

**MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Dwayne Buckner, Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Tom Lohr. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were approximately 32 persons present in the audience.

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the presence of a group of Boy Scouts along with their leader Mr. Cranny Beonsch. Mr. Beonsch stated that he had been a scout master for many years, but for the past several years he has been a merit badge counselor. He said, I counsel the boys for two merit badges - citizenship in the community (that's why we are here tonight), and the other is citizenship in nature. Both of those badges are required in order for the boys to make "Eagle Scouts." This is part of the merit badge and we look forward to this every year.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

No public comments were made on the agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the October 26, 2010 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business before Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

Finance Director Bill Floyd reported that the A-Tax Committee met on October 21, 2010 and approved three requests for A-Tax funding.

The following funding recommendations were submitted to Council for approval:

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>
1) SC Lowcountry & Resort Tourism Commission	\$12,500	\$10,000
2) Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
3) South Carolina Artisans Center	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
TOTALS	\$24,000	\$26,500

Mr. Floyd reported that the SC Lowcountry & Resort Tourism Commission requested \$12,500 and the committee had a good debate over that and finally agreed upon a recommendation of \$10,000. The Colleton County Historical & Preservation Society asked for \$8,500 for the Antiques, History and Arts Festival this Spring, and the committee approved \$8,500. The Artisan Center asked for \$5,500 for a new billboard located on Highway 17. The committee approved \$5,500. It is a technically

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placed billboard, and we are extremely excited about that billboard based on its location.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Peters to approve the funding recommendations as submitted by the Accommodations Tax Committee. Council member Parker seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked how would Walterboro benefit from the SC Lowcountry & Resort Tourism Commission receiving \$10,000 in A-tax funds? Mr. Floyd responded that the biggest thing that this organization does is the publication of a tourism booklet in which thousands are handed out at welcome centers and hotels in town. One hotel manager said this was one of the most requested items at her hotel. The Tourism Commission has a budget of almost \$200,000 for that, but just wanted a contribution toward their publication.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

**2. Consideration of Bids Received for Three (3) Vehicles for the Police Department**

City Manager Jeff Lord reported that the city received prices from four dealerships for three vehicles for the Police Department. The bids were as follows:

Walterboro Motor Sales	\$102,222.00
O.C. Welch Ford	\$ 97,718.07
Vic Bailey Ford	\$101,400.00
Summerville Ford	\$104,199.00

Mr. Lord recommended acceptance of the low bidder, O.C. Welch Ford, at \$97,718.07. This is within the budgeted amount.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas to accept the low bid of \$97,718.07 from O.C. Welch Ford. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked the City Manager, is there any difference between the local bid and the lowest bid in terms of additional service to the vehicles or any other perks? City Manager Lord responded that they are identical packages.

Council Member Peters then said, normally, I would be in favor of keeping the money locally, (and that's the way I have been since I have been on Council), but when you multiply three times that this amount is, I just want it to be put in the record that this is a little bit too much to try to keep the money local with respect to these three police vehicles. Council Member Parker stated, I would like to echo that same statement.

Council Member Lohr also agreed. He added, as a new Council person, I would like to say at some point when we have more time, we could discuss a percentage type of thing. I think we did award a bid to a local vendor on a truck or vehicle where the difference between the low bid and the local bid was about \$1,500. That received unanimous support and I certainly voted for that too, but now we are upward in the range of a difference of \$4,000 between the low bid and the local bid. If we want to discuss that at some point - such as what percentage above is a breaking point. That may be of some help to me.

Mayor Young then asked how much did the bids on the vehicles differ from the state contract price? City Manager Lord pointed out that the low bid is the state contract price on the vehicles.

Council Member Buckner said, we are looking at a \$4,000 or more difference between the local bid and the lowest bid. My thinking is that the local bidder has been in town, they support local community efforts, they sponsor local teams, and they have shown good community support in terms of giving back to the local community.

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Therefore, I am going to support Walterboro Motor Sales and their bid, even though they are a little higher, but I think over the years they have proven themselves to be a friend to the City of Walterboro in all that they do.

The motion to approve O.C. Welch Ford as the low bidder for three police vehicles at \$97,718.07 then PASSED with a vote of 5/2 with Council Members Lucas, Parker, Smalls, Lohr and Mayor Young voting in favor, and Council Members Buckner and Peters voting against the motion.

**3. Consideration of Bids Received for Great Swamp Sanctuary Boardwalk Construction**

After a brief explanation of the bidding process, Finance Director Bill Floyd noted that the following bids were received for construction work for bridges, a boardwalk and a trail in the Great Swamp.

	Bridges & Boardwalk	Plantation Mix Trail	Total
IP Builders,	42,000	24,400	66,400
South Island Construction LLC	56,590	10,000	66,590
Harrison Enterprises	78,820	23,000	101,820
L-J, Inc.	91,903	25,295	117,198
Deep Bottom, LLC	119,945	12,789.79	132,734.79
Nature Bridges.com	110,430	26,577	137,007
Dock Contractors, LLC	147,700	15,330	163,030
BLUTIDE Marine Construction	167,760	12,200	179,960

Mr. Floyd stated that the low bid for the total package by IP Builders in the amount of \$66,400 substantially exceeded the city's budget for this project. He then stated, we propose to award only the first part of this project for the bridges and boardwalk to the low bidder, IP Builders, for \$42,000, which is \$2,000 above the budget approved for this project.

A **MOTION** was then made by Council Member Buckner to approve the low bid of \$42,000 by IP Builders for construction of bridges and a boardwalk in the Great Swamp Sanctuary. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters asked, what is the time limit on using the grant monies for this project. Finance Director Bill Floyd responded, we should be okay, as long as we finish the project by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Floyd affirmed that the \$20,000 grant money should be spent by that time and cannot be used for anything else.

The motion then passed with a vote of 6/1 with Council Members Buckner, Lucas, Parker, Smalls, Lohr and Mayor Young voting in favor, and Council Member Peters opposing the motion.

**4. Request to Use the City Parking Lot for Farmers Market by Colleton Museum (Ms. Gary Brightwell)**

Ms. Brightwell requested use of the City Parking Lot for the Farmer's Market on the following dates: November 23 & 24, December 22, 23, 30 and 31 and all Saturdays and Tuesdays in November and December.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Buckner to approve the request for use of the City Parking Lot for the Farmer's Market as requested by Ms. Brightwell. In discussing the motion, Council Member Lucas

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requested that after one or more organizations get approval to use the City Parking Lot, that staff make sure those organizations or groups do not block off access to Washington Street. There was a problem with blocking off the street during the last event. If possible, we should make sure that the access to Washington Street stays open.

In response to a question by Council Member Lohr, Ms. Brightwell confirmed that the time for the Farmer's Market would remain the same on Tuesday's and Saturdays. For the additional dates, the market would be open from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

**5. Request to Use Downtown Plaza for Lowcountry International Society Event on November 20, 2010.**

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas to grant the request by the Lowcountry International Society to use the Downtown Plaza for the "Christmas Sweets Around the World" event on November 20. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no committee reports given.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Lucas So **Moved**. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would convene into an Executive Session for:

- 1) A discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.
- 2) A discussion of matters relating to proposed provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of businesses in the area.
- 3) A discussion regarding the development of security personnel or devices.

The Meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, a **MOTION** to adjourn 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

**APPROVED: November 23, 2010**