

Walterboro City Council  
Regular Meeting  
August 8, 2006

### **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr. presiding.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sweat. Council Member Smalls led the assembled in prayer. Council Member Cannady led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Proclamation was presented to the Walterboro Dixie Youth All Stars by the Mayor. Each player will receive a copy of the proclamation as well as the coaches.

The Minutes of the July 25, 2006 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Council Member Thompson and seconded by Council Member Cannady. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

Council received a presentation by Nick Davidson of DHEC regarding the flu strain H5N1, commonly known as the bird flu. This flu strain has a 50% fatality rate and could infect 25% of the state's population if it develops the ability to become a pandemic event.

Council then passed Second and Final Reading of Ordinance # 2006-19, AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX CERTAIN PORTIONS OF S.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN USING S.C. CODE SECTION 5-3-110 AS REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. The motion for adoption was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Cannady. A brief discussion followed, then the ordinance passed unanimously. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

Council then gave First Reading to Ordinance # 2006-20, An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, So As to Clarify and Strengthen Portions of the Ordinance. Council Member Thompson moved for first reading and the motion was seconded by Council Member Cannady. A discussion followed with Council Member Young questioning the purpose of restricting the height of fences in front yards. City Manager McConnell explained that the Planning Commission wanted to prevent large, solid fences from the right-of-way line to the front yard setback line to prevent homes and businesses from being totally screened. The question of sign clearances and intersection and driveways were addressed by Public Works Director Charlie Chewing.

A vote was then taken and passed unanimously with the understanding that a public hearing would be required. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

Mayor Sweat announced vacancies on the Tree Committee and the Appearance Board. He said the vacancies would be advertised and asked for interested citizens to respond.

Tracey Johnston appeared before Council to request that Sweat Street be closed from Jefferies Boulevard to Witsell Street on October 14, 2006 from 4:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. for a wedding. A discussion involving safety and parking issues, as well as access to the nursing home, and the use of off-duty officers to monitor the traffic, Council approved a motion by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Thompson and passed unanimously to allow traffic to be monitored by off-duty officers so as to restrict traffic on Sweat Street on the date and times requested, so as to allow wedding guests and those needing access to the nursing home to use Sweat Street for travel and parking as defined by the Chief of Police. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

Mr. Dennis Neeley then addressed Council regarding his problem with a neighboring business' use of a shipping container as a sign which blocked the view of his business. Mr. Neeley was told that the neighbor had been given 30 days to comply with the ordinance and that the neighbor's legal options would still be open to him. Mrs. Neeley then stood to tell Council that Mr. Hickman had told them that the neighbor, Mr. Long, was going to build a fourteen-foot high wall. She then thanked Council for their efforts on their behalf.

Council then went into Executive Session on a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Cannady, and passed unanimously, to discuss a personnel matter related to the Police Department.

After the Executive Session, Council resumed the regularly scheduled meeting.

First Reading by Title Only was given to Ordinance # 2006-21, An Ordinance to annex property located at 130 Cane Branch Road (Microtel Hotel) on a motion by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Thompson, and passed unanimously. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

On a motion by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously with Mayor Sweat abstaining because of a potential conflict of interest, Council authorized the purchase of a lawn mower in the amount of \$7,559.21 for the Parks Department from John Deere Governmental Sales. Council Members Lucas and Parker were absent and did not vote.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed unanimously, so that Council could attend a celebration downtown for the Walterboro Dixie Youth All Stars. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:05 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,

E. R. McConnell, City Manager  
Acting Secretary