

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 24, 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, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Ashley Amundson were also present. There were approximately 17 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.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments were made on the agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments on CDBG # 4-CI-09-021 Project Amendment for the Lincoln Apartments Water Extension Project. A copy of the sign-in sheet is attached as part of these minutes.

The Mayor then recognized Ms. Michelle Knight of Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG), who was present to conduct the hearing.

Ms. Knight stated that in July, 2009, the City was awarded \$206,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a water line looping project along Witsell Street, in front of Lincoln Apartments. The construction work for this project has been completed, even with a couple of change orders, and there is \$140,000 remaining in that grant. So, the City is submitting a project amendment request to extend a water line along Springwood Street and Lemacks Street. This additional work would benefit an additional 37 people, of which 32 are low-to-moderate income. This will bring our total benefit for the project to 270 people, with 93% of those people being low-to-moderate income. Basically, what we are doing tonight is getting comments, pro and con, on the amendment, so we can submit those comments along with our request to the SC Department of Commerce.

Ms. Knight then opened the floor to receive any public comments. No questions or comments were made and the public hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 10, 2010 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the **MOTION** of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Parker, and passed with all members voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Appointment to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

The City Manager advised Council of the current vacancy on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. A letter of interest has been received from Mr. Jackson Hughes, who had expressed an interest in being appointed to this Board.

MINUTES/Page II

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas to appoint Mr. Jackson to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending 1/2012.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked the City Manager if Mr. Hughes fit the criteria as accommodations. Mr. Lord noted that Mr. Hughes is an owner of the Rice Planters Inn. The motion passed unanimously. This appointment will replace Ms. Geeta Patel, who had resigned from the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request for Street Closing for a Peace March, September 25, 2010 by Community Action Line Against Violence

_____ Mr. Horace Simmons, present on behalf of Community Action Line Against Violence, told Council that his organization was planning a peace march on September 25, 2010 starting at 9:00 A.M. for 30 -45 minutes, starting at the courthouse down Hampton Street to Pinckney Park. There will be quite a few people coming from out of town. He said, I am asking that everybody here tonight come out and support the peace march. He stated, we are trying to change the image of Walterboro. He noted that there would be a program at the end of the march, and the local hospital would also set up a booth to conduct blood tests. This is all free.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Smalls to give permission to Mr. Simmons to hold the peace march as requested. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion that passed unanimously. On a question by Council Member Lucas as to whether Hampton Street would be closed, Chief Otis Rhodes affirmed that a police unit would be placed in front and in back of the march. **The motion then passed unanimously.**

2. Request to Place Information Banner Across Jefferies Boulevard, September 6-10, 2010 by the Walterboro Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Lucas to approve the banner request as submitted. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner stated that in prior meetings, I have expressed some concerns about these banners. I think, Mr. Lord, you expressed that we only do a few of these every year. But my concern with this particular type of banner, is that it opens the door for other organizations to seek the same opportunity. For example, there is a Colleton Board of Realtors, and any other professional organization. So, my question is, what is going to be the rule, if any, to determine the criteria for putting up these particular banners across the highway. Council Member Buckner then stated, I am going to support it this time, but my hope is that before the next go around, we will have some type of criteria in place, so there is not a slippery slope in terms of everyone just being able to come and put banners up. We need to have some type of criteria for these type of banners.

Council Member Parker then stated, I don't think businesses need to be involved in putting up banners. It should be for "educational". I mean, we would be putting a banner up every week, if we let all these businesses put up what they want to.

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

MINUTES/Page III

3. Consideration of Parade Permit Request for Veterans Day Parade on November 14, 2010

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Smalls that the Veterans Council be granted permission to hold the Veterans Parade on November 14, 2010. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Johnnie Holmes, chairman and present on behalf of the Colleton County Veterans Council, told Council that the theme will be "Salute to our Veterans". We are requesting that the streets be closed off for 1 hour prior, and the parade will start at 2:30 PM.

4. Consideration of Appointment of City Attorney and City Prosecutor

City Manager Lord announced that the City Attorney and City Prosecutor positions were advertised in both local newspapers. One letter was received from the current City Attorney and one letter from the current City Prosecutor to continue in their positions.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Member Parker to reappoint George Cone as City Attorney, and Kim Miller as the City Prosecutor for another term. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked Mr. Lord if the City has a public defender position. Mr. Lord responded that for cases that require a public defender, they would go to the Magistrate's Court and would be handled by a solicitor, not our prosecutor.

The motion then passed unanimously.

There were no Committee Reports given.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Lucas so **MOVED**, and Council Member Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for a discussion of matters relating to proposed provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of industry or other businesses in the area.

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 Smalls and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:48 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: September 14, 2010