve the request for waiver. **No second was received and the motion died for lack of a second.**

Next, before Council was a request by the Walterboro Eye Care Center for a waiver of a 5% penalty on their business license. **This agenda item died for lack of a motion.**

There were no Committee reports given.

The Mayor announced that there were two items to be heard in an executive session, which involved land acquisition for the Great Swamp and a contractual matter involving the county. A motion to enter an executive session was then made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Thompson and passed unanimously.

Before adjourning into Executive Session, the Mayor made a public announcement that prior to the meeting tonight, he had signed a Statement of Support for the National Guards and Reserves. The Mayor displayed a framed copy of this statement and stated that it would be on display to show the city's full support for its National Guards and Reserves.

The meeting returned to Open Session and a motion was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Thompson to purchase the land (which was identified in Executive Session) from the Colleton County School District. The motion passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote.

Next, a motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Thompson, to approve an agreement with Colleton County to assume the County's grant for landscape work for Exit 53 on I-95 pursuant to the County's motion at their last meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Council Members Cannady and Young were absent and did not vote on the motion.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Smalls, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:56 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 27, 2006