

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Paul Siegel, Dwayne Buckner, Charles Lucas, Tom Lohr and Bobby Bonds. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Council Member Randy Peters was absent. There were approximately 18 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order. Council Member Buckner gave the invocation, and Council Member Bonds led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

Mayor Young congratulated Tourism Director, Ms. Donna Laird, for all her work in helping to promote the Wings and Wheels Festival at the airport this past weekend. He also commended Mr. Tommy Rowe, Roger Midland and all the airport staff who did a great job in organizing the festival. They had a beautiful day, a large crowd and it really was a plus for our community.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments or questions on agenda items were made.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor opened a public hearing duly advertised to receive information and comments on two items.

1. Review Program Performance and Accomplishments - CDBG Grant # 4-CI-11-034 Jackson Street Pump Station Upgrades; and
2. Joint CDBG Grant Application with Colleton County for Waterline Extension Project in the City of Walterboro and Colleton County for Approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Chris Bickley of Lowcountry Council of Governments was present on behalf of Ms. Michelle Knight, to present information on these two items.

Item 1 - Review Program Performance and Accomplishments - Jackson Street Pump Station. Mr. Bickley stated that this was a closeout public hearing. In July 2011, the City received \$340,900 in Community Development Block Grant funds to make improvements to the Jackson Street Pump Station. That station serves the residents in the Del-Ray, Rivers, Jackson Street and Gadsden Loop area. This station serves 345 people, 72 of whom are low-to-moderate income. The project also came in significantly under budget and the City was allowed to also improve a second pump station on Birth Street. The Birch Street station serves residents in the Birch Street, Doyle St., Palm and Rivers Street areas. That station serves 117 people of whom 91% are low-to-moderate income. The City provided a little over \$43,000 in local funds to this project as well. This closeout public hearing tonight is the last local item before this project is closed out. We thought it went very well and we hope that the City is pleased with it, as well.

Item 2 - Joint CDBG Grant Application with Colleton County for a Waterline Extension Project. Mr. Bickley stated that this was a joint application public hearing for the City of Walterboro and Colleton County requesting \$413,500 in CDBG Funds from the Department of Commerce to upgrade waterlines along a portion of Hampton Street, Peurifoy Road and Edgewood Avenue, just outside the City limits. The improvements will increase water pressure and improve fire flow and serve the area bound by the streets - Hampton, Peurifoy, Herndon, Hickory, Popular and Edgewood.

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The City is proposing to serve 260 people, of whom almost 3/4 are low to moderate income. The City will be providing a match of \$41,500 for this application. It is my understanding that those will come from program income funds. The proposed work also includes installation of an eight-inch and six-inch line to interconnect a number of dead end water lines. This is a joint application because the area to be served is just outside the City limits.

The Mayor then opened the floor to receive any comments or questions from the public on the two public hearing items. None were received. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 26, 2013 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Buckner and passed unanimously, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 2013-R-01**, designating April as Fair Housing Month and the Nondiscrimination Policy was adopted on the motion of Council Member Bonds, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote. A copy of this resolution is attached as part of these minutes.
2. **Resolution No. 2013-R-02**, A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Joint CDBG Grant Application with Colleton County for a Waterline Extension Project in the City of Walterboro and Colleton County in the Amount of \$500,000 was before Council. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Council Member Bonds and seconded by Council Member Lohr.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner said, I see we are matching 10% which would be \$50,000. My question is how much is the county matching? Mr. Lord responded noted that the county was not providing any matching funds. He said this is a city-lead project. The reason that this is a joint application is because the waterlines being included are outside of the City. The County would have to agree to the project.

No further discussion was held and the motion passed unanimously, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.

3. **Consideration of Bids Received for North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project**

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby reported that the City received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$500,000 that will allow revitalization of the North Lemacks Street area. This project consists of approximately 3,026 linear feet of new six inch water line, three fire hydrants and 38 service re-connections along with approximately 5,100 linear feet of new concrete sidewalk.

A total of 10 bids was received as follows:

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Contractor	Amount of Base Proposal	Order of Base Proposal
BES Construction Walterboro, SC	\$434,377.61	1
Cherokee, Inc. Columbia, SC	\$557,733.10	2
Carolina Tap & Bore, Inc. Columbia, SC	\$575,698.00	3
Anson Construction Ravenel, SC	\$669,058.00	4
L-J, Inc. Columbia, SC	\$677,281.50	5
Eadies Construction Ridgeville, SC	\$699,969.00	6
J.H. Hiers Construction Walterboro, SC	\$708,160.55	7
Triad Engineering Mt. Pleasant, SC	\$761,713.00	8
Tideland Utilities Summerville, SC	\$960,829.90	9
Green Wave Contracting Georgetown, SC	\$1,077,088.00	10

Mr. Crosby recommended acceptance of the low bid of \$434,377.61 from BES Construction for the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project. He pointed out that BES has an office here in Walterboro and that the City has a good past experience with BES on a similar size waterline project.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to accept the low bid of \$434,377.61 from BES Construction. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion Council Member Buckner asked for clarification on the location where the new sidewalks would be constructed. Where on Lemacks Street would we place these sidewalks, because there is a part of Lemacks Street that already has a little sidewalk. Mr. Chewing answered that the new sidewalks would be placed on the opposite side of Lemacks Street from the existing sidewalks. They will run from Sweat Street to Ackerman Street, also down Sweat Street from Lemacks to the nursing home on Witsell Street, and on Gruber Street from Lemacks Street down to the park. Mr. Buckner said he thought the plans were also to replace the sidewalk in front of the old Sam Brown's place, which is now a lime green building. This includes that area all the way down to the adult center. He asked are there any future plans for sidewalks on either side of that portion of Lemacks going toward the airport? Mr. Chewing responded, no, not at this time. He then referred the question to City Manager Jeff Lord. Mr. Lord responded that the North Lemacks Project was the first phase of the planned project, in which the North Lemacks Committee was engaged to come up with for program work. This is phase two. So, this is following that plan. I don't believe there are any sidewalks in phase two.

Council Member Lucas asked if the City was content with the work that BES is doing with the parks, other than the rainy day delay? He asked the City Manager, are you content with having them do another project? Mr. Lord responded yes.

Council Member Bonds asked about the certified bids. He asked what is involved in certification as it relates to the bids? Mr. Lord responded that the process has a

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sealed bid that's opened in front of the bidders, you write them down and the engineers are there. They (the engineers) go through and review the bids and make sure the totals are added up correctly.

Council Member Bonds then asked if the BES Parks Project was more than this project of \$434,000? He then asked, are they bonded as it relates to all that? Mr. Crosby responded that they have to submit a bid bond with the contract.

Council Member Buckner expressed concern that the bid received from BES Construction was \$120,000 lower than the next lowest bid. He said, I am sure we have in our contracts that they cannot come back and try to up their bid or charge us more money. Mr. Lord explained that there is always a possibility for change orders, but change orders have to be approved by the City. Mr. Buckner then asked if BES had made any change orders in the past. Mr. Lord responded, absolutely, you will have change orders on any project, because they run into conditions that they don't expect. For example, when they removed the asphalt, they expected to have concrete under it, but there was mud and thump. So, you have things that you don't expect to happen.

Mr. Bonds stated that the grant was only \$500,000. Does this include the possibility of dealing with change orders? City Manager Lord responded, we have a little cushion built in there with the grant. Utilities Director Wayne Crosby pointed out that change orders not only have to be approved by the City of Walterboro, but must also be approved by the Department of Commerce.

The motion then passed unanimously, except Council Member Peters was absent and did not vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was no Committee Reports given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Lucas So Moved. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would convene into an Executive Session for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and receipt of legal advice.

The meeting then entered into Executive Session.

The Meeting returned to Open Session with no action taken as a result of the Executive Session.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:20 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: June 25, 2013