

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting was held at Walterboro City Hall on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 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, and Ted Parker. City Manager Tuck McConnell, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Council Members Bill Young and Mary Anne Cannady were absent.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Sweat called the meeting to order and gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance to our flag led by Council Member Lucas.

Mayor Sweat announced that Council Member Cannady was out of town on business and that Council Member Young might be running late tonight, he is attending a class in Bluffton.

Next, the Mayor announced a public hearing to receive public comment on proposed Ordinance # 2005-08, to Amend the Business License Ordinance, SIC Classification 5963, Peddlers, Solicitors, Canvassers, and Door-to-Door Sales. No comments were received and the hearing was closed.

The Minutes of the August 23, 2005 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Parker with all members voting in favor. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

There was no Old Business before Council.

Under New Business, a Resolution # 2005-11, Certification of the Sole Candidate, Franklin R. Smalls, as Elected to the Unexpired Term on Walterboro City Council ending in 2007, was before Council. Prior to action on this item, Council reviewed a resolution adopted by the Municipal Election Commission, which is attached as part of these minutes.

A motion adopting Resolution # 2005-11 was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed unanimously. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

Next, Mayor Sweat announced the swearing-in of Council Member Franklin Smalls, City Council Member elect. The Mayor stated he was notified by legal counsel that Council Member Smalls officially takes office next Monday, September 19, 2005, however the swearing in would be held tonight, so he will be on course at the next Council meeting.

Council Member Smalls was then sworn into office by City Attorney George Cone. Council Member Smalls then gave a few remarks. He stated he was glad to be back on Council. He pledged to continue being a strong team worker, to exercise cooperation and togetherness. He stated he is willing to do his part to help Council improve the quality of life in the City of Walterboro. Council Member Smalls was then seated at Council, and the City Attorney reiterated that the Councilman would officially take office on Monday, and could not vote on any issues tonight.

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

MINUTES/Page II

Next, Ms. Bonnie Smith of the Colleton County Arts Council requested use of the City Parking Lot on October 1, 2005 and March 4, 2006 for free family oriented performances by regional musicians. City Attorney Cone stated he believed Council could consider the October request date, but was unsure about the March 4, 2006 date, due to the status of the City Parking Lot lease. A motion was then made by Council Member Parker to approve the use of the City Parking Lot by the Arts Council on October 1, 2005. The motion was seconded by Council Member Thompson. In discussing the motion, Council Member Thompson questioned the City's liability for the Parking Lot, since there would be children attending. The City Attorney stated that the city generally asks the sponsor of the event to carry liability insurance which would list the City of Walterboro as an additional insured. Ms. Smith responded that it would be no problem for her organization to include this item on their insurance policy. The motion then passed unanimously. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

Next, Mr. Budd Price, on behalf of the Colleton County Historical Society appeared before Council with the following requests:

- 1) Permission to hang a banner across Jefferies Boulevard On October 14-24, 2005, to promote a Plantation Tour on Sunday, October 23, 2005.
- 2) Permission to hang a banner across Jefferies Boulevard for 10 days prior to March 3, 2006 announcing the 300th Anniversary of St. Bartholomew's Parish-Colleton County.
- 3) In celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Colleton County, Mr. Price also requested that the City close off Church Street from Miller to Fishburne Street (between the Lucas House and the Little Library) on March 1st through March 6, 2006.
- 4) That the City apply for certified local government status with the Department of Achieves and History in order for his organization to apply for a historical grant up to \$25,000. He stated it would be easier for the City of Walterboro to gain this status then for the county to apply.

In discussing this item, Mayor Sweat reminded Mr. Price that Council can approve the street closing, but he would still need to fill out forms with the Police Department. The Mayor also stated that a banner could only be allowed to hang for up to 10 days.

After a brief presentation of the events related to the requests by Mr. Price, a motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Parker to approve the request to hang a plantation tour informational banner across Jefferies Boulevard on October 14-24, 2005. The motion passed unanimously. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

A second motion was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to approve the request for an informational banner across Jefferies Boulevard for 10 days prior to March 3, 2006 announcing the 300th Anniversary of Colleton County. The motion passed unanimously. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

A third motion approving the closing of Church Street from Miller Street to Fishburne Street on March 1 to March 6, 2006 for a barbeque and celebration event was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote. When questioned by Council Member Parker, Chief Rhodes stated he did not see a problem with this request since there is very limited traffic on those streets.

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

MINUTES/Page III

Regarding the application for a certified local government, the Mayor asked the City Manager to look into this matter and report the results back to Council.

Next, Mr. English Strickland appeared before Council requesting support of a state bottle and can deposit program to help control litter. Mr. Strickland stated he had lived in other states where they had a 5 cents bottle and can deposit program. He stated he has mentioned this program to many politicians and had not gotten a response. He contacted Palmetto Pride and they agreed this was a good program. Palmetto Pride sent materials and petitions to him and he has distributed the petitions to local businesses around town. Mr. Strickland emphasized the need for such a program in Walterboro, stating that all this material is recyclable. The main reasons he has appeared before County Council and City Council is to gain support to get the word out to our elected legislators that we need something done. Between now and January, Mr. Strickland stated he would be pushing to get this program out to the public so that our congressman and representatives will do something constructive. He mentioned several organizations that are behind this program. Mr. Strickland stated he has left some informative material with the city manager on success stories by other states.

Council briefly discussed this matter and the Mayor stated Council will try to get more information on this matter for action.

As an ad-on agenda item, Mr. Gary Davis, on behalf of the Downtown Walterboro Development Corporation, requested that Washington Street be closed from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on Monday, October 31, for the annual Halloween Carnival. The Carnival hours will be from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. He stated that all the merchants would be contacted concerning this event. A motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Lucas to approve the closing of Washington Street as requested. Mayor Sweat stated this is a good thing for our children, it provides them a safe localized place for trick-or-treating on Halloween. The motion then passed with all members voting in favor. Council Members Young and Cannady were absent and did not vote.

Before going into an executive session for a legal matter, Mayor Sweat thanked Council, staff and everyone for all the things done for him and his family during the passing of his mother.

A motion to enter an Executive Session for a legal matter was then made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously.

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 Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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