

Walterboro City Council
Virtual Regular Meeting (Using Zoom)
October 6, 2020

MINUTES

A Phone/Video Conference Virtual Meeting using Zoom was held by Walterboro City Council at City Hall on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 6:00 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, Ladson Fishburne and Paul Siegel. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, Attorney Brown McLeod, City Attorney George Cone, Tourism Director Madison Stieglitz and Colleton County Engineer Carla Harvey were also joined in the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the meeting to order and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Council Member Broderick led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

Opening Remarks by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed everyone and then made the following remarks:

1. We would like to extend our congratulations to Attorney Peden McLeod on the recent bridge in Jacksonboro, SC being named in his honor. It is a well-deserved honor and it recognizes his work on behalf of Colleton County and the City of Walterboro. We are thankful for his service and to the people and glad that this honor was bestowed among him.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

At this point, the Mayor asked City Manager Molinari if there was any input to share with Council and he 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 # 2020-10, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2020-04, SO AS TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Introduction and First Reading).**

The Mayor called on City Manager to go through the different components and give an overview of the departments.

City Manager Molinari stated the Total City Budget Summary is \$11,919,261.00. \$7,514,431.00 being the general fund portion, and \$4,404,830.00 being the Enterprise fund. There was no ad valorem

property tax increase, and no business license rate increase. There's a proposed increase in water bi-monthly minimum charges and an increase in water/sewer tap fees to cover costs taps and labor. A proposed 5% increase in sewer volumetric rates, the implementation of a \$3.00 facility charge for sewer, \$3.00 in bi-monthly sanitation collection and a \$3.18 increase in commercial roll cart collection. All of these are proposed rate adjustments, so as to generate enough revenue in each of our three operations in the Enterprise Fund to meet the operational needs of each system. There will be no increase in the employer portion of state retirement. Per PEBA S.C. retirement will remain at 15.56% and PORS at 18.24%. We're also taking a look at a proposed 1% cost of living adjustment for City employees retro active to July 1, 2020. We received word from PEBA that there will be no increase in premiums on the employer side effective January 1, 2021, which provides for extra cushion in the budget. The Mayor and City Council budget is status quo. Under the City Manager budget, we'll be installing a firewall for the entire city. Finance is status quo. As for Public Works, we've had several expenditures related to repairs at the city shop from the April 13th tornado. Planning and Development, again we're allocating \$25,000 for the demolition of substandard properties. We're looking at purchasing two new police vehicles. The Judicial and Fire Departments are status quo. Under the Parks Department we're adding a part-time animal/reptile keeper for the Wildlife Center. The Tourism Department is status quo. Also included a new budget section for operations for the Wildlife Center which when re-opened will include the cost for three receptionists and operational costs. Under Water, we have a new pick-up truck and compact excavator which will be through a USDA grant completion of the Mabel T. Willis Blvd. well construction. Also, under Water we have an Eastside Waterline Project match CDBG Grant and we'll continue to purchase new radio meters. The Utility Department support is status quo as is Sanitation. Under the Sewer Department, we're doing a rehab of installation of generators at the Country Club, Foxcroft and Birch Street lift stations. As you are aware, we have a \$483,000 grant from the state for that and under sewer supplemental we're replacing a 2013 truck that was totaled. Insurance reimbursed us a little over \$10,000 to defray that purchase.

The Mayor asked for Council's favorable consideration on the General Budget Fund.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Second: Councilmember Pryor
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

2. **Ordinance # 2020-11, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2020-05, SO AS TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET (Introduction and First Reading).**

The Mayor asked for Council's favorable consideration on the Enterprise Budget Fund.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Second: Councilmember Fishburne
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

3. **Ordinance # 2020-12, AN ORDINANCE TO SELL TWO (2) LOTS LOCATED ON MOORE STREET IN THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5-7-260 (6) OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED (Introduction and First Reading).**

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on the Ordinance. An offer was made to the City for the purchase of two lots on Moore Street owned by the City and pursuant to South Carolina law in order for a municipality to sell property it has to be done by an ordinance therefore I've attached a copy of the contract

as well as the map delineating the two lots with the price as discussed with City Council and would as for Council's favorable consideration of first reading.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Second: Councilmember Broderick
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

4. **Resolution # 2020-R-09, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION FOR THE DRY CLEANERS DEMO PROJECT AND TO COMMIT 10% IN LOCAL MATCH FUNDS.**

City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this agenda item. As you are aware the City has been looking at pursuing a Block Grant to demo the Dry Cleaners on Hampton St. This resolution is one of the CDBG requirements which commits the City to a 10% match for the grant.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Second: Councilmember Fishburne
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Consideration of bids to finance the purchase of a 2020 Freightliner garbage truck in the amount of \$236,143.50 (Memorandum and materials attached).

City Manager Molinari indicated the Finance Department solicited proposals to finance a new sanitation vehicle. We solicited proposal from all of the local financial institutions in the City. We received three (3) proposals. The lowest bid being South State Bank with a rate of five (5) years for 1.43% APR with no fees. We would ask Councils favorable consideration of the award to South State Bank.

Motion: Mayor Young; Second: Councilmember Pryor
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

2. Consideration of proposal for engineering, design, and construction observation services for the Black Street/Sub-Basin 12 Sewer Upgrade Project from Hybrid Engineering (Memorandum and materials attached).

City Manager Molinari stated, as you are aware the City is the recipient of a CDBG Grant to rehabilitate sewer lines and the Black Street/Sub-basin 12 area. This will improve sewer service by replacing sewer lines and manholes that are failing. Pursuant to CBDG requirements, we have to put up a 10% match. Hybrid Engineering has provided a proposal for design, contract administration, and construction observation services in the amount of \$153,490.00. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration, and this expenditure will be paid from a future revenue bond that will be issued in the first quarter of next year which will be part of the Wastewater Plant Expansion Project, but there is sufficient capacity in the Enterprise Fund to absorb any expenditures we incur prior to issuance of the bond.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Second: Councilmember Broderick
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

3. Introduction of Madison Stieglitz, New Tourism Director

Assistant City Manager Amundson stated we are excited to introduce our new Tourism Director, Madison Stieglitz and have her on board.

At this point, the Mayor announced we will be getting a motion to go into 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.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Second: Councilmember Fishburne
Discussion: None.
Carried: All ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Contractual Matter – I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 2.
2. Matters Encouraging the Location or Expansion of Industries or Other Businesses – Economic Development Incentive Ordinance.
3. Receipt of Legal Advice – State of Emergency.
4. Personnel Matter.

All items were discussed.

At approximately 6:15 P.M., Councilmember Bridge made a motion to go out of Executive Session and return to Open Session. Councilmember Pryor seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and a motion was made by Councilmember Broderick to include in Phase 2 of the I-95 Business Loop Project, the watermain improvements and right of way acquisitions. Councilmember Pryor seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

There being no further business to consider a motion to adjourn was made by City Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Pryor and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:26 P.M. Notice of this meeting, call-in phone number, webinar I.D. and link to view the video were distributed 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,



Callie Seals
City Clerk

APPROVED: February 2, 2021