

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr, Bobby Bonds, James Broderick and Judy Bridge. Interim City Manager Jim Duckett, City Clerk Betty Hudson, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Clenton Campbell were also present. There were approximately 27 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized that several members of the Leadership Colleton Class were present tonight. They will be here at City Hall tomorrow morning for a government's day class.

Council Member Syfrett gave the invocation and Council Member Bonds led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Mayor Young then recognized and welcomed our new City Manager, Mr. Jeff Molinari, who was also present at the meeting. He stated that Mr. Molinari comes to us from Goose Creek, South Carolina and we are very excited to have him taking over the reigns as City Manager. The Mayor further stated that we have enjoyed having Mr. Duckett here, who has done a great job for us and has been helpful in recruiting our new City Manager. Mr. Molinari will begin officially as our new City Manager on February 17, 2014.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments or questions on agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor then opened a public hearing duly advertised to receive public comments/questions on a proposed USDA Rural Development Project to finance the police band radios.

Finance Director Bill Floyd told Council as part of the 2014 budget approval process, Council authorized the purchase of approximately \$362,000 for new Public Safety radios in order to continue to communicate with the Colleton County Sheriff's, Fire and Rescue radios. This is due to the Federal Communications Commission's frequency system change. As part of that budget, Council also approved a property tax millage increase sufficient to pay for those radios over a period of 5 years. This hearing is for specific financing from BB&T Bank to close this transaction. We solicited proposals from 3 banks, and BB&T Bank was the only bank willing to make a proposal. The interest rate is at 1.55 percent. We have also been able to reduce the first year's cost further by a \$50,000 grant from USDA Rural Development.

There were no comments or questions from the public. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

PRESENTATION:

1. 2012-2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - Baird & Company, CPAs, LLC - Mr. Rep E. Whiddon

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Mr. Whiddon thanked the City for selecting his firm to do the audit. He informed Council that City staff did a good job in providing information for his report.

Mr. Whiddon then gave a brief overview of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to Council. He thanked Amy Risher and Bill Floyd for their help during the audit. Mr. Whiddon recognized that Ms. Brenda Carroll, a partner in their firm, was also present at the meeting to go over the Facts 115 Report which basically goes over what happened during the audit. Ms. Carroll then gave brief findings and remarks on the Facts 115 Report. Concluding the report, Ms. Carroll reported that their firm had no uncorrected misstatements. We had some minor corrections that were made and all of those corrections have been made. There was nothing that we consider to be material. There also were no disagreements with management on anything.

Mr. Whiddon stated that the financial statements in the report are your financial statements. Basically, we have three opinion letters. He then briefly summarized the opinion letters with City Council. He said the City received an "unqualified opinion" on the audit report, and again that is the opinion you want.

Mr. Whiddon then went over key portions of the audit report with Council. Copies of this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013 were distributed to Council at the beginning of the meeting.

In conclusion, Mr. Whiddon said I think your opinions were as good as could be expected. You have a good financial package. I think you have good people working for you.

Mr. Whiddon then told Council that he had received a question from Councilman Lohr who asked, what type of fund balance should the City maintain? Mr. Whiddon then answered that this is basically a management decision. He stated, it is probably a good practice to basically establish a goal that you want to keep or have as your "unrestricted" fund balance and work toward that. But it is a management decision and there are no laws that I am aware of that require a certain amount. It is whatever you want to decide. Whatever suits you. It is not unusual sometimes for the "unrestricted" amount to be much less than that.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Meeting minutes were approved as follows:

1. Minutes of the October 22, 2013 Regular Meeting.
2. Minutes of the November 6, 2013 Special Called Meeting.

Upon motion of Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick, the minutes of the October 22, 2013 Regular Meeting and the November 6, 2013 Special Called Meeting were approved with a vote of 6/0 with Mayor Young, Council Members Syfrett, Siegel, Lohr, Bonds, and Broderick voting in favor, and 0 votes against. Council Member Bridge abstained from voting since she was not a member of City Council on those dates.

3. Minutes of the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting.
4. Minutes of the December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting.
5. Minutes of the December 16, 2013 Special Called Meeting.
6. Minutes of the December 23, 2013 Special Called Meeting.
7. Minutes of the January 7, 2014 Special Called Meeting.

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Upon motion of Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Lohr, the minutes of the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting, December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting, December 16, 2013 Special Called Meeting, December 23, 2013 Special Called Meeting and the January 7, 2014 Special Called Meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution # 2014-R-01, Approving the Financing Terms for Police Band Radios

Interim City Manager Duckett reported that this goes back to the presentation that the Finance Director made during the public hearing on the police band radios.

At this point, Mayor Young recused himself from voting on this item due to a potential conflict of interest because of his association with BB&T Bank.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Siegel to approve Resolution # 2014-R-01, which approves the financing terms for the police band radios through BB&T Bank. The motion passed with a vote of 6/0 with Council Members Syfrett, Siegel, Lohr, Bonds, Broderick and Bridge voting in favor, 0 votes against, and Mayor Young abstaining. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

2. Consideration of Bids Received for One (1) Police Interceptor SUV and Two (2) Interceptor Sedans for Public Safety Department

Interim Public Safety Director Ken Dasen reported that his department solicited bids for three new police vehicles. There were only 2 bidders who replied and they are local bidders. He then recommended the acceptance of the lowest bid from Walterboro Motor Sales. Mayor Young reported that the purchase of these vehicles was a budgeted item.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick seconded by Council Member Bonds to accept the low bid as recommended from Walterboro Motor Sales which follows: One (1) Police Interceptor SUV at \$30,073.50 and Two (2) Police Interceptors Sedans at \$88,345.20 for the Public Safety Department. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

3. Consideration of Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Mutual Aid for Fire Protection Between Colleton County, Colleton County Fire-Rescue District and the City of Walterboro

Mayor Young reported that Council Member Syfrett had been working on this agreement with the County for several months.

A motion was then made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Mutual Aid for Fire Protection between Colleton County, Colleton County Fire Rescue District and the City of Walterboro as submitted. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Siegel, Broderick and Mayor Young congratulated Council Member Syfrett for his good work on this agreement.

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City Attorney Cone told Council he had some comments to make on this item and would rather make those comments in an executive session as legal advice. He then asked if the agreement is supposed to run through June 30, 2015 or 2016? Attorney Cone pointed out that Article II, Section II says June 30, 2016, but all the other things about events to take place says early in 2015. Council Member Syfrett gave a brief clarification on this item. Interim City Manager Duckett then said that the agreement is correct as presented.

Attorney Cone then said, the other comments I would make would have to be made in an executive session as advice to Council, or you can dispense with it as you wish.

Mayor Young then said, we don't have an executive session scheduled. Attorney Cone replied, then you can dispense with it as you wish.

Mayor Young then said, we have a motion and a second unless Council would like to wait and hear advice from counsel. We can vote this down and consider it later. Mayor Young then asked if there were any further discussion. Council Member Broderick then asked if the County had approved this agreement. Mayor Young answered that the County approved this last night. Council Member Broderick then said, I am ready to vote on this.

Mayor Young then asked for the vote on the motion. The motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement for mutual aid for fire protection as submitted then passed with all members voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Siegel and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M. Notice of this meeting was distributed to all local media and posted on the City Hall bulletin board at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Betty J. Hudson
City Clerk

APPROVED: February 11, 2014