

Walterboro City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall

April 2, 2024

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday April 2, 2024, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young. Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Public Works Director Michael Crosby, and City Attorney Brown McLeod. Councilmember Greg Pryor was not in attendance.

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 Fishburne led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

Presentations:

Ashley Kellahan, Field Service Manager, Municipal Association of South Carolina - 2024 South Carolina Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government's Honor Roll.

Ms. Kellahan stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, thank you for having me here tonight. I am honored to be back again to present you with an award. Not many cities and towns across the state are all graduates of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government program. Walterboro is one of eleven this year, where you are all graduates of the program. I am pleased to present you all with the 2024 Honor Roll recognizing that achievement. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do.

Joseph White – Forest Hills Tennis Center.

Mr. Strickland spoke on behalf of Joseph White. Mr. Strickland stated on behalf of the citizens of Walterboro we are concerned about getting the pickle ball lines painted back on the courts that were just redone. There are several people who play pickle ball, and we are asking that the lines be painted back. Thank you for taking time to listen to our concerns.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting – March 5, 2024

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

New Business:

1. **Resolution # 2024-01**, A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 2024 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. A Proclamation to Designate April 2024 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF WALTERBORO.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of a request from the Colleton County Veterans Council to commemorate Memorial Day 2024.

Mr. Johnny Holmes stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council thank you for allowing us to make this request. The Colleton County Veterans Council is in preparation for planning our Memorial Day service on May 27, 2024, at 9:00 AM. We are requesting you to display the U.S Flags on Washington Street. We would also like to reserve the Waterfall Plaza for setting up and for the water to be turned off from May 24, 2024, to May 27, 2024. We would also like to close Washington Street on Monday May 27, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 12 :00 PM. We thank you again for your continued support and all you do to help our fellow Veterans.

Mayor Young stated we thank you for much for your service.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager's Report

1. Consideration of a request to purchase a generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project – FEMA Grant.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council this morning I emailed you a memo and supporting documentation requesting approval to purchase a generator for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project. The city received a proposal for a 1500-kilowatt engine driven emergency power supply system from Source Well Cooperative purchasing program. Participation in the program is FEMA-approved and is available at no cost to local governments. The most recent projected overall budget for the project is \$1.7 million. The city has secured a grant in the amount of \$1,188,784.60 from FEMA. The proposal from Sourcewell is significantly more than what we received from FEMA through the grant. The current delivery time is between 76-84 weeks after release with the order. We are required by state law to have a back-up power supply for the wastewater treatment plant. Due to the price increase we will have to seek additional funding. Our first option will be to request additional funding from FEMA. When this project was originally designed our engineer recommended a 1300-kilowatt generator. Those generators are

no longer being produced. With that being said, we will have to go with the 1500-kilowatt generator which is more expensive. If this option is not viable there are some additional options, we can pursue through RIA or potential Skip funding. If we are unsuccessful in getting additional federal funding, we will be able to cover this through the construction contingency. That will be funded through the anticipated bond issue in July of 2025 to cover the short fall. We ask for councils' favorable consideration so we can move forward with the order because of the timing. As City Council is aware we have received two grants from EDA for construction of that project. It is imperative that we close out the expansion project in a timely manner, so we can utilize all the funding from EDA. If you have any technical questions our Utilities Director Wayne Crosby is here.

Councilmember Brown asked, do you feel confident that we can find additional funding?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated I think we a strong case that we could possibly get more money from FEMA. As Council is aware we were successful last year with EDA. We are going to work hard through our contacts at the Lowcountry Council of Governments to do whatever we can with FEMA to get the additional funding. Worst case scenario is that if we are not funded by FEMA, we will still have the capacity to make the purchase.

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. Mayor Young explained that City Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss Matters concerning the Marketing and Promotion of Walterboro and Colleton County to Encourage the Location or Expansion of Business/Industries, Provision of sewer service to Northwest Walterboro, Potential Purchase of Property, and Personnel Matter – Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Executive Session:

1. Discussion of Matters Concerning the Marketing and Promotion of Walterboro and Colleton County to Encourage the Location or Expansion of Business/Industries.
2. Provision of sewer service to Northwest Walterboro.
3. Potential Purchase of Property.
4. Personnel Matter – Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Fishburne, seconded by Councilmember Brown, all in favor motion carried.

A motion to appoint Joshua Bowers to the Board of Zoning Appeals was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Brown, all in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M. Notice of the meeting was distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin board and posted on the City's Website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Adrienne Nettles
City Clerk