

## **MINUTES**

A Virtual Regular Meeting using Zoom was held by Walterboro City Council on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:00 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. Councilman Paul Siegel was absent. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, City Clerk Betty Hudson, City Attorney George Cone, Attorney Brown McLeod and Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, were also joined in the meeting. Via phone were: Prenita Mack and Yolanda Rhodes (Betty's daughters).

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

With all Council Members present, the Mayor called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Council Member Fishburne led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

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

At this point, the Mayor stated that no public input on agenda items had been received. He then proceeded to the next agenda item.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. There was no Old Business before Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2020-07, 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 Full Parcels and One Partial Parcel of Land Fronting Meadow Street, Between State and Trinity Streets, Designated as TMS#s 163-03-00-05, 163-03-00-014, and 163-03-00-007 From Medium Density Residential (MDR) to Highway Commercial District (HCD), First Reading**

City Manager Molinari then recognized Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson to brief Council on this proposed ordinance.

Assistant City Manager Amundson stated, you have a map in your packets that shows the parcels fronting Meadow Street. That is the street that runs directly behind Enterprise Bank on Jefferies Boulevard. They purchased those lots on the other side of the street where there used to be a home that burned down several years ago. The reason you see the line on the other side and part of their bank is because this parcel is a correction of a zoning map, and the back part of their bank was not proper. So, they want to expand their operation, add executive offices, and in the future even have the loan processing there when they expand their campus.

This item went to the Planning Commission in June after proper notice posting at the properties. We only received two comments - both were positive, once they found out what it was. He further stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the rezoning from Medium Density Residential (MDR) to Highway Commercial District (HCD), so that (the bank) can grow their campus and add jobs.

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A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2020-07, 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 Full Parcels and One Partial Parcel of Land Fronting Meadow Street, Between State and Trinity Streets, Designated as TMS#s 163-03-00-05, 163-03-00-014, and 163-03-00-007 From Medium Density Residential (MDR) to Highway Commercial District (HCD). Council Member Brown seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

2. **Resolution #2020-R-06, A Resolution to Formally Recognize and Offer Commendation to Betty Hudson, City Clerk, for 26 Years of Distinguished Service to the City of Walterboro, South Carolina**

Mayor Young made the following statements to recognize and offer commendation to City Clerk Betty Hudson for her 26 years of distinguished service:

- 1) Betty, it's a shame that this COVID virus will keep us from being together in Council Chambers to say thank you, but it doesn't alter the sincerity of our appreciation for your service to this community.
- 2) I've had the pleasure of working with Betty her entire 26 years that she's served our city. It's hard to find the words to express our gratitude to Betty for her service.
- 3) Betty is truly one of a kind. It's rare to find someone who is as detail oriented, and as committed to getting things right as Betty is. Anything that's important to the Mayor and City Council is twice as important to Betty.
- 4) Betty has scheduled an untold number of meetings and appointments, placed hundreds of notifications in the local papers, and written thousands of pages of minutes. And in doing so, has recorded the history of our government and our City.
- 5) Betty has made sure that Mayors and Council Members over the last 26 years have had the information that they needed to make sound decisions.
- 6) Betty has always been ready to help all of us with the City, but also saw it as her responsibility to help the citizens who called or came in to City Hall. In many, many cases, Betty was the face and voice of the City to those who had problems or needs that required our attention.
- 7) Betty, you have certainly earned your retirement. We want to congratulate you on a job well done. We wish you some well-deserved rest, as well as some fun. We will all miss you.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to adopt the resolution. A motion was made by Council Member Brown to adopt Resolution # 2020-R-06, A Resolution to Formally Recognize and Offer Commendation to Betty Hudson, City Clerk, for 26 years of Distinguished Service to the City of Walterboro, South Carolina. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. Before voting on the motion, Mayor Young read the resolution in its entirety into the record. The motion to adopt the resolution then passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

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Ms. Hudson thanked the Mayor and Council for the resolution. Mayor Young said, Betty you have completed hundreds of these resolutions for other people, and we finally got to do one for you.

At this point, the City Clerk requested permission to address City Council which was granted by the Mayor. Ms. Hudson then gave the following remarks:

"I have had a long and rewarding journey as your City Clerk. I am thankful for the journey and I am thankful for the lessons that I have learned. So, you ask me what have you learned. Well, I have learned that it's not about me. It's about HIM, (God), then me and how I treat my fellow man. I have learned to treat all people with love, dignity and respect. I am pleased to have met so many good people, and some I was able to help along the way. So, my thanks to the citizens of Walterboro, the City Manager, Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to serve. It has been my honor. My best to each of you. God Bless."

Many Council Members also verbally thanked retiring City Clerk Betty Hudson for her service. The Mayor reminded that each Council Member will need to sign the resolution.

3. **Resolution # 2020-R-07, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Executive Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$49,900 for the Purchase of Police Vehicles for the City of Walterboro**

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this agenda item. He said, as you are aware, we were notified yesterday morning from USDA that we are the recipients of two grants. As you will recall, in November of last year City Council approved a resolution to apply for both of these grants. The first grant is for \$49,900 for the purchase of police vehicles, and the second grant is for \$50,000 for the purchase of a public utility vehicle and equipment. That equipment being an excavator.

We have been very fortunate in the past to successfully obtain grant funding from USDA, and we are very appreciative of their continuing partnership with the City of Walterboro. I ask for Council's favorable consideration of this resolution.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown to adopt Resolution # 2020-R-07, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$49,900 for the Purchase of Police Vehicles for the City of Walterboro. Council Member Pryor seconded the motion. All I favor. None opposed. Motion Carried. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

4. **Resolution # 2020-R-08, 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 the Purchase of a Public Utility and Equipment for the City of Walterboro**

City Manager Molinari told Council that this resolution would accept \$50,000 in grant funding from USDA toward the purchase of a new vehicle for Public Works and an excavator. We ask for Council's favorable consideration of this resolution.

At this point, the Mayor asked whether the City Clerk or the Finance Director would be authorized to sign the papers along with his signature. Mr. Molinari answered that the Mayor and the City Clerk would be authorized to sign the grant papers.

A motion was then made by Council Member Pryor to adopt Resolution # 2020-R-08, A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Forms Pursuant to

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USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant in the Amount of \$50,000 for the Purchase of a Public Utility and Equipment for the City of Walterboro. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote on the motion. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

5. Appeal of Tree Protection Committee Ruling, 211 Stark Drive, Robert and Frances Baggett

The Mayor stated that it was his understanding that the Tree Protection Committee approved that the Baggetts could take down one pine tree in their yard, but the Baggetts are asking to be able to take down two pine trees.

Mr. Molinari responded that this is correct. He added that the Tree Protection Committee met on May 25, 2020 and the property owners, who are Frances and Robert Baggett, are asking for permission to take down both pine trees. The City's Unified Development Ordinance allows for the determinations from the Tree Protection Committee to be appealed to City Council, provided that notice is given to the City Manager within 30 days of that determination. I received a letter on June 3, 2020 from Robert and Frances Baggett requesting an appeal to City Council from the Tree Protection determination that denied their request for removal of both pine trees.

The Mayor then said, so the appeal is before Council, is there a motion on the appeal.

Council Member Broderick made a motion to approve the application to remove two trees from Robert and Frances Baggett property at 211 Stark Drive. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Brown said, in looking through this, it looks like one of those trees is on the neighbor's property. Is that right?

Mayor Young said that he believed that only the trees on the Baggett's property were addressed and not the tree on the neighbor's property. He clarified that the Baggetts and originally requested to move one tree from the neighbor's property and two trees on their property, and I think the Tree Committee approved only one on their property. And they are asking Council to take down two trees on their property. Is that right, Mr. Molinari?

City Manager Molinari responded, that's correct. On a question raised by Councilman Brown that there is only two trees shown on the picture, Mr. Molinari explained that there was a total of three trees. The Baggetts had spoken with their neighbor requesting that they ask for permission to take down the pine tree which is in the other yard and they did not. The neighbors did not sign the application, so the Tree Protection Committee only took action on the request to remove the two pine trees that are on the Baggett's lot.

Attorney Cone then asked if the Baggetts were present and if they wanted to speak to the motion? Mr. Molinari stated that he spoke with Ms. Baggett yesterday, and asked her if she would like to attend our meeting. I provided her with the dial-in information, but she has not dialed-in as of yet. But that information was made available to the applicant.

No further discussion was held, and the motion passed unanimously, except Councilman Siegel was absent and did not vote.

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6. Request to Close Streets for United House of Prayer "Stay Safe" Parade in Recognition of Church Anniversary on July 25, 2020 from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

City Manager Molinari said, we received a letter a few weeks ago from the United House of Prayer, requesting to hold a "Stay Safe" parade on July 25, 2020. I asked the Police Chief to meet with them to discuss the route. The original route was really ambitious, and was more elaborate than any of the parades that we have had inside the City. So, I asked the Police Chief to get with them and ask them to modify the route, and they have done so. Chief Marvin is good with the proposed route.

What they are looking at doing is - starting the parade on Francis Street, going down Francis Street to Hampton Street to North Miller to Wichman Street, cutting across to Savage Street, and then back to Francis Street. The Police Department will provide a rolling escort. I don't anticipate the streets being blocked-off for a long duration. The Church is going to be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, and they wanted to have a public celebration. We also conveyed to them the importance of social distancing, and letting them know that obviously, we are in the middle of a pandemic. If this is approved, it will have to be done as safely as possible.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to approve the request to close streets for the United House of Prayer "Stay Safe" parade in recognition of the church anniversary on July 25, 2020 from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. Consideration of Bids for Eastside Waterline Project

Next, the City Manager reported that on June 30, 2020, the Utilities Department received bids from nine (9) contractors for construction of the Eastside Water Distribution System Upgrade Project. This project includes the construction of approximately 7,000 linear feet of new 6" water mains to replace existing small diameter water mains located along Barracade Street, Live Oak Cemetery, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Hickory Street. The project will increase the volume and pressure of the water supplied to the surrounding area and will enhance fire protection capabilities.

The bids received were as follows:

<b><u>Contractor</u></b>	<b><u>Bid</u></b>
Anson Construction, Inc. (Ravenel, SC)	\$958,434.00
Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc. (West Columbia, SC)	\$830,895.00
North American Pipeline (Freehold, NJ)	\$823,338.00
Potter Construction, LLC (Port Wentworth, GA)	\$592,053.00
Griffin Contracting, Inc. (Savannah, GA)	\$588,779.39
Shady Grove Construction, LLC (Irmo, SC)	\$557,572.00
Malphrus Utilities, LLC (Ridgeland, SC)	\$547,631.42
CBG, Inc. (Gaston, SC)	\$400,281.00
Southern Fiber Construction & Management Co.,LLC (Branchville, SC)	\$348,067.84

Mr. Molinari told Council that the City was a subrecipient of a Community

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Development Block Grant in the amount of \$487,500.00. He further stated that the City's engineer, Hybrid Engineering, had evaluated the experience of the bidders and found the low bidder, Southern Fiber Construction & Management Co., LLC (Branchville, SC) to be qualified and capable of performing the project. Hybrid also recommended that the contract be awarded to Southern Fiber Construction & Management Co., LLC for the base bid plus Alternate Bid Item 1 and Alternate Bid Item 2 for a total contract price of \$396,236.37. We have \$487,500.00 available for the project. The alternate bid tem 3, which is \$9,858.48, can be completed as a change order once an environmental survey of the area is completed.

Mr. Molinari stated that staff recommends awarding the contract to Southern Fiber Construction & Management Co., LLC (Branchville, SC) in the amount of \$396,236.37.

Our Utilities Director Crosby has joined the meeting and if you have any technical questions about the project, he is available to answer that.

Council Member Brown then made a motion to accept and award the bid for the Eastside Waterline Project to Southern Fiber Construction & Management Co., LLC (Branchville, SC) in the amount of \$396,236.37. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

2. Consideration of Bids to Install Generators at City Hall, 300 Hampton Street and the Walterboro Wildlife Center

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this agenda item. He stated that at the February 2020 City Council Meeting, Council approved the purchase of backup generators for the City Hall, 300 Hampton Street and the Walterboro Wildlife Center. As you are aware, we received some USDA funding to assist with that.

Mr. Molinari further stated that the Public Works Director solicited bids for the installation and received responses from two of the three contractors that were contacted. The bids received were as follows:

Beach Electrical Service (Walterboro, SC)	\$47,993.80
H & H Electrical Service (Walterboro, SC)	\$41,880.00
Static Electrical Company (Mt. Pleasant, SC)	No bid

Mr. Molinari further stated that the backup generator installations at City Hall and 300 Hampton Street will be paid from the General Fund in the amount of \$29,106.00 and the generator for the Walterboro Wildlife Center would be paid from the Local Accommodations Tax Fund. City staff recommends awarding the contract to H & H Electrical Service (Walterboro, SC) in the amount of \$41,880.00. This was one of the items that City Council had identified in this year's goals and objectives to complete.

Mr. Molinari pointed out that if this item is approved by City Council, we want to move quickly on this so we can get the generators in place before hurricane season picks up. They are already telling us that it's going to be a busy year.

At this point, Council Member Pryor recused himself from voting on this agenda item due to a potential conflict of interest in that his son works for H & H Electrical.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown to accept and award the bid for the installation of generators at City Hall, 300 Hampton Street and the Walterboro Wildlife Center to H & H Electrical Company for \$41,880.00. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Mayor Young said, I will say that we

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have needed this for a long time. When we lose power, everything shuts down, so this is an important addition to our capabilities. Councilman Brown stated that he was shocked at how low the prices were on this. He said, I thought it would be way higher than that.

No further discussion was held, and the motion passed with a vote 5/0 with Mayor Young, Council Members Brown, Bridge, Broderick and Fishburne voting in favor. None opposed. Council Member Pryor recused himself from voting due to a potential conflict of interest, and Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

At this point, the Mayor announced now, we will be getting a motion to go into an Executive Session, and when we do that, I am going to put everybody that does not need to be in the Executive Session into a 'waiting room'. And then, we will admit you back into the meeting after the Executive Session is over. He also stated that Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a) Provision of Sewer Services to Colleton County Mega Site.
- b) Potential Sale of City Property.

Both items were discussed.

At approximately 6:54 P.M., Council Member Pryor made a motion to come out of Executive Session and enter into Open Session. Council Member Bridge seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

**OPEN SESSION:**

The meeting returned to Open Session, and no action was taken.

There being no further business to consider a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Bridge and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 P.M. Notice of this meeting, call-in phone number, webinar I.D. and link to view the video were distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin boards and on the City's website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson  
City Clerk

**APPROVED: August 4, 2020**