

Walterboro City Council

City Hall

August 2, 2022

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday August 2, 2022, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

Present: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick, and Greg Pryor. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Attorney Brown McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Public Works Director Michael Crosby, Police Chief Wade Marvin, and Dr. Ann Carmichael. Councilmember Ladson Fishburne was absent.

Call to Order:

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Councilmember Pryor led the pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

Public Hearing:

1. **Ordinance # 2022-09**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2022-04, SO AS TO SET THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET (Second and Final Reading).

There was no public input.

2. Receipt of public comments on proposed USDA Rural Development project to resurface tennis courts at the Forest Hills Tennis Center.

Dr. Ann Carmichael stated thank you for the opportunity to speak with you all this afternoon. I am representing a lot of the citizens in the community who use the Forest Hills Tennis Courts. These courts are the only public courts that are available in our city. These courts are used daily, they are used by senior citizens, youth, schools, and they are used for tournaments. The courts need some repair. The courts need net replacement and resurfacing to make them safer and more usable. I tend to look at projects like this not from a health and recreational standpoint, but also as the image of the community. We have a lot of people who come to Walterboro to play on these surfaces. I always think about first impressions and what I want people to see when they come into Walterboro, and I try to look at things in that perspective. The people who come for the tournaments contribute to the economy. They buy goods, food, and gas so I look at the big picture as economic development and getting more people to come to our city. I know you are seeking funding with the USDA Rural Development. I have a fair amount of experience with that, and I have offered my services to assist with this grant if you opt to approve it.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilmember Pryor, Seconded by Councilmember Brown, the following minutes were unanimously approved.

1. Regular meeting July 5, 2022.

Old Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2022-09**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2022-04, SO AS TO SET THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET (Second and Final Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council every year we are required to set the local option sales tax credit factor and provide that information to the Treasurer which will be reflected on the tax bills that go out in October. The local option sales tax credit factor is calculated by taking the total anticipated collections and dividing that by the total appraised value of property in the city. Staff recommends Councils favorable consideration.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes.

New Business:

1. **Resolution # 2022-R-10**, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE FORMS PURSUANT TO A USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,500 FOR THE RESURFACING OF TENNIS COURTS AT THE FOREST HILLS TENNIS CENTER.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and member of City Council one of the goals and objectives that City Council has for 2022 is to pursue funding for resurfacing the tennis courts. In line with that goal, staff is recommending that we pursue USDA funding. We would be looking at starting on courts 5 and 6. Those are the two courts in the back and are the newer courts that have a stronger foundation. Resurfacing will be logical for those two courts. Then we will continue to pursue other funding opportunities for the larger project. Giving the age of those courts and condition of the foundation you will be looking at a complete renovation. As Dr. Carmichael has already mentioned, we have gotten quotes on replacing all the nets and posts at the courts and will be moving forward with that project in the fall.

Councilmember Brown asked can you tell us what that price is for the nets and post.

City Manager Molinari answered, installing the new nets and posts will cost around \$8,400.

Councilmember Brown asked do we have the money for that?

City Manager Molinari answered we can work that price into the Parks Department budget.

Councilmember Pryor asked so courts 1-4 will have to be completely torn apart and new asphalt, concrete will have to be brought in. Did we get a price on that, and how long will the tennis courts be down when that takes place?

City Manager Molinari stated for the front courts we got a quote from Skip Scarpa with Carolina Sports Services. These are 2020 numbers but the figure we were quoted a couple years ago was \$450,000. The reason why I am not recommending resurfacing for all 6 courts is Skip told us given the condition of the front 4 courts that if we were to do a resurfacing, we would essentially be throwing good money after bad because of all the underlining issues would manifest themselves quickly after the work is completed. The answer to your question is if we were to do a complete renovation of the front 4 courts you would be looking at a multiple month project where we would have to shut the courts down. This gives us a good start so the conditions of the nets are an issue so we can address that, and we can take care of the back 2 courts. For the more intensive aspect of the project, we can see what we can come up with for funding.

Councilmember Pryor asked do we know when the courts were built.

Mayor Young stated they were built when we had the Recreation Commission and the City and County both appointed people to that commission. I know the courts were rehabbed one time when the city was giving the courts back.

Councilmember Brown asked does USDA grants require a bidding.

City Manager Molinari stated yes it does.

Councilmember Bridge asked what the total cost is of resurfacing the back 2 courts.

City Manager Molinari stated the estimate that we received for the back 2 courts is \$20,000.

Councilmember Brown asked was that quote from 2020?

City Manager Molinari stated no, we received a recent quote for the resurfacing of courts 5 and 6.

Councilmember Bridge asked so you are saying \$10,000 pre court, and this grant is for how much.

City Manager Molinari stated we can apply for up to \$49,500.

Councilmember Bridge asked if we have a matching amount and how much.

City Manager Molinari stated we do have a matching amount. Say we do it for \$20,000, USDA would pick up \$11,000 of that (55%) and the city would be responsible for the 45% match which would be \$9,000.

Councilmember Pryor asked that would be the first resurfacing of those 2 courts?

City Manager Molinari stated that is correct. Typically, the USDA grant takes about 6 months to process. Whenever we hear yes or no back then we have four (4) months to spend the money. Depending on when we hear back from USDA, we could look at potentially working the match into next year's budget.

Mayor Young asked would we put in the application that this is the first step in a bigger project, that we may come back to later.

City Manager Molinari stated Dr. Carmichael has volunteered to assist the city with this grant. One of the specific areas I am going to need help with is the needs assessment part. So, we will certainly put that in the application.

Dr. Carmichael stated I have had a conversation with the representative from the region and you can stack this type of grant we are asking for. So, you will be able to apply for this same grant within the same year.

Councilmember Bridge asked I just want to understand the complete work is to fill those cracks, resurface with asphalt, then paint and line the courts, put in new nets and post, and all that is included in the \$10,000.

Assistant City Manager McLeod stated for courts 5 and 6 they will be resurfaced, there will not be any asphalt. That surface and subsurface below are in good shape. So, an application of polymer and paint will be applied, and there is any option to fill cracks if we decide to take that route. There is no guarantee on the crack filler, but that is an option we have looked at, but that would be for courts 5 and 6. We feel like there doesn't need to be any resurfacing to those two courts. Courts 1-4 will need a complete renovation.

Councilmember Bridge asked Dr. Carmichael are there cracks on the back two courts?

Dr. Carmichael stated there are some hairline cracks, but they are in better shape than the front courts.

Councilmember Bridge asked if cracks are on the court shouldn't they have to be addressed.

Assistant City Manager McLeod stated that is when we would look at the crack filler and lean on Skip's expertise. Hairline cracks perform better with crack filler. Courts 1-4 have a 3/4 inch crack. Those will continue to separate. Skip feels like the crack filler may be a good option for those hairline cracks.

Councilmember Brown stated he would like to thank Dr. Carmichael for all her help.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Resolution # 2022-R-11, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO COMMIT AN ADDITIONAL \$41,327 FOR THE GADSDEN LOOP WATER UPGRADE PROJECT.

City Manager Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council this is a revision to the resolution that came before City Council in May and was approved. This is for the Gadsden Loop Water Upgrade project. Initially the City match for this project was going to be \$46,937 and during the grant application the Lowcountry Council of Governments adjusted the budget, the grant is larger, and the city match is smaller. They are requiring that City Council pass a new resolution reflecting those amounts.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager's Report

1. Consideration of a request to purchase police vehicles.

City Manager Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, you have a memo and supporting documents in your agenda packet for a request to purchase two (2) new police vehicles from the Police Chief. The Police Department is looking at purchasing two new vehicles from Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$127,996. This includes the price of two new vehicles with the police upfit, which is estimated to be \$26,000 per vehicle and sales tax. The city received a \$49,500 grant so the net cost to the city will be \$77,996. The department reached out to both local dealers and each indicated they could not provide the vehicles we requested. Staff recommends purchasing the two vehicles from Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$127,996. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Consideration of bids for the Sub-Basin 1&3 Sewer Upgrade project.

City Manager Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for Sub-Basin 1&3 Sewer Upgrade Project-Contract 1. On July 26, 2022, the Public Works Department accepted bids to rehabilitate the sewer system in the Gadsden Loop area. Included in that is Rivers Street, Jackson Street, and other intersecting streets in the service area. The scope of work is divided into two mains in the project area. Contract 2 includes the total replacement of sewer mains in the project area. We hope to bring that back to City Council next month. The city received one bid with a base bid of \$ 1,785,591 and two no bids. Hybrid Engineering has evaluated the construction expense of the bidders and found that Gulf Coast Underground, LLC has the experience and resources to complete the project. The city received a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$2,321,831 for construction of the project. The City's required match is \$352,235. The City's match will come from the 2021 water/sewer bond. City staff recommends awarding the contract to Gulf Coast Underground, LLC out of Theodore Alabama in the amount of \$1,767,591. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of the request.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of engineering and design services for the Gadsden Loop Neighborhood Improvement project.

City Manager Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documents for a proposal from the city's engineer, Hybrid Engineering. The city received a \$783,068 Community Development Block Grant to upgrade the waterlines in the Gadsden Loop neighborhood. The project will include the construction of 4,984 linear feet of new 6" water mains to replace the existing 2" inch water mains, along with adding seven fire hydrants in the residential area. The city's engineer, Hybrid Engineering can perform the survey, design, and construction observation services for an amount of \$86,508 which will cover the city's 10% match requirement. Staff recommends approval of Task Order Number 20 from Hybrid Engineering in the amount of \$86,508. The fiscal year 2022-2023 Enterprise Fund Budget allocated \$86,000 for the project. The Enterprise Fund will absorb the additional \$508. Staff ask for councils' favorable consideration

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Mayor Young

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Executive Session:

1. The provision of water/sewer service to North Waltherboro.
2. Contractual Matter-overhead Street light conversion.

A motion was made to go into executive session by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Pryor. Mayor Young explained that City Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss the provision of water/sewer service to North Waltherboro and a Contractual Matter: overhead streetlights conversion.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Broderick, and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Pryor, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:18 P.M. Notice of the meeting was 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 the meeting.

Respectfully,

Adrienne Nettles