

## **MINUTES**

A Rescheduled Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Bobby Bonds, and Judy Bridge. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Approximately 11 persons were present in the audience. Council Member Tom Lohr was absent and Council Member James Broderick arrived late to the meeting.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and invited everyone to join in for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation, and Council Member Bonds led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no comments or questions on agenda items.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive public comments on the following proposed ordinances:

1. **Ordinance # 2017-10**, An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes to Chapter 6, Section 6.5, Flood Damage Control, of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro.

The Mayor then said, if there are no objections from Council, we will remove the following item from the agenda to be considered at a later date:

### **New Business Item 3. Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor for Fire Department.**

The Mayor explained that the purchase of this equipment depended on a grant that the City has not received, so there is no need to consider this. There was no objection from Council and this item was deleted from the agenda.

City Manager Molinari then briefed Council on Ordinance # 2017-10. He said, as you are aware new flood maps have been created for Colleton County and these maps go into effect on December 21<sup>st</sup> of this year. If the new maps and the updated ordinance have not been adopted by that time, the City will be automatically suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program. The Planning Commission reviewed this ordinance at their September meeting and we have been working closely with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on a model Flood Ordinance which they sent to us, which went through and was recommended by the Planning Commission.

There were no comments or questions on Ordinance # 2017-10.

2. **Ordinance # 2017-11**, An Ordinance to Update the Elements of the City of Walterboro Comprehensive Plan.

Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson briefed Council on this agenda item. He said, as we discussed at our last meeting, state law requires that we as a City, starting at the Planning Commission level, have a Comprehensive Plan in place. Every 10 years, we have to update and redo that Comprehensive Plan. Every 5 years, we

**MINUTES/Page II**

are required to update the elements within that plan. The elements are basically the chapters. Several areas were not updated as there were no changes. The ones that were changed were: uses of certain historic buildings and employment data. There were no substantive changes in the plan. He asked if there were any questions or comments.

No public comments or questions were received on Ordinance # 2017-11.

3. **Ordinance # 2017-12**, An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes in the Zoning Districts of the City of Walterboro by Changing the Zoning Classification of Two Parcels of Land on Wichman Street Designated as TMS #'s 163-11-00-135 and 163-11-00-136 from General Commercial District (GCD) to Central Business District (CBD).

Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson stated that the Artisan Center is proposing to renovate their building. This building is currently an existing non-conforming, which means it already encroaches upon the setback of their zone. So, they requested to be rezoned as Central Business District, which is the same as the property to the west of them and all the properties to the south of them. So, it is a proper rezoning request. It is not spot zoning, and it is contiguous to three parcels that have the designation that they request. This will allow them to put a front porch on the building, which is to propose a more pronounced front on Wichman Street to help grow their business. They are receiving some money from the state to better attract customers and hold events. If re-zoned, this will need to go to the Historic Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Their request is to be rezoned as Central Business District.

No public comments or questions were received on this rezoning request.

4. Receipt of Public Comments on Proposed USDA Rural Development Project to acquire police vehicles, generators for public buildings, construction of handicap restrooms, handicap lift and roof window replacement.

City Manager Molinari introduced Finance Director Amy Risher to brief City Council on the proposed grant applications. Finance Director Amy Risher told Council that the United States Department of Agriculture and Rural Development offers a grant program that is designed to develop essential facilities that provide services in the rural area. The City of Walterboro has had the opportunity to take advantage of this program in the past, which assisted the City with the purchase of utilities vehicles, police vehicles, police radios and a portion of a ladder truck. Currently, the program provides a reimbursement of 55% up to \$50,000. The City of Walterboro would like to submit five (5) different applications.

The first application is for fully equipped patrol vehicles (2) that would total \$93,332, with the grant providing \$50,000.

The second application is for assistance with handicap accessible restrooms and the addition of a generator for the Discovery Center for a total project cost of \$91,000, with the grant providing \$50,000.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> application is for City Hall window replacements for a total project cost of \$115,000 with the grant providing \$50,000.

The 4<sup>th</sup> application is for assistance with a handicap lift, handicap accessible restrooms and an addition of a generator for 300 Hampton Street for a total cost of \$83,138, with the grant providing \$45,725.

**MINUTES/Page III**

The last application is for City Hall's roof replacement, for a total project cost of \$30,000, with the grant providing \$16,000.

The Mayor opened the floor to received questions or comments. Council Member Bridge asked if the City would have to match the monies provided by whatever we might be awarded? Ms. Risher explained that the grant would provide 55% up to \$50,000.

**PRESENTATION:**

1. Palmetto Pride - Ms. Ester Wagner, Special Events Project Manager.

Ms. Ester Wagner of Palmetto Pride then addressed Council. She started off with a quiz for Council. She asked, can you name a type of litter that is not environmental? Some answers were unsightliness and economic development. She then said, how about car insurance rates? Do you know that all of our car insurance rates are higher because there are over 25,000 traffic accidents every year that are directly related to litter? There are over 10,000 injuries and over 400 deaths in those accidents every year. She said, it's very sad to think that there are 400 people who die because we can't secure our roads and we throw trash out and about.

How about fires? In the summer, every 2 to 3 minutes there is a fire started by rubbish. That could be a cigarette butt, or it could be a glass bottle in the grass. In Greer, SC in April 2014, there was fire that burned into a community and it burned down 4 people's homes and three people had to be rescued. It caused \$1.76 million worth of damage to the homes and community resources were drained. People were sitting in cars on Wade Hampton for several hours. So, think about the gas that was expended, and the cost for first responders. This happened because one person threw out their cigarette butt.

One of the other things that I am here to talk about specifically is crime. Are you aware that litter increases the probability of crime? We offer courses in this program called "Crime Prevention for Environmental Designs." How many of you have been in an area and you did not feel safe? So, what was it about that area that made you feel unsafe? The Mayor noted that it might be the appearance of a lot of litter.

Ms. Wagner added, it could also be things like no lighting. You can't see clearly. The tree limbs were down low and the bushes were up high and you couldn't see what was going on.

Part of our program is offering the propositions that there are things that we can do in our community to change what the clues in our environment are telling us. So, we are all reading the clues. We are seeing things and saying this isn't safe. Not only is it warning those who are behaving in a way that we don't want there, it is also to encourage those we do want to use that space to be there, because they feel comfortable. Someone should be taking responsibility for that area. It should clearly say, someone cares about this spot, and they are going to see you and notice what is going on. That could be things like tree line - making sure you have a tree line or shrubbery line, so it clearly distinguishes what property is yours and what is not.

A second strategy is natural access control - showing clearly where people are supposed to be and where they are not supposed to be on your property - where they are allowed to walk and where they shouldn't be.

The third strategy is natural surveillance - keeping your tree limbs above 6 feet and your bushes cut low. Front porches and balconies are very important for that. When you have a front porch and a balcony, even if there is no one sitting on it, it

**MINUTES/Page IV**

gives people walking by the impression that they can be seen. Public parks are another way that you can promote the idea of natural surveillance. If you have an area where there is no natural surveillance and if this is an area where people are getting mugged, if you put a piece of art with a human figure there, then it will give people the impression that they are being watched. So, you don't need to have a police officer sitting there in a car, you can put a statue there. It can also be a poster or a mural.

The fourth strategy is why we are involved - keeping your park benches repaired, your light bulbs replaced, litter picked up, and graffiti covered. Those things tell criminals that someone cares what happens here.

So, we offer classes in this. We have all the way from one-hour seminars to a two-day course. This is not a law enforcement-driven program, but this is a community-driven program. People who have taken the course are developers, landscapers, electricians and those types of people who understand the subject. So, that's what you want to work with people who will work together as a team to implement the strategies discussed.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Wagner for her presentation. No action was taken on this item.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2017-10**, An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes to Chapter 6, Section 6.5, Flood Damage Control, of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, **Second Reading and Adoption.**

Mayor Young reminded Council that this was one of the ordinances that were just discussed in the public hearing.

A motion was then made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Siegel, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2017-10; being: An Ordinance to Amend the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes to Chapter 6, Section 6.5, Flood Damage Control, of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Walterboro.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Siegel said, obviously we have no control over these (flood) maps. These maps are provided for us and we must incorporate these maps as they are. Is that correct? City Manager Molinari responded, that is correct.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Members Lohr and Broderick were absent and did not vote.

2. **Ordinance # 2017-11**, An Ordinance to Update the Elements of the City of Walterboro Comprehensive Plan, **Second Reading and Adoption.**

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2017-11, to update the elements of the City of Walterboro Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed unanimously, except Council Members Lohr and Broderick were absent and did not vote.

3. **Ordinance # 2017-12**, An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, to Provide for Changes in the Zoning Districts of the

**MINUTES/Page V**

City of Walterboro by Changing the Zoning Classification of Two Parcels of Land on Wichman Street Designated as TMS #'s 163-11-00-135 and 163-11-00-136 from General Commercial District (GCD) to Central Business District (CBD),  
**Second Reading and Adoption.**

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2017-12, to provide for the zoning changes as recommended from General Commercial District to Central Business District for the Artisans Center and the Arts Council building, Tax Map Nos. 163-11-00-135 and 163-11-00-136. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion. At this point Council Member Bonds recused himself from voting on this agenda item due to the fact that his daughter is employed with the Artisans Center. The motion then passed with a vote of 4/0 with Mayor Young, Council Members Syfrett, Siegel, and Bridge voting in favor. Council Members Lohr and Broderick were absent and did not vote. Council Member Bonds abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution # 2017-R-06**, A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to execute forms pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant applications in an amount not to exceed \$212,225.00 for the purchase of generators, police vehicles, roof and window replacement and construction of multiple handicap accessibilities for the City of Walterboro.

The Mayor announced that this is also one of the items discussed in our public hearing. The Mayor then entertained a motion to adopt Resolution # 2017-R-06 as submitted.

Council Member Bridge so Moved, and Council Member Bonds seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Syfrett asked if this is something that's all or none, or could we get some of these grants and not all the grants? Finance Director Amy Risher responded that these are all five separate grants. Mr. Syfrett then asked, how soon will we know if the grants have been awarded to us? Ms. Risher responded, we will not know until probably September of next year. Council Member Siegel asked, does this mean that we will deal with the balance of the costs of those items in the budget process next year? Ms. Risher responded, this is correct. Council Member Bonds added, that was what I wanted to know. So, we will deal with all those costs in the 2018-2019 budget, to include looking at putting new patrol cars in service.

The motion to adopt Resolution # 2017-R-06 then passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Members Lohr and Broderick were absent and did not vote. A copy of said Resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

2. **Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

City Manager Molinari announced that the A-Tax Committee met on October 19, 2017 and considered four applications. The Committee approved and is recommending Council's approval of the following requests for funding:

<b><u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Requested</u></b>	<b><u>Approved</u></b>
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. - brochure	\$ 1,028	\$ 1,028
Walterboro Criterium 2018	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500

**MINUTES/Page VI**

Colleton Center-Smoke in the Boro	\$10,000	\$ 9,500
Lowcountry & Resort Island-guide books and promotions	<u>\$15,800</u>	<u>\$ 9,000</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$31,328</b>	<b>\$24,038</b>

Concluding, City Manager Molinari stated that if these requests are approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance for the remainder of the year will be approximately \$41,199, and these remaining funds will be up for consideration at the next A-Tax Committee meeting. The A-Tax Advisory Committee respectfully requests City Council's approval of these recommendations.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the A-Tax Committee's funding recommendations as presented. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Council Members Lohr and Broderick were absent and did not vote.

3. Consideration of Recommendation to Purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor for the Fire Department.

**THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA BY CONSENSUS.**

4. Request for Street Closing for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade January 14, 2018

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve the request for street closing for the Martin Luther King Day Parade on January 14, 2018. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. At this point, Council Member Broderick entered the meeting. The motion then passed with a vote of 6/0 with Mayor Young and Council Members Syfrett, Siegel, Bonds, Broderick and Bridge voting in favor. Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

No City Manager's Report was given.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion to enter an Executive Session was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Siegel and passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for:

1. Receipt of Legal Advice on:
  - a. Bailey Bill
  - b. I-95 Business Loop Project, Phase 1C and 1D.
2. Personnel Matter - Appointment of Municipal Judges.

The meeting convened into an Executive Session.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to exit the executive session and return to Open Session. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried. Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

Walterboro City Council  
Rescheduled Regular Meeting  
November 14, 2017

**MINUTES/Page VII**

The meeting returned to Open Session and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:20 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media and posted on the City's website and the City Hall bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson  
City Clerk

**APPROVED: February 13, 2018**