

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2005

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 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 and Franklin Smalls. Council Member Mary Anne Cannady was absent. City Manager Tuck McConnell, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present.

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

The Minutes of the November 8, 2005 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Parker with all members voting in favor.

There was no Old Business before Council.

Next, Police Chief Otis Rhodes introduced four new police officers who have completed the police academy - Ms. Mindi Neuroth, Jason Eubanks, Chris Warren and Terry Carlton.

Under New Business, City Manager McConnell briefly summarized the credit card proposal for the finance department and court. He stated that Council previously approved in principle the use of credit cards for our court and utilities. It has taken staff time to get a state contract together. He stated the state contract is a far better deal than we could get any other way, particularly in our court system. It will help our collections in our court system and it will make it more convenient for our utility users. Mr. McConnell stated that Finance Director Jeff Lord would cover the cost of this program from his budget. This agenda item was approved by consensus of Council.

Next, a motion was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas to approve the request by the Rice Festival Committee for street closings for the Christmas Parade as submitted. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Next, the Mayor announced that Mr. Marion Simmons, III, had resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals. A motion was then made by Council Member Lucas to accept with regret the resignation of Mr. Simmons from the Board of Zoning Appeals and to advertise this vacancy. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Council Member Young suggested a letter be written to Mr. Simmons expressing the City's appreciation for his long years of service.

Since there was no further new business before Council, a motion was made Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Smalls, to enter an executive session for a discussion on a contractual matter and a property matter.

The meeting returned to open session and Council considered first reading approval by title only of two proposed ordinances.

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1. Ordinance # 2005-10, An Ordinance to Establish a Tax Increment Finance District for the Purpose of Providing a Method of Financing Public Improvements in an Area to Be Known as the 2005 Tourism Project District.

2. Ordinance # 2005-11, An Ordinance to Establish a Tax Increment Finance District for the Purpose of Providing a Method of Financing Public Improvements in an Area to be Known as the Downtown Revitalization District.

Council Member Parker asked what parameters were involved. The Mayor stated that this would include the Great Swamp Sanctuary area. On the downtown district, the City Manager stated this would include the downtown overlay district. It was noted that more information would be available on the area description before second reading approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Young, giving First Reading by Title Only to Ordinance # 2005-10, being: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN AN AREA TO BE KNOWN AS THE 2005 TOURISM PROJECT. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote.

A second motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Young, giving First Reading by Title Only to Ordinance # 2005-11, being: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A TAX INCREMENT FINANCE DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A METHOD OF FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN AN AREA TO BE KNOWN AS THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION DISTRICT. The motion passed unanimously. Council Member Cannady was absent and did not vote.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:01 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