

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
August 7, 2018

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, Bobby Bonds, James Broderick, and Greg Pryor. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, City Clerk Betty Hudson, and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were approximately 16 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and invited everyone to join in the invocation and the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Young gave the invocation and Council Member Siegel led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

At this point the Mayor stated that he would like to add an item to the agenda under Presentations. He said, it does not require any action from Council and that is permitted as far as adding to the agenda. He said, if you will remember, Mr. Dana Cheney was on our agenda at a previous meeting, but was not able to attend that meeting. With no objections from Council, the Mayor then added Mr. Dana Cheney to the agenda for an update on the City Appearance Board. This would be item No. 2 under Presentations.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

The Mayor then said, if there were any comments, questions or input about anything on the agenda, we will hear those at this time.

Ms. Sandy Prater, a resident of Walterboro, gave the following comments regarding the following agenda item, "Executive Session item No. 1, Provision of Services in the Area Served by the City of Walterboro, item (b) Windsor Apartments."

Ms. Prater stated that she had sent a text and e-mail to the Mayor concerning some activities that are happening on her street at the curve of the road. She said, it's been an issue over the past 10-11 years with criminal activity and lots of traffic coming from the Windsor East Apartments into the end of Peachtree Road in the Forest Hills Subdivision. I have noticed some official activity going on through surveys and other issues going on in the neighborhood. I have gotten some very good friends over the years through numerous calls about things that have been going on. So, I had people coming to me to say, 'what's going on down here'.

I thought this was settled, that this street was going to stay closed. I work in Beaufort, and I am a single parent. Being a single female, I have cameras surrounding my car, my yard, to my property. Sometimes, after noticing that something is not right in my neighborhood, I will check the cameras or whatever or someone will come and ask me, what's going on.

I have to say that this summer has been as quiet a summer that we have had for years, and I would really hate to see us go back to having that road open. I have explained some of the activities or issues that we've had.

Ms. Prater further stated, my other problem is that the residents there, they have been there for years. A lot of them are in the 60's, 70's and 80's. A lot of them don't do e-mail, and many have health issues and they can't really speak up for themselves. Generally, I am the person they come to when they need help, and I try to do what I can. So, something told me to shoot this e-mail to Mayor Young. This really was not on my radar, and I did not know that tonight it is on the agenda about this road opening up. I just cannot tell you, it's just like a nightmare that's come true.

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There is so much drug activity going on. People in and out of the street all day and night. There are always people out there yelling and cursing. This is a street that's like directly behind the old Forest Hills School. At the time when the school was still in session when those apartments were built, there were a lot of children and families that were affected by the activities that were going on at that time.

I would come home like 2:00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and there would be cars parked selling drugs and sexual activity going on within the vehicles. You know, I have been a resident of Walterboro, I was born here and I have been here all my life and raised two children here. You know, this is not Summerville or Charleston, this is Walterboro.

Ms. Prater, said, at times I feel like I am doing this struggle by myself, and I don't mind because I don't mind being that person, because like you, as Council Members, you wouldn't be here if you did not care about the community and you would not hesitate to step up and help the community and do what is needed to be done.

Ms. Prater further said, I know that somebody has to do it, so I have felt like it has always been kind of my place to step in where I could to do as much as I can, wherever I can. I don't really have time for it, but I feel that if I don't do it, then it's not going to be said, or noticed or done. So, that's why I came tonight to let you know that this is really important and the people in this community are very concerned about the street being opened back up, because before it was never officially opened. There was not a fence there, so the street traffic with cars would come in. They were parking into the street, where people come and go at all times of the day and night. It got so bad at one point, I was literally standing out with a camera taking pictures of people's tags, so that I could record how many times they came down the street or trying to catch them doing the drug deals, because every time I called the police, they would respond and come but, of course, by the time they got there, they were gone. So, I would give descriptions, and then things would die down for a while, but this was during a 4 or 5-year period.

And I am just at the point that I am kind of tired. And I am getting to the point, I want to retire and I want to live in this community. I love Peachtree Road. I just know that it can stay the community where people care about each other. They are great people, they care about the appearance of their yards, they take care of making sure that things are safe around the house, and they take pride in where they live. So, I don't mind about property managers versus renters, I just think it's about having pride in where you live and being respectful toward other people.

Concluding, Ms. Prater said, I appreciate your time in this matter, and at this point I just have left this matter to God, because it is not in my control, but I feel if I just step up and say something at least it would be on your radar and you would understand how important this is to me and my neighbors. I do have the original signatures of these people if you need to contact them and phone numbers. If there is anything else you need me to do from this point on, I would be glad to do it.

2. **Mr. Barney Beach**, a resident on Peachtree Road, then gave the following comments regarding agenda item, "Executive Session item No. 1, Provision of Services in the Area Served by the City of Walterboro, item (b) Windsor Apartments"

Mr. Beach said, I just want to get to the point about the problems we have. There are people coming down that street, kicking the trash drums over and then the animals scattering the trash all over the place. All that litter. You can't sleep at night for all those boom boxes going off up and down the road. There are people ganging at street lights at night. I have had my house shot up twice on Peachtree Road where they shot the glass out the door. That's just Peachtree Road. Now, you are going to

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add another section. You can't do it. Think about us. Think about the citizens, the people who live there. We want to keep it quiet. You can help us.

There was no further input on agenda items. The Mayor then continued with the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION:

1. SCE&G Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP), Gerald Freeman

Mr. Gerald Freeman of SCE&G appeared before Council. He then gave a small handout to Council. He said, I am here this evening to share information about SCE&G's Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program. This is a program that I am very excited about bringing to the City of Walterboro. This is a program that began back in 2013, where we did 500 homes in Columbia and Charleston. Now, we are looking at bringing this to the City of Walterboro, where we are looking to do approximately 1,500 homes here in Walterboro.

The program was designed to help low to moderate income residents to become more energy efficient. We know that this type of customer or resident is the one who struggles to pay their utilities bills, or struggle to pay their bills period, or they are just barely getting by. So, we wanted to design a program, at least from an electric utility prospective, to help them conserve on their electric uses, to conserve on their electric bills and their heating and in turn, hopefully that would put more money in their pockets, so they can spend that money on other things.

The program is designed to do two things.

1. First, to provide that customer or that resident with energy efficiency education. We educate them on things that they can do which are low cost or no-cost things that they can do in their homes to conserve on their electric usage.
2. Second, it's a direct installation program, where we directly install in their homes up to 15 LED bulbs. We remove their old 60 watts, 75 watts or their old incandescent bulbs that are very inefficient, and we put in the more energy efficient LED bulbs.
3. Also, if they have an electric water heater, we would insulate their water heaters, insulate their piping on their water heaters, and check the water heaters' temperature setting as well. We check the temperate, and if it reads 130 or above, we will adjust it down to 120 degrees on their water heaters.
4. Also, those who have central HVAC systems, we will install a filter in their home and we will leave them a year's supply of filters behind.
5. Those who have electric water heaters, we will install a kitchen faucet air-rater on their kitchen faucets, reducing their water usage from 5.5 gallons per minute to 1.5 gallons per minute. We add functionality to that faucet air rater where it swivels and also sprays as well.
6. We will also install what is called a smart strip power strip. It is an advanced power strip that helps with triple electricity. A lot of people haven't heard of these things, but the way it does if you have a television on that smart strip or that advanced power strip that has a master outlet, you can plug that television to the master outlet and if you have a DVD

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player, you can plug it into what we call a control outlet. A lot of people don't know it, but as long as that DVD player is plugged in, it is going to use electricity 24 hours per day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

What the smart advanced power strip does, it realizes that you don't need that DVD player until you turn your television on. So, what happens is when you turn your television on, it wakes up that DVD player and it turns it on and lets you know that you can play a DVD. When you turn your television off, it shuts down that DVD player just as if you unplugged it out of the wall. That's what the smart strip power strip or advance power strip does. You can have other devices that can be controlled by the television, and you can put those into the control switches as well.

Mr. Freeman pointed out that everything that they do in the customer's home is free of charge. It is not going to cost the resident or customer anything for us to come and install these measures and provide this energy efficiency education to them.

Again, one thing that I am very excited about is that we have never done 1,500 homes in a neighborhood since the inception of the program, but we are willing to do that in the City of Walterboro. So, with that said, we are looking around mid-September to bring the program here and we are hoping that you would get behind us and, of course, let your citizens know.

A lot of the time when we come into neighborhoods, these residents think we are trying to do things to find out other things about them, but we just want to help make them more energy efficient in their homes. So, we are looking to have a kickoff event in mid-September, where we are going to invite every resident to come out to learn about the program. That's when we are going to share a little bit of energy efficiency education. They are going to meet the guys who are going to do the installation in their homes. We are going to feed them and give them a chance to win prizes. All of those things we are going to do for these residents who come out to the kickoff event. Again, we know that every resident won't come, but we will let them know to tell their neighbors about it. So, again, we just want to get the word spread, so that we can get this program up and running in the City of Walterboro and get as many customers as we can to participate in this program, so that they can be more energy efficient.

Council Member Carl Brown then asked Mr. Freeman, what are the qualifications for this program? Mr. Freeman responded, we use census data from census blocks, and we use the poverty level data. We look at census blocks within your city and if at least half of the residents are within 150% of the poverty level or less, it qualifies an entire block. So, again, only half have to qualify to make the entire block eligible.

Council Member Brown said, so then I couldn't take this to my church and let them call this phone number on the bottom. That's not how it works, right? Mr. Freeman responded, that's not how it works. He further stated, we are going to create a customer list and once we create that customer list, we will send out letters to everybody, letting them know you qualify for this program and you can participate in this program, and by the way, come off to this kickoff event we are going to have.

Council Member Pryor asked, how can the City help get the word out prior to someone being notified? What are other cities doing to notify their citizens or to help? Mr. Freeman responded, if you know any neighborhood or any neighborhood leaders who know the residents, they can help spread the word in homeowners association

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meetings that I could go to. I would definitely love to do that or with church leaders. Again, it's like a catch 22, because everybody is not going to qualify, but again, we do want to spread the word as much as we can. We do have other programs that are free that everybody can participate in, if they don't qualify for the low income neighborhood program.

Mayor Young then asked if the houses would need to be owner-occupied homes or could they be rental homes? Does the home have to be owned by the resident? Mr. Freeman replied, they do not have to be owned. They can be homeowners or renters. They can be mobile homes, they can be multi-family complexes - anyone who pays an electric bill - that's who we want to help.

Mayor Young thanked Mr. Freeman for coming and said, that looks like a great program. Mr. Freeman added that for the kickoff event that we will have in September, we would definitely like for the City Council Members to come out and maybe just say a few words to the customers to ease their minds about the program and let them know that we really want to help. Mayor Young told Mr. Freeman to send some information to our City Manager.

2. Mr. Dana Cheney, City Appearance Board

Mr. Dana Cheney then addressed Council with an update on the City Appearance Board activities. Mr. Cheney told Council that this committee has been very busy since the Rice Festival. We now have a motto, which is "A clean city is a happy city." All our correspondence going in the newspapers and everything else is hopefully going to have that motto on it.

He reported that on April 23 and 24, he and three officers of the Walterboro Police Department attended a 2-day "CPTED" class - that means Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. This project goes into the back of buildings with murals on it, and they were putting owls around the City so it looks like someone is looking at you. We are looking at having owls, because it's looking at you. No matter where you moved, you'll think that owl is looking at you. We looked at that and we also talked about landscaping around the building, having bushes at 3 feet and trees cut at 5 feet from ground.

At the Rice Festival, we introduced "Tony the Trash Can," so you may have seen it in the parade. He wears a trash can and a hat. We are going to be going to the schools to do an anti trash program. We just did a back-to-school bash last Saturday where we handed out 500 pencils, etc. to all these kids in Colleton County. There were at least over 500 of them.

Our adopt-a-street program has been going on since the Rice Festival. We have 53 streets adopted by our fine citizens, giving us a total of 67 streets in the City and actually 8 in the County. These fine citizens have collected 79 bags of trash totaling 218 pounds in 41 hours. And I had one that came in just yesterday that she just joined a week ago, she lives on Trinity Street, and she said she had 6 bags weighing 50 pounds and it took her 5 hours to collect those. So, Trinity Street is clean.

Mr. Cheney also reported that he and the co-chairman have been attending litter association meetings with part of our police grant, and our latest venture is called "Tarp it or Ticket." He explained that about 20% of trash going to the dump goes on our streets. So, if you go to the Citizens Center, you can pick up a free tarp. We are going to start giving them out at the transfer station or city dump on Robertson

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Boulevard. Anybody who has a truck or trailer that comes in, we are going to give them a tarp. Then, when the Chief of Police is ready, anybody that does not have a tarp on his truck or trailer will get a ticket if their loads are not secured.

Council Members agreed that the Committee has been doing a fantastic job. Councilman Brown, who is Council's liaison to this committee, commented that in the short time that he has gotten to know the members of this Committee, I want to tell Council and the Mayor that these guys are super dedicated and super involved. I just never knew that they were really around until I got to know them, and they do a good job.

Mr. Cheney added, in addition to this, the Palmetto Pride brought us some free metal signs that have a Palmetto Pride 1-877-7LITTER on it. We are working it out with Hank on where we are going to put them in the City. They are reflective, large signs, that they just gave us.

The Mayor then said, your committee has come up with some creative ways to address that problem that we live with, and so we do appreciate your efforts.

On a question by Council Member Bridge, Mr. Cheney responded that the tarp can be picked up in the Citizens Center in Bonnie Ross's office. He added that on odd days of the week, he will be going to the county transfer station on Robertson Boulevard to hand out free tarps to people as they come in.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The following Meeting Minutes were approved upon motion by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Pryor and passed unanimously. Council Member Bridge also thanked City Clerk Betty Hudson for the wonderful, efficient, detailed job that she does with the minutes.

1. Minutes of the April 17, 2018 Work Session on the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget.
(Approved as submitted).
2. Minutes of the June 21, 2018 Special Called Meeting.
(Approved as submitted).
3. Minutes of the July 3, 2018 Regular Meeting.
(Approved as submitted).
4. Minutes of the July 24, 2018 Special Called Meeting.
(Approved as submitted).

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2018-10** , An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2018-03, So As to Set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget, **First Reading**

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City Manager Molinari told Council that last month the City received all of the property appraisal information from the Colleton County Auditor, and we are prepared to set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor. As you will recall, the formula for that is to take the anticipated collections and divide that by all of the fair market value of properties inside the City, and that's where you will arrive as the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor of .001721. If approved by City Council for First Reading, we will do Second Reading in September and then send this number to the County so it will be reflected on the tax bills that go out in October.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2018-10 to Amend Ordinance # 2018-03, to Set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor. Council Member Pryor seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

2. Resolution No. 2018-R-11, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$16,500.00 for Funding for City Hall Roof Replacement

The Mayor recognized that Ms. Jackie Hamilton of the local USDA Office was present at the meeting.

City Manager Molinari said that these two resolutions reflect the notification that we received from USDA last week in which the City received an additional \$66,500 in grant funding. The first resolution (# 2018-11) is for roof replacement for City Hall and the second resolution (# 2018-12) is for replacing the windows at City Hall.

Council Member Pryor made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-R-11, Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$16,500.00 for Funding for the City Hall Roof Replacement. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Brown asked the City Manager about the amount being \$66,500? He explained that the resolution only says \$16,500. Mr. Molinari responded, I am sorry for the confusion, that was just the totality of both grant awards. The motion then passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

3. Resolution No. 2018-R-12, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$50,000 for Funding for City Hall Window Replacement

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve Resolution No. 2018-R-12, Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$50,000.00 for Funding for City Hall Window Replacement. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked about the timing when the City will be able to move forward with the projects. Mr. Molinari responded that for the roof replacement, we have funding in this year's budget to do that, and then as far as the window replacement, that will either be incorporated into next year's budget or depending on where we are from a financial standpoint as we get into the second half of the fiscal year, we may be able to fit that into this year's budget. Council Member Siegel asked if the \$50,000 would cover the replacement of all of the windows in this building. Mr. Molinari responded, no, the USDA portion is \$50,000 and the City's match is \$65,000. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

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Also, under New Business, the following agenda items were approved by Council as follows:

4. Request to Close Streets for Prayer Walk for Schools, August 18, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. by Colleton Baptist Association

City Manager Molinari explained that this walk would begin at the Colleton Baptist Association Office at 141 Wildwood Drive and end at the Colleton County School District Office at 213 Jefferies Boulevard. This will actually be a police escort, and I have actually gone over it with Chief Marvin and he and his staff are good with it. A motion to approve this request was made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Siegel, and passed with all members voting in favor.

5. Request to Close Streets and Use of the City Parking Lot for First Annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," November 3, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. by Walterboro Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Ms. Thelma Hudson, Committee Chair

City Manager Molinari noted that this event will begin in the City Parking Lot and then down Lucas Street, down Hampton, around to Walter Street, down East Washington and then terminate at the City Water Fall. This event will be provided with a police escort. This has been discussed with Chief Marvin and he and his staff can handle the event. A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to approve the request for the first annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" on November 3, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. by the Walterboro Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bridge asked if this would entail closing Washington Street? City Manager Molinari replied, no. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of Requests by Walterboro Rotary Club for 6th Annual Ireland Creek Bridge Run on September 27, 2018

Mr. Molinari pointed out that this was a request from the Walterboro Rotary Club for a number of different items related to the Ireland Creek Bridge Run to be held on Thursday, September 27 which includes:

1. Closing one side of Ireland Creek Road and Ivanhoe Road between Washington Street and Forest Hills Road from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
2. Reserve picnic area on Ireland Creek from 1:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
3. Allowing for event directional signs (18" x 24") to be placed where appropriate in the City.
4. Provide a police escort for runners and walkers.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the request by the Walterboro Rotary Club for the 6th Annual Ireland Creek Bridge Run on September 27, 2018. Council Member Pryor seconded the motion that passed with a vote of 6/0 with Mayor Young and Council Members Brown, Bridge, Siegel, Broderick and Pryor voting in favor. Council Member Bonds recused himself from voting on this item, since he is a member of the Rotary Club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

There was no City Manager's Report given.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Brown so moved and Council Member Siegel seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for:

1. Provision of Services in the Area Served by the City of Walterboro.
 - a. I-95 Rest Area Wells.
 - b. Windsor East Apartments.
2. Contractual Matter - Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.
3. Potential Purchase of Property.
4. Personnel Matters:
 - a. Parks Director Search.
 - b. Fire Chief Search.

The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

At approximately 8:05 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Bridge to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

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 Bonds, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media, 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: September 4, 2018